# ZIMBABWE PROFESSIONAL GUIDES ASSOCIATION

MARCH, 2023 / Vol. 03



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# Editors Notes: By John Laing

Zimbabwe Professional Guides Association continues to bewilder people, polarize opinions and confuse many, particularly its critics. The Z.P.G.A. is grossly misunderstood and thus misrepresented mainly by those who have never been a member.

Despite the now tired, usual deafening screams of critics that have basically amounted to zero, this small southern African Association has defied all odds and continues to grow and flourish, and has become one of the busiest Southern African Associations, a true support structure for the beating heart of regional tourism.

A country's resource is its people. Zimbabwe is one of a few countries where you find people that are wholeheartedly generous, peace loving, ever smiling and ready to welcome you into their "home".

Like it's people the Z.P.G.A. Members have an innate sense of pride in their Association, in their Nation and individual identity, their rich culture and history which they are ready to share with visitors and the outside world.

Anyone who has never been to Zimbabwe but has gone there with preconceived notions and certain reservations, and are guided by Z.P.G.A. members leave with a different perspective: one of a peaceful country with extremely knowledgeable and wonderful Guides.

## Z.P.G.A. Offices

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



## Focus in on Lantana camara By John Laing

As we drive around the country we notice Lantana camara just about everywhere, it is even grown along the lip of the Victoria Falls although there have been significant efforts to get to grips with it by many Victoria Falls residents working tirelessly to pull it out.

As I drove around Bulawayo this past Christmas, I noted Lantana growing wildly between peoples perimeter walls or fences and the road verge, I hate to imagine what was actually growing inside of each of these properties.

It is believed that Lantana camara reduces arable and pasture land as it invades farming and grazing areas as can be seen as we drive through CAMPFIRE areas, in turn this negatively affects productivity because the plant reduces the quality of the farming or grazing pastures and if that was not enough Lantana camara contains toxic triterpenes which cause hepatic degeneration in cattle, producing signs of photosensitization, jaundice, rumen stasis, and even depression.

Many farmers in affected areas often talk about noticeable productivity decline on the areas surrounded by Lantana camara. This is because the plant can reduce soil moisture and potassium content. In 2007, Peter Chatanga (Department of Biology, Faculty of Science and Technology, National University of Lesotho) studied the impact of Lantana camara on native vegetation in northern Gonarezhou National park. He found that the

invasive species had the capability of altering soil properties and native vegetation structure and composition to the detriment of wildlife management.

In such a scenario, the effects can extend to reducing earnings in the tourism sector as wildlife and native vegetation are negatively affected. The effects of the shrub on water sources are not yet fully known or documented. Death of fish due to its toxicity has been speculated upon where the plant favours riverine ecosystems.

So what has all this to do with us at the Z.P.G.A. well the first thing to note is that in Zimbabwe, it is illegal for one to spread or fail to destroy an invasive species (listed on the fifth schedule of EMA Act Ch 20:27, 2007) on your property.

We have members all over Zimbabwe and it is time that we did our bit, we all need to firstly remove the Lantana from our own properties and then we need to educate our family and friends to do the same, if we are going to win the fight against this invasive species EVERYONE will have to work together.





#### **SCORPIONS**

SCORPIONS OF ZIMBABWE - MOIRA FITZPATRICK

#### Scorpion Stings

Hormuridae and Scorpionidae scorpions are considered harmless. All medically importance scorpions belong to the Buthids. Stings from Uroplectes, Hottentotta, Lychas and Afroisometrus can inflict a very painful but localized sting, and are not considered life-threatening under normal circumstances.

