

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE

ZIMBABWE PROFESSIONAL GUIDES ASSOCIATION

DECEMBER, 2023 / Vol. 12

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ORIENTATED



www.zpga.org
marketing@zpga.org
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Proofreader - Corneli Claassen



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To all our sponsors, we would like to acknowledge the trust you have placed in us and the belief you have shown in our mission. Your support has not only helped us run successful events but it has also empowered us to continue our efforts in making a positive difference in the lives of those we serve.

Thank you



The Vice Chairmans Desk:

As we approach the end of 2023, I am amazed at how quickly this year has flown by. Overall, it has been a successful year for us, with minimal serious incidents affecting lives. Although we have encountered a few accidents, fortunately they have not resulted in any long-term consequences. In addition, some of our members have faced unjust charges and appeared in court, but we have been able to successfully defend some cases while awaiting verdicts in others. The executive committee has been diligently engaged, actively providing assistance wherever possible.

During the year, we have faced various challenges, such as the visa requirements imposed by the US embassy. However, we are optimistic that we will find better solutions in 2024, enabling us to support our members more effectively. The association has undeniably grown stronger and more resilient, and this progress is largely due to the unwavering support of our membership. We express our heartfelt gratitude to all of you for standing by us throughout 2023.

As the executive committee, we extend our warmest wishes to each and every one of you for a joyful Christmas and a happy New Year. May the upcoming year be filled with prosperity and success.

With sincere appreciation,
John Laing



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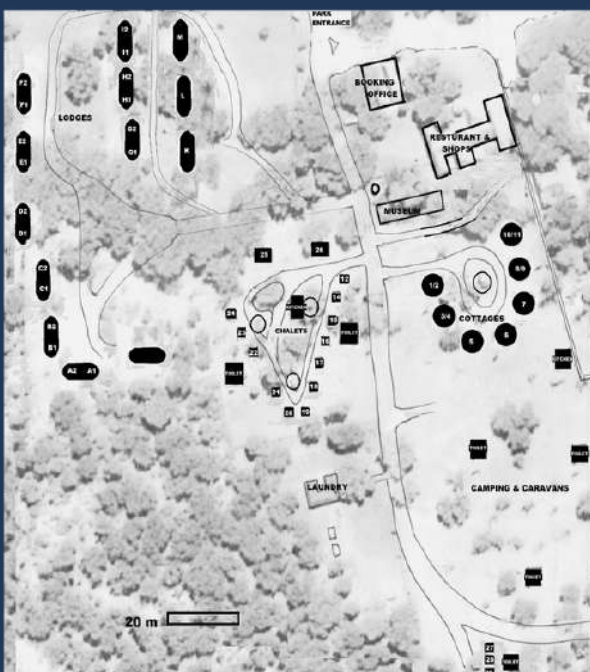
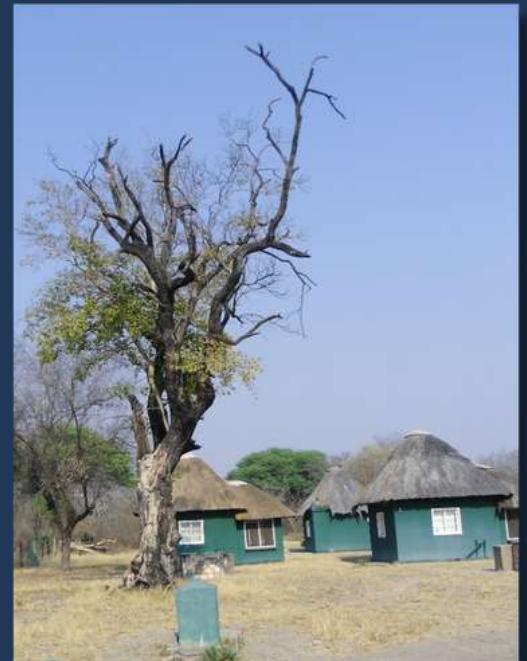


Reforestation of Hwange Main Camp – A Proposal

By Paddy Pacey

Outline of the Situation:

