

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER FOR THE

# ZIMBABWE PROFESSIONAL GUIDES ASSOCIATION

February 2026 / Vol. 2

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# From the Chairman's Desk:

Dear Members,

As we step into 2026 and our diaries begin filling with guest bookings, this is a good moment to pause and reflect, not only on the season ahead, but on the word that sits at the heart of many of our titles:

**Professional.**

From Learner Hunters and Guides to Professional Hunters and Guides, and all who work within our tourism sector, that word carries weight. It defines not only how we see ourselves, but how we are seen by the guests who travel great distances to experience Africa.

Our guests arrive with expectations. They expect to be treated with respect and care. They expect to experience exceptional wildlife, both flora and fauna. Many have also been told by previous travellers how warm, capable, and welcoming Zimbabweans are. Before we have even shaken their hand, a perception has already been formed.

Being a professional means we live up to that perception, consistently, quietly, and without excuse.

**Professionalism shows in our preparation.**

Ensure your first aid certificates are valid and up to date. Do not aim for the minimum standard; pursue advanced certification where possible. First aid kits must be inspected and any expired items replaced. Preparedness in an emergency is not optional, it is a responsibility.

Professionalism also means your own medical aid or insurance is in order. Vehicle licences, tax, and radio licences must be current. Handheld or two-way radios should be functioning correctly. Firearm licences and all related documentation must be valid, and ammunition should be factory-loaded and new. Being stopped without the correct paperwork in front of guests does not only affect you, it shapes how our entire industry is perceived.

**Professionalism extends beyond equipment and paperwork.**

It is reflected in our knowledge. Continuous study and research are essential. A professional guide or hunter is always learning, about wildlife, ecosystems, history, conservation, and the communities connected to the areas we visit. This depth of understanding enriches the guest experience and demonstrates respect for the environment and people we represent.

Most importantly, professionalism is about conduct. Our attitude, patience, safety awareness, communication, and integrity are what guests remember long after the trip ends. Each of us, through our actions, represents not only ourselves, but our colleagues, our industry, and our country.

If you have questions or need guidance, please contact our offices or reach out to fellow members who are always willing to assist.

Let us move into 2026 determined to uphold the true meaning of "professional", for our own pride, and for the experience and safety of every guest who places their trust in us.

Wishing you a successful year and safe travels for you and your guests.

Warm regards,  
John Laing  
Z.P.G.A. Chairman

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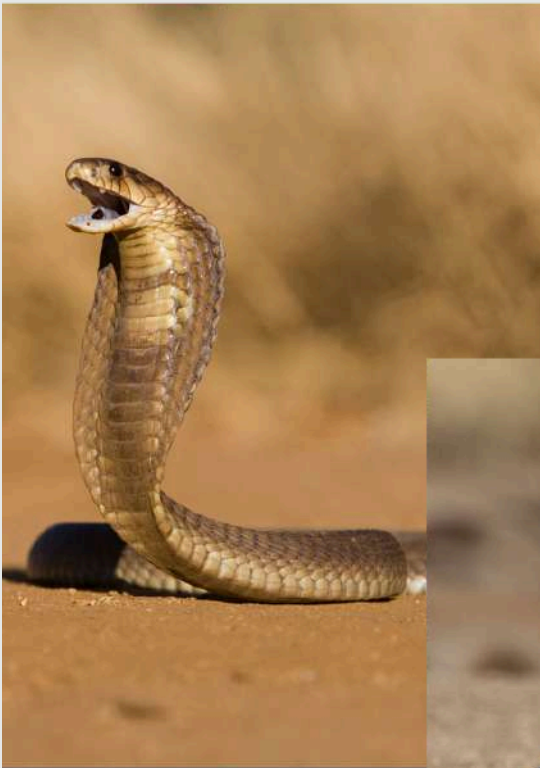


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# Z.P.G.A. and National Parks: A Vital Partnership Driving Professionalism and Economic Value

By John Laing

As we step into another year of challenges and achievements, it's essential to recognise one of the most critical relationships that ensures the ongoing professionalism, integrity, and sustainability of our guiding industry, the partnership between the Zimbabwe Professional Guides Association (Z.P.G.A.) and Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZimParks).