#### Parabuthus stings

The sting causes immediate excruciating pain or a burning sensation. The pain lasts for a variable period, usually extending from a few hours to one day, maybe longer. Within an hour, however, systemic symptoms may also be experienced and hospitalization is recommended. These symptoms include:

- · Raised blood pressure (P. granulatus) and pulse rate
- · Increased perspiration
- · Increased salivation, difficulty in swallow and speech is difficult
- · Difficulty in breathing which is the primary cause of death
- · Muscle pain and cramps
- General weakness
- · Stiff gait and unable to stand and walk
- · Headaches, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea, urine retention
- Increased restlessness

The spectrum and degree of symptoms is determined by a number of factors, including the species involved, the body mass and the physical health of the victim, and the amount of venom injected. Those with lung and heart problems are at greater risk. Deaths, resulting from respiratory and/or heart failure have occurred in Zimbabwe as a result of stings from P. transvaalicus and P. granulatus. Anti-venom is available from the South African Institute of Medical Research, Johannesburg, and should be applied by a medical doctor without delay. Intravenous administration of calcium gluconate is moderately effective for relief of generalized muscle pain and cramp, but its effect last for 20-30 minutes only and these is also a limit t the amount that can me administered.

Morphine and derivatives, barbiturates and mepereridine SHOULD NOT BE USED for the treatment of pain, as these drugs induce synergistic reactions with scorpion venoms which greatly increase the convulsions and the possibility of death. Anti-histines have no effects on scorpion stings and should not be used.



"If You Are Working On Something That You Really Care About, You Don't Have To Be Pushed. The Vision Pulls You."

- Steve Jobs -



Showing P. transvaalicus tail and sting



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# The Zambezi: a 280 million year safari

By Paul Hubbard - Hubbard's Historical Tours, Bulawayo

Part 1 - Geological Background

Geology is one of the most fascinating subjects in the world. To a layman it can seem like an incredibly complicated subject...and it is! But there is much of value in understanding some basics relating to the stone and dirt beneath our feet. A lot in this short article is quite technical and in depth, but I have simplified it as much as I can to match my own understanding! Those wishing to explore more of the basic concepts can find several videos on YouTube with a simple search.

Understanding the evolution and development of this river system is complicated and new research constantly changes what we know. I have also attempted to focus on what will be exciting and easy to relate to guests and visitors. Much of the latest work has been conducted by Woody Cotterill, Andy Moore and many others building on the pioneering publications of other scientists such as Graham Bell-Cross, Robin Derricourt, Chris Nugent and Geoffrey Bond.

Plate tectonics is a scientific theory describing the large-scale motion of seven large plates and the movements of a larger number of smaller plates of the Earth's crust. Earth's outermost layer, or lithosphere—made up of the crust and upper mantle—is broken into large rocky plates. These plates lie on top of a partially molten layer of rock called the asthenosphere. Owing to the convection of the asthenosphere and lithosphere, the plates move relative to each other at different rates, from two to 15 centimetres per year. As the plates move and interact with each other, geological features such as mountains, volcanoes, earthquakes and deep gorges (most of the last are under the oceans).

The East African Rift (EAR) is an active continental rift zone in East Africa. The EAR began developing around the onset of the Miocene, 22–25 million years ago. The rift is a narrow zone in which the African Plate is in the process of splitting into two tectonic plates, called the Somali Plate and the Nubian Plate, at a rate of 6–7mm annually. As extension continues, lithospheric rupture will occur within 10 million years: i.e. the Somalian plate will break off and a new ocean basin will form.

The Dynamism of the Zambezi's Course

The Zambezi River is arguably the oldest in the world today. Newly published research has dated the beginnings of the river to 280 million years ago! Today it is Africa's fourth-largest river and remains one of the finest and least spoilt rivers in the world. Its source rises from a tiny spring in north-western Zambia and flows for approximately 2,500km into the Indian Ocean at its delta on the Mozambique coast. Its basin (if you include all the river's tributaries) covers most of central and southern Africa; an area of some 1.3 million sq.km. – larger than the Sahara Desert. Eight countries in the region are directly linked into this vast river system – Zambia, Angola, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Tanzania and Mozambique.

The Zambezi can be divided into three major segments, each having a distinctive geomorphological unity. The first of these extends from the headwaters to Victoria Falls; the second from the Falls to the edge of the Mozambique coastal plain, which commences below Cahora Bassa Gorge; while the third comprises the stretch traversing the coastal plain. These differences are not accidental, but closely reflect the evolution of the Zambezi by processes of "river piracy" over a period extending back to before the disruption of Gondwana around 280 million years ago.