In the 1960s camping at Main Camp, Hwange involved finding the shade of a clump of large trees as protection from the blazing sun at any time of the day. This is no longer possible, not because humans desperate for firewood have chopped down the trees (as is the case in much of Zimbabwe) but because many of those trees have simply died of old age. The plentiful groves of mature trees that attracted the designers of Main Camp in the 1950s belong for the most part to species that do not live beyond 100 years – and their time was up. It is immediately apparent when one drives into the area of tourist accommodation that there is a serious shortage of flourishing trees and the area is dominated by trees that are dying or bare stumps of dead trees or spaces where trees used to be.



Layout of the tourist accommodation

(This map was drawn up using a satellite photo – it is therefore easy to see that the pale areas have few if any trees.)



Lodge Area

At first glance the area where the Lodges are situated (to the right of the entrance to the accommodation area) is well supplied with large trees but in fact many have died or are dying and they are just screened by the remaining trees.



Chalet Area

There are a few large trees remaining in the Chalet area but the majority are dying or have completely died.



Cottage Area

The Cottage area has lost almost all its tree cover. The only shade available comes from the thatched gazebo in the center of the area.



Camping/Caravanning Area

The caravan and camping area is the hardest hit by the loss of trees and perhaps the area where it would be most desirable to provide trees and their shade for people living under canvas and cooking in the open.





On the 26th October, 2020, strong winds blew down two of the remaining trees in the campsite area.

WHAT IS NEEDED?

Numbers?

A map of the lodge area here is being used as an example to suggest the trees that it would be desirable to plant (represented by circles) to replace dead trees and to fill in empty areas. This comes to approximately 50 trees in the lodge area alone. (To repopulate the whole of Main Camp's tourist accommodation would call for upwards of 200 young trees - to allow for the fact that many of the remaining trees will die in the near future).

Obviously it would be better to plant a handful of trees now rather than none but it would be great to see at least a hundred trees planted in the accommodation area as a whole.

Species?

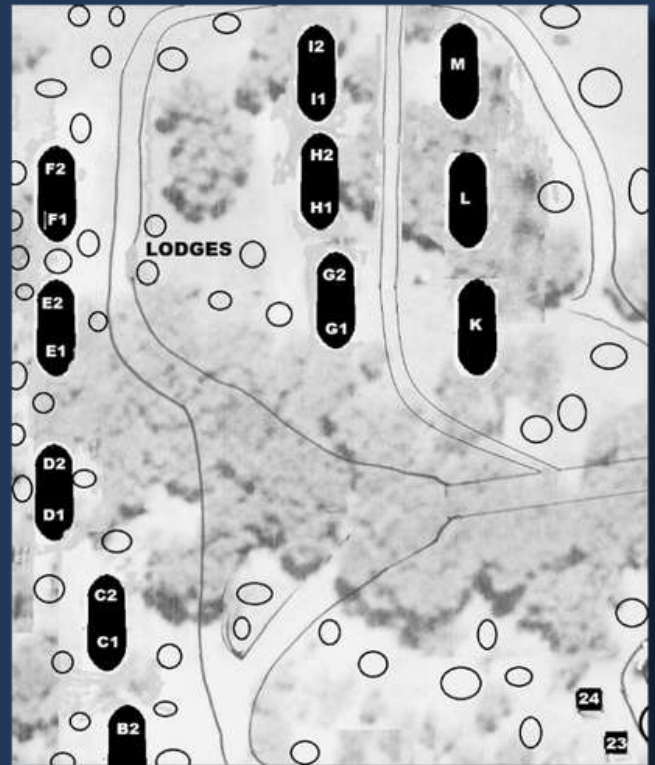
Obviously it would be desirable to plant those species that are occurring naturally in Hwange and originally populated the Main Camp space. The predominant species is Camelthorn (*Vachellia erioloba*), which fortunately grows relatively fast. Another species that was common is the African Teak (*Baikiaea plurijuga*). Other big, shady trees found in the area are Scotsman's Rattle (*Amblygonocarpus andongensis*), African Wattle (*Peltophorum africanum*), False Mopane (*Guibourtia coleosperma*) and Leadwood (*Combretum imberbe*). Other species that are not shady but are characteristic are the African Rain Tree or Apple-leaf (*Phenoptera violacea* formerly *Lonchocarpus capassa*) and Silver Terminalia or Silver Cluster-leaf (*Terminalia sericea*). It would be vital to take the advice of an expert on how to maximize the advantages of fast growth with the judicious sprinkling of slow-growing trees that will only come into their own after many years.