This relationship is not merely about regulatory compliance or certification, it is a collaborative journey built on mutual respect, shared goals, and a firm commitment to preserving Zimbabwe's natural heritage while upholding the highest standards in professional guiding.

## Walking the Journey Together

Every Professional Guide begins with a passion for the wild, but turning that passion into a career requires more than just love for nature. There is a rigorous pathway, with structured exams, tests, and interviews, all facilitated by ZimParks, with the support of the Z.P.G.A., particularly through our experienced members who voluntarily give of their time and expertise.

From facilitating exams to participating in proficiency evaluations, interviews, and shooting tests, Z.P.G.A. senior members are frequently invited to take part, often providing the essential second signature required for certification. This volunteerism is not just a service, it's a pledge. It is a living embodiment of our Association's credo: "Striving for Excellence."

## The Hidden Economy of Licensing and Exams

While often overlooked, the process of qualifying and retaining professional guiding licenses contributes significantly to the operational funding of National Parks. Let's take a look at the numbers:

- LPH Exams: With two sittings annually and approximately 300 candidates per session, the National Parks collect US\$150,000 in exam fees alone (based 5 exams of US\$50 each, a US\$250 exam cost).
- Annual License Fees:
  - 6,000 LPHs at US\$50: US\$300,000
  - 850 Professional Hunters at US\$200: US\$170,000
  - 200 Professional Guides at US\$100: US\$20,000

These figures exclude canoe and rafting guide fees (for which data is pending), but even without them, we estimate that National Parks receives approximately US\$640,000 annually from guiding-related exams and licensing alone.

This underscores the economic importance of our industry to the administrative and conservation functions of the Authority.

## A Foundation of Mutual Respect

The Z.P.G.A.'s involvement in this qualification process is not accidental, it's symbolic of our core values. Our Members are not mere license holders, but professionals who uphold standards and help shape the future of guiding in Zimbabwe. The countless hours given voluntarily to exams, to mentoring, and to oversight are central to maintaining the credibility and robustness of the guiding profession.

So, when one asks, "What does the Z.P.G.A. do for me?", the answer lies in every signed certificate, every endorsed license, every successful examination, and in every moment that diplomacy and dedication have sustained a strong, productive partnership with National Parks.

## United for Excellence

The relationship between Z.P.G.A. and National Parks is one of shared responsibility and equal ambition. Parks benefit from professionally trained and licensed guides that bring value to conservation tourism. Z.P.G.A. members benefit from access to official recognition, licensing, and opportunities created by one of Africa's most respected wildlife authorities.

But more than that, this relationship reflects a belief, that guiding in Zimbabwe stands apart not just because of the wilderness we protect, but because of the integrity with which we do so.

Let us continue to guard this bond with diplomacy, professionalism, and passion.

Here's to another year of striving, for excellence, for unity, and for the love of guiding in Zimbabwe.



LPH Exams Bulawayo 2024

## "Striving for Excellence"



Shooting Test Harar 2024

# Hoisting the Nation's Flag: A Moment of Pride and Purpose

I recently had the privilege of spending time at Mahleka Camp, deep within the magnificent Buby Valley Conservancy (BVC). Together with Chooks Langerman and her team at Mururu, along with Dave Carson and the Zimbabwe Professional Guides Association (Z.P.G.A.), we hosted what must be the 14th or 15th edition of the Learner Professional Course. It's a course that deserves its own dedicated write-up, something I plan to share in a future newsletter.

The 2026 course officially commenced on 31st January, and before any introductions were made, all attendees, lecturers and candidates alike, assembled solemnly in front of the dining hall. But our gathering was not just about beginning the course. We stood before two flagpoles, where two members of staff from BVC stood ready. One of the poles bore the Zimbabwean flag, and the other, the BVC crest.

Before the flag was raised, Paul Hubbard gave a powerful and informative brief on the Zimbabwe Flag Act. For many in attendance, it was the first time they had heard of the legislation—but its significance quickly resonated. The Flag Act details protocols that reflect the deep respect our national flag should command:

- The flag must be hoisted and lowered daily, with full formality.
- It must never touch the ground, nor should it be flown beneath the flag of another nation.
- Whenever the national flag is flown among others, it must be raised first, symbolising its precedence.