The true origins of the Zambezi begin 280 million years ago when Gondwana's ice sheets begin to melt as the super-continent drifted northwards. Water flowing downhill formed part of the river we would now call the Middle Zambezi and the Luangwa. The river flowed west at this time because of the huge mountains – bigger than the Himalayas – in the centre-east portion of the super-continent.

Jurassic basalts now form the main bedrock of the river. Around 200 million years ago, and, for a period of 100 million years, a flowing mass of lava began to emerge from within the earth, the Stormberg lavas. Fluid enough to flow over the land and fill hollows, troughs and valleys, it left behind an almost horizontal aspect, trapping sandstones beneath it with each eruption. Eventually an area of at least 2,000,000km2 was covered by these various lava sheets to a depth of perhaps nearly 1,000 metres deep at Victoria Falls and possibly up to 9,000 metres elsewhere! This basalt was subjected to great stress due to cooling and regional tectonic activity, causing deep fracturing and lines of weakness, and it is these fractures that the Zambezi would come to exploit in its course.

During the Gondwana period, three rivers dominated the drainage of southern Africa, predominantly the Limpopo. The interior of the country was relatively moist across a large plateau sloping gently to the west and an escarpment had formed which was drained by small rivers which can still be seen today on the southeast coast.

From 65 million years ago Southern Africa has been subjected to numerous "swells" beneath its continental crust, something apparently unique and well-understood. The cause is unknown but may be due to intense convection in the mantle below. The first of these "swells" to form is known as the Kalahari-Zimbabwe Axis which developed across the headwaters of the Limpopo River followed by the Transvaal-Griqualand Axis. Together, these events changed all the rivers in southern Africa. The Limpopo lost most of its water and huge lakes began to rise in the interior, notably Lake Makgadikgadi which was up to 120,000km2 in size.

This swelling may have been the cause of massive uplift of the interior of southern Africa, something not well understood but with profound implications for the later geological, climatological and thus human history of the interior. Two main periods of uplift are proposed: the first, about 20 mya, caused a rise of 250m in the east and 150m in the west. The second, around 5 mya, saw a 900m rise in the east and only 100m in the west. The uplift decreased the amount of rainfall from east to west (1000mm to less than 100mm) which also saw an increase in grasslands and, thus, more diversity in grazers – most of the African antelopes evolved during this time.

The East African Rift System has had an influence on southern Africa since 20 mya, most notably on the Zambezi River. Originally a small coastal river, the lower Zambezi rapidly cut back into the interior due to the raised Kalahari-Zimbabwe Axis and, later, faults related to the East African Rift System. The Zambezi captured rivers arising to the north: the Kafue, then the upper Zambezi and lower Kwando. This capture resulted in the loss of water to the palaeo-lake Makgadikgadi and it shrank in size.

Something quite fun to consider is the fact that we can also trace the changing river systems in this area thanks to the spread of a rather important creature to our tourism industry. The first known ancestors of the tigerfishes, Hydrocynus, are known in North Africa dated to between 35-21 million years. The evidence from DNA studies reveals our tiger fish, the Zambezi tigerfish, H. vittatus evolved within the confines of the Zambezi River where it became isolated from neighbouring populations in central Africa within the past 2-3 million years. The species is believed to have originated in the Congo Basin and thereafter it dispersed through south- central Africa southwards as far as southern Mozambique, and Mpumalanga and Kwa-Zulu-Natal in South Africa.

Graham Bell-Cross once hypothesised that the most likely dispersal route out of the Congo Basin was into Upper Zambezi headwaters from the Kasai. This occurred only after the Kasai, a north-flowing Congo tributary, captured an easterly flowing headwater of the Upper Zambezi. Thereafter tiger fish dispersed far and wide south of the Southern Equatorial Divide. It only colonised the Middle Zambezi below the Batoka Gorges within the past 200,000 years.

Over the last couple of million years, the system as we know it has remained more or less the same – except for the formation of Victoria Falls, discussed in Part Two. An important consideration is the fact that the East African Rift system has continued to grow in southern Africa and the associated faulting led to the diversion of the Kwando River into the Zambezi. Faults are also responsible for the formation of the Okavango Delta. The next river to be captured is the Okavango which will see the eventual end of the magnificent Delta. Once the Okavango River is captured an entire drainage network that once formed part of the Limpopo River system will have shifted to the Zambezi. Geologically recent captures of the Chobe, Kafue and Upper Zambezi testify to the relative youth of the (modern) river's shape. The Great Equatorial Divide on Africa's high plateaux comprises the Zambezi's modern watershed, and its present position testifies to repeated re-shuffles of links between long lived rivers.