Protection?

There is absolutely no point in planting young trees unless they are supplied with protection from being browsed by animals, such as the resident herd of impala who roam Main Camp every night. Supports and some sort of fencing or cage will be necessary for each sapling. Jos Dankwertz has spoken of some sort of environmentally friendly tree protection that he knows of (and could be approached for information) but otherwise there needs to be arrangements made with gum poles or metal poles and pieces of diamond mesh fencing.

When?

It would be desirable to plant the trees just before the rainy season (i.e. October or November) so that the young trees get a good start in natural rainfall. They might then require a little supplementary water in the dry season for a year or two. Maybe a competition could be arranged in which school children took individual responsibility for trees?



DEFENDING HUNTER'S RIGHTS IN A CHANGING WORLD

BY ABE SMIT

It is without doubt that the voices of International Animal Rights groups and Animal Welfare organizations have permeated into corridors of influence in Africa and across the globe. The evidence of their presence is manifest through the discord they sow amongst both private and public institutions. Amongst other things their lobby to ban Trophy Hunting and ban the trade of Wildlife Products is propelled through the use of corrupt influencing to change national legislation to suit their whims and even through illegitimate projects which have devastating consequences on wildlife populations and the environment.

Social Media has created a wave of Disney "wokeness" and naive animal sympathisers who have no real understanding of wildlife conservation in Africa. With this, a mass of money finds its way into the pockets of the Animal Rights Organisations through the DONATE button on their convincing web pages. Very little of this collected money makes its way back to Africa and these organisations become wealthier and ever more powerful each moment.

In all this mayhem affecting the Sport Hunting Industry (which includes hunters, professional guides and safari operators) we have not spoken with one collective voice, to expose the misleading and false information circulated by these groups. We have instead become victims of backlash, defamation, illegal persecution, harassment and cyber-bullying. This in turn is affecting business sustainability and effects the correct utilisation of wildlife in terms of National Constitutions - our enjoyment of fundamental rights are being infringed.

Hunters and conservationists are not by nature closeted in offices and stuck to keyboards and savvy with the latest tech developments (never mind the huge imminent threat from Artificial Intelligence) and we are finding ourselves in a situation where we are losing the war for no other reason than we are not protecting our own rights for lack of experience and understanding in the strange realms that we now find ourselves in.

For this reason Conservation Justice Project ("CJP") was created as an informal alliance of various entities in the Wildlife Conservation arena falling under the auspices of Impisi Conservation Trust. The Trust is duly registered in terms of the Laws in Zimbabwe.

Its mission is to Defend and Promote the Scientific and Sustainable Utilization of Wildlife Resources in Africa in terms of IUCN Sustainable Use definitions and the protection of African Wildlife Assets.

Inter alia our objectives include:

Promoting the establishment of an International Body which represents and defends the interests of the Sport Hunting Industry across the world.

- To facilitate robust investigation and preparation of Criminal and Civil case files against Cyber bullying, Defamation and Harassment of Individuals or corporate entities who support Sustainable Utilization of Wildlife Resources.
- To provide legal advice and guidance to Individuals or corporate entities who support Sustainable Utilization of Wildlife Resources on their Constitutional and other rights in terms of the Law.
- To engage with Law enforcement agents through training to capacitate them to effectively tackle cases of Cyber Wildlife Crime.
- To provide scientific evidence against fake news being published by these wildlife racketeers.
- To provide assistance in the preparation of any legal or criminal actions to be taken against any perpetrators.
- To promote awareness of the importance of self-governance especially in the area of regulated free trade of African Wildlife products.