This isn't just legal formality, it is a reflection of national pride, unity, and identity.

As the Zimbabwean flag was slowly hoisted, silence fell over the gathered group. It was a silence filled with introspection and quiet reverence. Those few minutes were charged with emotion: a collective moment of pride, purpose, and anticipation. This was not just the start of another course, it was a ceremonial reminder of who we are and what we represent.

Many of us had never participated in the raising of a national flag in such a deliberate and meaningful way. For me, and I suspect for most standing there, it was deeply moving, to see our flag, aloft, proud, and commanding the horizon. The fluttering fabric symbolised more than just a country. It embodied Zimbabwe's landscapes, wildlife, cultures, and history, from Victoria Falls to Kariba Dam, Chimanimani to Gonarezhou. In that moment, I found myself flooded with memories of the Zimbabwe I've had the fortune to explore, a country of both grandeur and subtle beauty.

It also brought home something central to what I try to instil when teaching. So often, in camps and on safaris, the instinct of many guides is to immediately drive far out thinking the further the distance, the greater the experience. Guests are rushed into vehicles, wind swirling around them, but little conversation takes place, and crucial early opportunities are missed.

Instead, I posed a different idea to my candidates this year: What if we start right here? What can we learn from what surrounds us, before racing outward? Let's pause, observe, and engage meaningfully with the immediate environment. The stars in the skies above camp, the insects crawling at your feet, the birds calling from the tree line, there is rich, complex life waiting to be discovered, if only we take the time to look.

This approach, grounded in observation, presence, and intentionality, was inspired and reinforced by that simple but powerful ceremony of raising the flag.

The Zimbabwean flag isn't just fabric, it is a symbol of unmatched value. Hoisting it should always be a moment of pride, solemnity, and reflection. Whether in a major city or in the heart of the bush, it reminds us that we are part of something bigger, a legacy, a community, and a land that remains deeply worth celebrating and protecting.

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NO MATTER HOW RUGGED  
THE ROAD AHEAD.”



# Notes on Kariba's Construction

Kariba was "the biggest piece of masonry in Africa since the Pharaohs built the Pyramids," the Sunday Mail trumpeted on its completion in 1960. It remains the largest human-made dam in the world, as measured by volume, at 180.6km<sup>3</sup> covering an area of 5,580km<sup>2</sup>.

## What does Kariba mean?

The Shona word "Kariwa" means a little trap or a bridge. For centuries the waters of the Zambezi River have been sucked into the Kariba Gorge as into a trap and village elders say that at one time there were two huge boulders forming a bridge across the mouth of the gorge. The original word was corrupted to become Kariba.

## How long has the dam area been known?

The earliest known mention of the gorge is in a dispatch dated 11 December 1667 by the Portuguese explorer Manuel Baretto, who, when describing the terrain wrote that the middle reaches of the Zambezi flowed through a country "where only birds can fly or serpents crawl".

Two hundred years later, the great explorer and missionary David Livingstone and his brother Charles, canoed through the gorge. Writing in Narrative of an expedition to the Zambezi and its tributaries (1865), Livingstone recorded that "at Kariba there is a balsaltic dyke stretched across the stream like an artificial dam, but it has a wide opening in it, dangerous only for canoes. The river is then narrow and deep, flowing for several miles through a range of lofty mountain". He found 30 hippopotami swimming in the entrance to the gorge on his arrival on 19 October 1860. Livingstone, clearly the first European white water rafter, went through the gorge the next day. A man on the bank advised Livingstone to hire a local priest to pray for his party's safety in the rapids, but Livingstone scorned the offer. The priest watched the canoes go through the gorge, and "seemed rather surprised to see us pass down in safety, without the aid of his intercession."

In late November 1877, the hunter Frederick Courtney Selous approached Kariba gorge from the Sanyati, noting (in A Hunter's Wanderings in Africa) the villages in the area were deserted, "and we saw nothing but old women, the young ones having been carried off into slavery". "As we passed along, the people turned out en masse, and accompanied us, clapping their hands, dancing, and the women making a peculiar shrill quavering cry, which was taken up from kraal to kraal, and from hill to hill, on both sides of the river. They evidently thought us representatives of a people who differed altogether in thought, sentiment, and action from the Portuguese, as they overloaded is with praises, calling us 'children of the Almighty' and the 'people who did not kill and plunder'.

