

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE

ZIMBABWE PROFESSIONAL GUIDES ASSOCIATION

JUNE, 2023

/ Vol. 06



Z.P.G.A.

CONSERVATION

ORIENTATED



www.zpga.org
marketing@zpga.org
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Z.P.G.A. Annual Events 2023

SAVE THE DATE

AGM Safari Dinner

Networking and Growing the
Z.P.G.A. brand



Victoria Falls - Zimbabwe



Friday 1st December to
Sunday, 3rd December
2023

Register at:

secretary@zpga.org

Come and join us!

2023 Safari Events Sponsors

It is with grateful thanks to all of the below, whom have already committed to sponsoring the Z.P.G.A. end of year events.

If you would like to see your logo here please send an email to marketing@zpga.org and ask how you too may help.



Bookings for the 2023 event are now open. Make sure to place your bookings as soon as possible to avoid disappointment.

Editors Notes: By John Laing

Another month has come and gone and as usual we have been incredibly busy. We have been working tirelessly for the last week on the mining objection letter for Mana pools and I must say we were very happy with the submission of that letter on the 19th of May 2023.

Work continues with the preparations of the VIP event, AGM and safari dinner at the end of the year. Member's invites have been sent out via WhatsApp groups, VIPs have been invited via e-mail, and requests of sponsorship continue. We are focusing on the finer details of the events now and overall the event promises to be an amazing series of functions.

The education committee has been hard at work with preparations for next years learner professional guides course, which will be held for seven days mid-February. Going through the figures yesterday we are fully subscribed to this course, which is phenomenal and goes to show the usefulness of the program. Every year the course seems to get better, 2024 I'm sure will be a cracker.

Still 6 months to go before the end of the year and so much more to achieve, but our targets are in place and we are looking forward to achieving new heights.

Z.P.G.A. Offices

- Harare - 64 Churchill Ave, Alex Park
- Bulawayo - The Orange Elephant, 12th Ave Extension
- Victoria Falls - 566 Nyathi Road, corner of Mopani



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Bulawayo moves towards creating a new shooting range for Z.P.G.A. members.

During the month of May there was some discussion on the WhatsApp groups concerning a shooting facility around the Bulawayo area. At the last proficiency shoot we used the Falcon college shooting range, which whilst very generous is only really available to members during fixture free weekends and holidays, meaning we really needed to look at an alternative venue.

William Mills whom is a new member of the association assisted and found a place for us to shoot 25 kilometres out of Bulawayo on the Airport Rd, a piece of land owned by William's brother, Vic.

Loads of work has been carried out so far, grass shrubs and rocks have been cleared and I believe the first rounds have been deployed. A huge thanks goes out to the organisers William Mills and Adrian van Heerden, you guys have really taken a handle and driven this case forward. It just goes to show and demonstrate what can be done when one puts one's mind to a task. Thank you both. There have been numerous other people that have assisted in the caring of the area and we're also very, very, grateful to those people for all their contributions in the preparation of the range.

Work has started and we are in the process of formalising a shooting association, which we will align with the Zimbabwe field shooting association, based up in Harare. Affiliation with ZFSA will ensure that the Bulawayo range becomes recognised as an official country range.

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A Case for Lead Free Ammunition In Zimbabwe

By Doug MACDONALD

As Professional Guides in Zimbabwe, we are often faced with quite opposing views from our colleagues in tourism, and also the guests we guide, on our effect as humans on wildlife and the landscapes that are remaining, which we all in the tourism industry earn our livelihoods from. The bottom line is that whichever end of the spectrum you come from or believe in, no one can dispute that humans are toxic and have an effect on our environments whenever we enter that space, or we have an impact that may have been created very far away but still manages to trickle down into these “preserved” landscapes in a variety of ways and it is for the most part not good.