To support this cause, become a member and get assistance from our robust team made up of Lawyers, Safari Operators, Professional Guides, Investigators and Ecologists and do not hesitate to contact us on the details below:

Email: conservationjusticeproject@gmail.com

Mobile/WhatsApp: +263775880530 / +263775420648

Facebook: Conservation Justice Project

Twitter: Conservation Justice Project

As we approach the dawn of 2024, it is essential to give careful consideration to your medical aid/insurance options. The well-being and health of our valued members are of utmost importance to us. In this regard, we are pleased to announce our partnership with MedNet, a trusted provider committed to assisting you with navigating the complexities of this process and finding the best solution tailored to your needs.

We understand that the realm of medical aid/insurance can be daunting, with a myriad of choices and varying coverage options. That is why we have joined forces with MedNet, a reputable organization renowned for their expertise in the field. Their dedicated team is equipped to guide and support you, ensuring that you make informed decisions regarding your medical coverage.

Regardless of your unique requirements, MedNet offers a comprehensive range of solutions specially designed to meet the diverse needs of our members. Whether you are seeking individual coverage or coverage for your family, MedNet will work diligently to find an option that aligns with your preferences and budget.

With MedNet as our trusted partner, you can rest assured that your medical aid/insurance needs will be catered to with the utmost professionalism and care. Their commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction is in perfect harmony with our own values, further reinforcing our confidence in this collaboration.

As we embark on a new year filled with possibilities and challenges, we encourage you to take advantage of the support and expertise that MedNet offers. They will assist you in navigating the landscape of medical aid/insurance, ensuring that you are equipped with the coverage necessary to safeguard your well-being and provide peace of mind.



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If you're feeling anxious about the steep expenses associated with medical treatment and the possibility of being left with a significant shortfall, the MedNet team has got you covered. We offer medical insurance solutions that will give you and your family the peace of mind you deserve. With our expertise in healthcare, you can rest assured that you'll be properly taken care of.

Our medical insurance packages encompass various options that can be utilised across Zimbabwe and South Africa, providing you with access to top-notch medical facilities, physicians, and experts. The program covers local and cross-border emergency evacuation via both air and road ambulance, in-hospital services, chronic diseases, cancer treatment, and everyday medical expenses such as doctors visits, dental care, optical services, and prescription medication.



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2023
START

Z.P.G.A. Diary

December 2023

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

January 2024

- Thur 11th - Sun 14th - DSC Show
- Fri 19th - Sun 21st - Houston Safari Club Show
- Fri 26th - Z.P.G.A. Talks, Harare, Bulawayo, Vic Falls
- Wed 31st - Fri 2nd - SCI Nashville Show

February 2024

- Fri 16th - Sat 24th - LPH Course (Bubye Valley Conservancy)

March 2024

- Fri 22nd - Z.P.G.A. Talks, Harare, Bulawayo, Vic Falls

May 2024

- Thur 9th - Sat 11th - Durban Indaba
- Fri 17th - Z.P.G.A. Talks, Harare, Bulawayo, Vic Falls

July 2024

- Fri 19th - Z.P.G.A. Talks, Harare, Bulawayo, Vic Falls

September 2024

- Fri 20th - Z.P.G.A. Talks, Harare, Bulawayo, Vic Falls

November 2024

- Fri 8th - Z.P.G.A. Talks, Harare, Bulawayo, Vic Falls

"Time, our invaluable asset, finds its guiding compass in the form of a calendar. It empowers us to traverse the expansive terrain of life with purpose, enabling us to embrace opportunities, and embracing each precious moment to its fullest potential."