Part Two will discuss the geological events behind the formation of Victoria Falls and the impact of the geology on the flora and fauna found along its length.







#### References

The information presented here is collected and summarised from various sources, including:

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# 2023 START

## Z.P.G.A. Diary

#### March 2023

- Sun 5th Mon 7th
- Wed 22nd
- Thur 23rd
- Fri 24th
- Tue 28th
- Fri 31st

#### May 2023

- Thur 11th Mon 14th
- Thur 18th
- Fri 19th
- September 2023
  - Sun 17th
  - Mon 18th
  - Tue 19th
  - Wed 20th
- October 2023
  - Thur 5th Sun 8th
- November 2023
  - Wed 1st Tue 7th
- December 2023
  - Friday 1st
  - Sat 2nd
  - Sat 2nd

- Lower Zambezi Canoeing proficiency
- -Z.P.G.A. Talks Bulawayo
- Z.P.G.A. Talks Victoria Falls
- Z.P.G.A. Talks Harare
- Shooting Proficiency (Hre)
- Rhino Fest (Bulawayo)
- SVC Mountain Bike Challenge
- Z.P.G.A. Talks Victoria Falls
- Z.P.G.A. Talks Bulawayo & Harare
  - Shooting Proficiency (Hre)
  - Oral Interviews (Hre)
  - LPH written exam (Hre)
  - LPH written exams (Hre)
  - Upper Zam Canoeing proficiency
  - Proficiency Examination
- AGM (Victoria Falls)
- Z.P.G.A. Competition Shoot (Vic Falls)
- 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."

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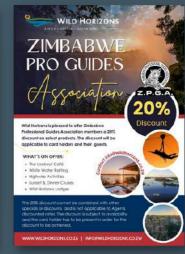
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It pays to be a Member of the Z.P.G.A. for further information visit www.zpga.org/get-involved/zpga-member-benefits









#### **Membership Statistics - 2023**

It's a collaborative effort

# Z.P.G.A. Members Breakdown by Qualification Number of Members Qualification 67 ASSOCIATE 6 CONSERVATION PARTNER 13 CUBS 61 FULL PG 145 FULL PH 6 HONORARY LIFE MEMBER 3 INDUSTRY SERVICE PROVIDER 80 LPH LICENSE 7 RESTRICTION





Tuesday, 28 February 2023













Page 1 of 1

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!

## Kudu steak with mushroom cream sauce

BY PHILLIPPA CHEIFITZ

#### **Ingredients**

- 4 Kudu Sirloin Steaks (150-- 200g each)
- add Flaky Sea Salt (and coarsely ground black pepper)
- 1 tablespoon Olive Oil
- 2 tablespoons Butter
- 2 cloves Garlic (crushed)
- 1 cup Cream
- add Chives (for garnishing)
- 1 punnet Button Mushrooms



- Preheat the oven to 180°C.
- Pat the steaks dry and season with salt and pepper. Panfry in heated oil and 1 tablespoon of butter.
- Remove and place in the oven for 5 minutes. Remove, cover with foil and leave to rest for 5 minutes.
- On the stove, heat the remaining butter in the same pan. Slice the mushrroms, add to the pan and stir-fry over a brisk heat.
- Stir in the garlic. Pour in the cream and allow to reduce and thicken. Check seasoning.
- Serve the steaks topped with the sauce and garnished with chives.
- On the side, serve steamed potatoes or a mix of salad greens.
- Cook's note: ring the changes by serving the steaks with a bitter chocolate sauce spiced with chilli