When you look at the range of threats that these landscapes are faced with it can often seem an insurmountable challenge. However, I do firmly believe that if we all did something little, which has no great impact on how your day goes, this could have a massive global effect. I think it is a poor excuse to say “no point in me doing it if no-one else does it”. We just have to start somewhere, and if we all start to do something it gets much easier to call out those on the fringes. Can you imagine if every person on this planet picked up two pieces of plastic every day, we all see much more than that, so it’s not hard to find and will not take you out of your daily routine or comfort zone. 7 billion people x 2 = 14 billion pieces not entering our ecosystems in an unmanaged way. This is not insignificant.

So, my main point is that I recently had the privilege to spend time with Andre Botha from the Endangered Wildlife Trust and also the co-chair of the IUCN Vulture Specialist Group who do a tremendous amount of work and research on vultures on many levels. We had some fascinating discussions, or more me learning and he explaining, on the effects they are uncovering of lead poisoning in vultures and he shared with me two research papers - one research done in Botswana, which is quite specific on lead levels in the environment from hunting and the effect thereof on critically endangered White Backed Vultures. The other based on work done in South Africa that focused on lead poisoning and its effects on a range of vultures and other predatory birds. When you start reading you quickly see that these studies have been mirrored right across the world with similar conclusions and, as with all these papers, there is lots of background and methodology etc. plus explanations on how key the vultures are to our natural environments, which all helps to explain their conclusions, but I won’t go into that here. At the bottom of this I have attached the links to those studies if you would like to read more, but here are a few take-aways from these papers, which I think need careful consideration by us in tourism. Guides - don’t feel this does not include you, as we have all used a bullet on something at some stage, so our hands are not clean.

1. Vultures across the planet are facing a precipitous decline in numbers for a variety of reasons which include – both direct and indirect poisoning, the use of Diclofenac in the veterinary industry, man-made structures (powerlines, vehicles etc.) loss of habitat, harvesting for the traditional belief trade.
2. There are a few potential sources of lead in a vulture’s diet. However the leading logical source is from carcasses, either in the offal or muscles of the animal carcasses shot with lead based ammunition that they are ingesting. Sometimes this is supplied to them by the creation of “vulture restaurants” if the food is not carefully vetted.



3. The most likely source of this lead in these carcasses is from lead bullets, either from fragmenting bullets or lead shot found in the muscle and viscera of a shot animal.

4. The lead has a half-life of 14 days, which means that it although it gets absorbed very quickly into their systems, probably as a result of their intense digestive systems (PH level of 1!!), but it does break down after initially effecting their organs and is then stored in their bone structures for their lifetimes and so builds up more and more (biomagnification). This then, among others, effects the shell development process during laying giving a much lower success rate of nesting.

5. The development of lead poisoning in a vulture primarily involves inhibition of the cellular function of Ca^{2+} * and consequent interference with neuro-transmitter systems and synaptogenesis, as well as disruption of the blood brain barrier and decreasing total brain capacity with prolonged exposure.

6. Among birds lead could potentially impact every organ and system in the body, most notably the central nervous and haematological systems.

7. Acute exposure at extreme levels can lead to mortality, while chronic or long-term exposure can cause a variety of latent symptoms, including increased lethargy, decreased foraging ability, anorexia, decreased spatial awareness, breast-muscle atrophy, loss of strength and coordination, drooping wings, decreased reproductive success and depressed immune response.

So my conclusion goes back to my original point that if we all did something little it can help the big picture for vultures, even if it is a small leg up, it's better than what we are doing now. We should all be trying to get rid of lead-based ammunition in our industry and make that the standard that we all abide to. It is pointless waiting for legislation on the topic as we all know that is not coming anytime soon, so I believe we as an industry can enforce this with simple methods of requiring all clients coming to the country that they do not bring lead-based ammunition, there are alternatives out there. Let's also not forget that the signature statement of our association is "Ethics are Everything" which in my opinion does not only mean we follow the rules laid down, but it should also include our own moral judgements on how we effect our environment and workplaces when you know the effect you are having. Traditional Lifestyles Versus Modern Reality.

* Calcium ions (Ca^{2+}) contribute to the physiology and biochemistry of organisms' cells. They play an important role in signal transduction pathways, where they act as a second messenger, in neurotransmitter release from neurons, in contraction of all muscle cell types, and in fertilization.