—
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	
86	ASSOCIATE	
10	CONSERVATION PARTNER	
13	CUBS	
66	FULL PG	
152	FULL PH	
6	HONORARY LIFE MEMBER	
5	INDUSTRY SERVICE PROVIDER	
102	LPH LICENSE	
4	RESTRICTION	
Thursday, 23 November 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

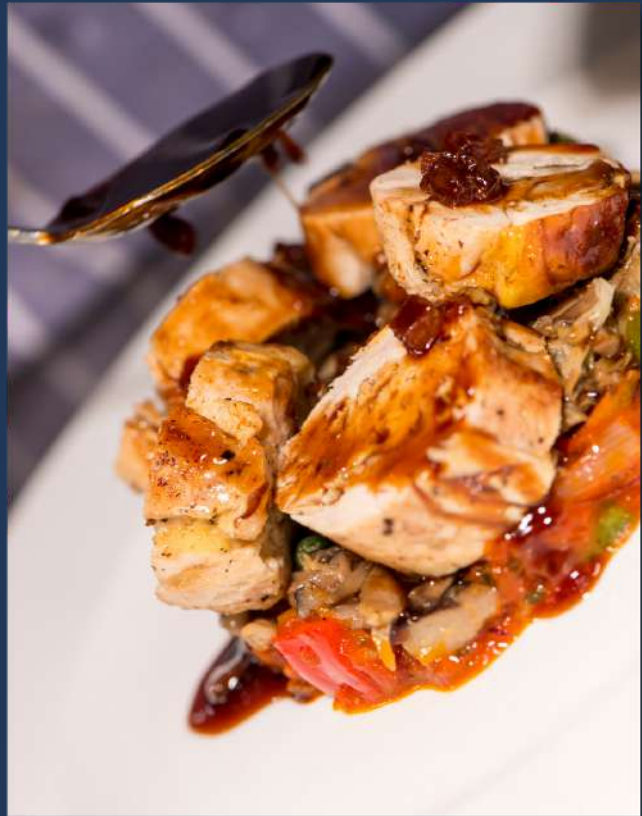
"Z.P.G.A. Membership is a Privilege NOT a right"

The largest membership the Association has had to date!

Delicious Guinea Fowl Stew: BY LAURA SMITH

Ingredients:

- 1 guinea fowl, cut into pieces
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 onion, finely chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 carrots, peeled and chopped
- 2 celery stalks, chopped
- 1 red bell pepper, diced
- 1 cup mushrooms, sliced
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 cup red wine
- 4 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 1 bay leaf
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- Salt and pepper to taste
- Chopped fresh parsley for garnish



Instructions:

1. Heat the olive oil in a large, heavy-bottomed pot or Dutch oven over medium heat. Add the guinea fowl pieces and brown them on all sides. Remove the browned guinea fowl from the pot and set aside.
2. In the same pot, add the chopped onion, minced garlic, carrots, celery, and red bell pepper. Sauté the vegetables until they begin to soften, about 5 minutes.
3. Add the sliced mushrooms to the pot and cook for another 3-4 minutes until they start to release their moisture.
4. Push the vegetables to one side of the pot and add the tomato paste to the cleared area. Cook the tomato paste for about 1 minute to caramelize it slightly.
5. Pour in the red wine and scrape the bottom of the pot to deglaze, loosening any browned bits.
6. Return the browned guinea fowl pieces to the pot. Add the chicken or vegetable broth, bay leaf, and dried thyme. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
7. Bring the stew to a boil, then reduce the heat to low and cover the pot. Simmer for about 1 to 1.5 hours, or until the guinea fowl is tender and cooked through.
8. Once the guinea fowl is cooked, remove the bay leaf from the stew. Taste and adjust the seasoning if needed.
9. Serve the guinea fowl stew hot, garnished with chopped fresh parsley. It pairs well with crusty bread or steamed rice.

"Cooking is the art that we savor, and when shared with friends, it becomes a masterpiece of joy and connection."



Members Photo Gallery - Lesser Bush Baby





Z.P.G.A. Talks 2023 into 2024

We launched the Z.P.G.A. Talks in 2022. A series of 18 captivating talks held across 3 vibrant cities. During 2023 we again set out to bring interested persons together, reflecting upon the past year, we can confidently say that it has been an extraordinary triumph. These talks were meticulously crafted to unite our community, fostering growth through the power of shared knowledge. The presentations were not only enjoyable but also enlightening, serving as a catalyst for lively discussions, active engagement, and a beautiful exchange of ideas. With such a remarkable response in 2023, we eagerly anticipate an even more remarkable participation in 2024, as we continue to inspire and empower through the magic of "Z.P.G.A. Talks".