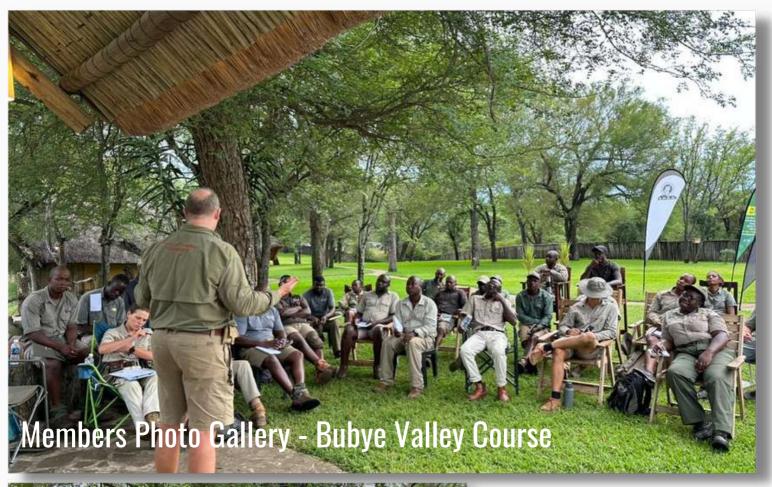


"No one who cooks, cooks alone.

Even at her most solitary, a cook in the kitchen is surrounded by generations of cooks past, the advice and menus of cooks present, the wisdom of cookbook writers"

**Laurie Colwin** 









The Z.P.G.A.'s commitment to Education







#### **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

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

The 2023 dates are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
<ul><li>Thursday 23rd March (Victoria Falls)</li><li>Friday 24th March (Harare)</li></ul>	Lyn Francey Paul Hubbard	"The Importance of Vultures" "Myth, Magic and Marvel in the Matobo Hills World Heritage Site"
<ul> <li>Wednesday 22nd March (Bulawayo)</li> </ul>	Mark Butcher	"Community Conservation

- 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)

Rhino Initiative"

Time: 17:00 for 17:30Start Cash bar and restaurant **Free Admission** 

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







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





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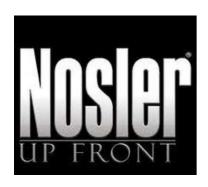




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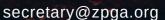
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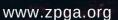
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- 5. Engagement with Zimbabwe parks and ministry
- 6. Involvement in conservation initiatives such as the leopard, lion, elephant and rhino workshops for strategic planning for these key species
- 7. Representation at shows and events when we can for 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

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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.

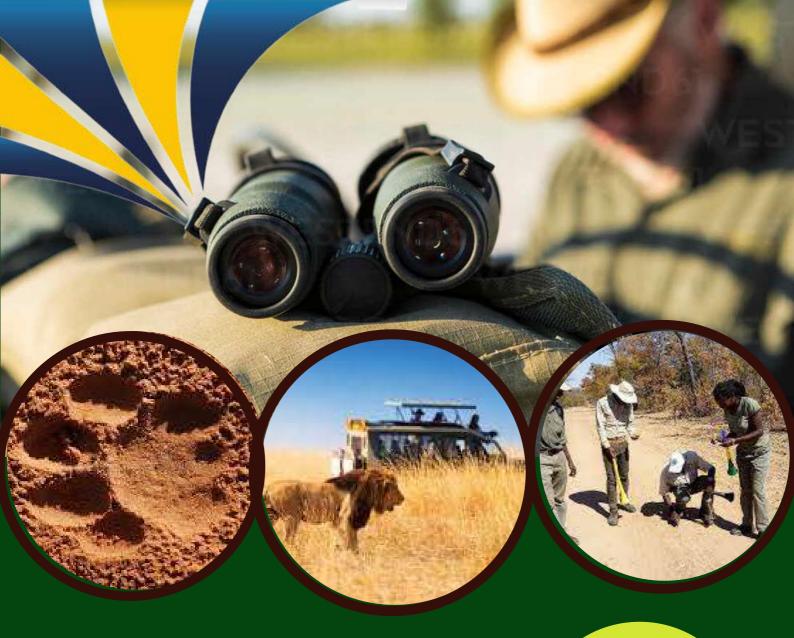
It's up to parents and other adults however, to instil this knowledge in kids at an early age.

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#### **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 <a href="mailto:secretary@zpga.org">secretary@zpga.org</a> 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
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- 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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