Blood and bone lead levels in South Africa's Gyps vultures: Risk to nest-bound chicks and comparison with other avian taxa

Linda van den Heever , Hanneline Smit-Robinson , Vinny Naidoo , Andrew E. McKechnie
Taxa

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2019.03.123>[AB1]

Garbett, R., et al., Association between hunting and elevated blood lead levels in the critically endangered African white-

backed vulture *Gyps africanus*..., Sci Total Environ (2017),
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2018.02.220>

[AB1]Link added for easy reference.

2023
START

Z.P.G.A. Diary

July 2023

- Fri 14th - Z.P.G.A. Talks Bulawayo
- Fri 21st - Sun 23rd - Black Eagle Research/Celebration (Byo)

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
- Wed 29th - Thur 30th - VIP Event

December 2023

- Fri 1st - AGM (Victoria Falls)
- Sat 2nd - Z.P.G.A. Golf Morning (Vic Falls)
- Sat 2nd - Safari Dinner (Victoria Falls)

"Only put off until tomorrow what you are willing to die having left undone."

Pablo Picasso

"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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MEMBERSHIP

Membership Statistics - 2023

It's a collaborative effort

Z.P.G.A. Members Breakdown by Qualification		
Number of Members	Qualification	
74	ASSOCIATE	
9	CONSERVATION PARTNER	
13	CUBS	
63	FULL PG	
149	FULL PH	
6	HONORARY LIFE MEMBER	
4	INDUSTRY SERVICE PROVIDER	
89	LPH LICENSE	
6	RESTRICTION	
Saturday, 03 June 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 ended 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!

Meatballs

BY BETTY CROCKER

Ingredients

- 1 lb lean (at least 80%) ground beef
- 1/2 cup Italian-style bread crumbs
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 small onion, finely chopped (1/4 cup)
- 1 egg



Method:

- Heat oven to 400°F. Line 13x9-inch pan with foil; spray with cooking spray.
- In large bowl, mix all ingredients. Shape mixture into 24 (1 1/2-inch) meatballs. Place 1 inch apart in pan.
- Bake uncovered 18 to 22 minutes or until temperature reaches 160°F and no longer pink in center.





Members Photo Gallery - Eland

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





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.

Don't miss out on the talks we have planned for 2023!

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

The 2023 dates are as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Topic</u>
◦ Friday 21st July (Bulawayo)	Mthabisi KHUMALO	Raptor Conservation in Zimbabwe
◦ Thursday 20th July (Victoria Falls)	John Laing	What is the Z.P.G.A.?
◦ 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

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



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



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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

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5. Access to cutting edge tourism news & policy developments as it affects the hunting & guiding countrywide
6. Opportunities to give back to the community

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1. 4 x Membership cards which entitles the holder to membership discounts
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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.

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Midlands Black Rhino Conservancy - Open Letter

Rhino Capture Update 25th May.

As per the report on Tuesday, 23rd May, the capture team, truck and helicopters were all in place early Tuesday and ready to capture and move our female Black Rhino, Togara back into the Conservancy.

Togara thought otherwise and did her best to avoid capture by staying in thick bush and started making her own way in the direction of home. Our teams have tracked her for two days and on the morning of the 25th May she arrived back to home range after a 100km round trip over 14 days.

The team work on the ground has been phenomenal and Zimparks should be saluted for the amazing work they have done together with many others.

The final costing of this necessary exercise has come in at US\$3,000. The recent pledge that went out has now covered the costs. As mentioned, the excess will go to the GAP anti-poaching work in the area. So a big thank you to all out there for your conservation commitment and teamwork, your assistance and generosity.

May we bear the Midlands Conservancy in mind moving forward, as a great wildlife and conservation area, deserving protection and a future.

Kind Regards,
Sean Waller
ZHA Committee





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 Nadine du Plessis 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 - jlaing@zpga.org
- Z.P.G.A. – Secretary - Nadine du PLESSIS - secretary@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 - 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

“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

www.zpga.org
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There will be one giveaway hidden somewhere in each of the next 10 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 "Learn how to skin" in the subject line

Donated by James Koch