Don't miss out on the talks we have planned for 2024!

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

The 2024 dates are as follows:

Date

- January, Friday 26th
- March, Friday 22nd
- May, Friday 17th
- July, Friday 19th
- September, Friday 20th
- November, Friday 8th

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

2022 Stats

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

2023 Stats

**18 Z.P.G.A. Talks
1, 870 participants**



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



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WE ARE PROUD TO BE ASSOCIATED WITH THE Z.P.G.A. & HAVE BEEN OFFERING THIS COVER TO MEMBERS OF THE Z.P.G.A. SINCE 2013

WE HAVE SETTLED A NUMBER OF CLAIMS OVER THIS PERIOD, ESPECIALLY FOR TEMPORARY TOTAL DISABLEMENT & SOME CLAIMS HAVE BEEN IN EXCESS OF US\$30,000

A SUMMARY OF THE COVER IS:


- **PROFESSIONAL GUIDES & TRACKERS PERSONAL ACCIDENT COVER**
 - **24 HOUR PERSONAL ACCIDENT COVER, WHICH INCLUDES 'PROFESSIONAL HUNTING' ACTIVITIES**
 - **OTHER HAZARDOUS PASTIMES/ACTIVITIES NEED TO BE DECLARED (SUCH AS FLYING AS A PILOT, HANG GLIDING, PARACHUTING, ETC)**
 - **NOTE - COVER IS FOR ACCIDENTAL INJURY & THEREFORE IS NOT 'LIFE INSURANCE' SO COVER EXCLUDES DREADED DISEASES & ILLNESSES**
- **SCHEMES**
 - **THERE ARE 4 DIFFERENT LEVELS OF COVER AVAILABLE**
 - **PREMIUMS RANGE BETWEEN US\$158 – US\$630 PER ANNUM DEPENDANT ON THE SCHEME CHOSEN**
- **COVER INCLUDES:**
 - **PERSONAL ACCIDENT**
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 - **WE ALSO ARE ABLE TO OFFER OTHER FORMS OF 'SHORT TERM' COVER SUCH AS MOTOR, HOME COMPREHENSIVE, ALL RISKS, PUBLIC LIABILITY, TRAVEL & AVIATION**





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Z.P.G.A. MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS



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
2. Z.P.G.A. branded merchandise
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Zimbabwe Rain

By John Laing

In Zimbabwe's embrace, as the seasons dance,
The coming rains paint a vivid trance.
From November to April, nature's grand show,
Flora and fauna rejoice, their spirits aglow.

The parched earth awakens, thirsting for life,
As raindrops descend, relieving the strife.
Plains game gracefully drop their young,
A testament to nature's song, sung.

The air, at its freshest, whispers with glee,
Carrying scents of life, a joyful decree.
The skies, alive with colors at sunset's embrace,
A masterpiece painted, leaving hearts in a chase.

Large thunderstorms rumble, a majestic affair,
Lightning's dance illuminates the air.
With each crack of thunder, the chorus resounds,
Africa's rhythm, a symphony that astounds.

The land, once barren, now teems with grace,
As rivers flow and life quickens its pace.
The flora, reborn, adorns the landscape anew,
A tapestry of greens, every shade and hue.

Fauna frolics, in jubilant delight,
Beneath the African sky, day or night.
From graceful antelope to elephants grand,
Nature's marvels traverse this vibrant land.

Oh, Zimbabwe's rains, a gift from above,
Bathing the land, nurturing with love.
They bring life's rhythm, a harmonious flow,
A symphony of Africa, where dreams grow.

So let us celebrate, this magnificent sight,
As rains bless the land, day and night.
In Zimbabwe's embrace, our spirits rise,
As nature's magic unfolds before our eyes.



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

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There will be one giveaway hidden somewhere in each of the next 6 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