The first formal survey of the gorge was by William Keppel Steer in 1891 when he reconnoitred a possible rail route to cross the Zambezi at Kariba. A rail bridge location was considered at Kariba by Sir Charles Metcalfe in 1898, and routes were assessed by Jack Carruthers through 1901.

## Why build a dam there?

The area remained neglected until 1912 when a far-sighted Native Commissioner, H.S. Kergwin proposed the construction of a dam there for irrigation purposes. The idea was greeted enthusiastically by the authorities and two years later Kergwin surveyed the area accompanied by various specialists. The idea became bogged down by bureaucratic red tape, in part, no doubt due to the war in Europe at the time. The Southern Rhodesian Government Hydrographic Engineer reported on the hydro power potentials at Victoria Falls, Kariba and Mupata Gorge in 1925 and P.H. Haviland, head of the Irrigation Department, investigated the gorge for its dam potential in 1927, at the instigation of the Rhodesia Base Metals Syndicate who were active at Copper Queen.

## What happened then?

It was not until 1941 that Mr. John L.S. Jeffares was given funding to make another survey of the gorge and locate a possible dam site. Jeffares located three possible sites - possibly the worst thing as contrasting opinions as to their suitability were offered, leading to another delay of ten years before a choice was made. At the point where the present dam wall was built there was a rock that caused the formation of a whirlpool, which Nyaminyami inhabited.

Gibbons was the first to observe this: "a wall of rock rises abruptly from the dull sombre water, and at its base, shows itself in the form of a whirling eddy. This, the boys assured me, was the headquarters of the great River God, and although many boats have done within these sacred precincts, neither boat nor bodies have ever been recovered."

Chief engineer Henry Olivier endured a 12 hour drive to the site, and when he saw Kariba for the first time in May 1955, he said: "Though not the perfect V or U site, I saw immediately it was an excellent site for a 'cupola' of double curved arch dam of the type in which Coyne specialised ... there now began an epic struggle to trap the Zambezi. Would she cooperate – and what about Nyaminyami?"

### **Who designed the dam?**

André Coyne was a French war hero and accomplished dam engineer who designed 70 dams in 14 countries. Coyne's creations include the Daniel Johnson Dam, on the Manicouagan River in Quebec, which is the world's largest multiple-arch dam at 214 meters height and a span of 162 meters. Based on his successes in France and elsewhere, he was asked by the Rhodesian government to design the dam wall in 1952.

### **What type of dam is Kariba?**

Coyne designed Kariba according to his specialty which was an arch dam. An arch dam is a thin, curved concrete or masonry dam structure which is built to curve upstream so that the force of the water against it squeezes the arch, compressing and strengthening the structure and pushing it into the ground. An arch dam is a good dam type for a narrow gorge in a mountainous area with steep walls of rock. So it was an obvious choice for the Kariba Gorge.

### **Who were the contractors?**

The Prime Minister Godfrey Huggins, who had shepherded the project and made the final determination for the location of the dam announced the start of the Kariba Scheme on 1 March 1955. In mid-April 1956, tenders were received and approved for the main civil works worth some £60 million. The World Bank loan of \$80 million was authorised on 21 June 1956, the the largest loan they had ever made. After the design was approved, it was another four years before tenders were called for and in February 1956 the contract for the construction of Kariba Town was awarded to the firm of Richard Costain. The main contracts for the construction of the dam wall and transmission lines went to the Italian consortium Impresit, on 13 July 1956. Godfrey Huggins poured the first cubic yard of cement on 6 November 1956. Coyne described the Gorge as a "trap" - and snare it certainly was in which the whole might of foreign, modern technology was to be nearly caught by the massive, natural forces of Africa.

### **How did work begin?**

First, gigantic storage bins, large enough to hold 24 000 tonnes of cement at a time were built on the north bank. At the same time, engineers began to mine a huge cavern to hold the power station. It was 154 metres underground, 144 metres long, 41 metres high and 23 metres wide. By December 1956 the north bank coffer dam was completed and work on a diversion tunnel began.

### **Bad things began to happen...**

Work on the foundations of the main wall, located behind the coffer dam, was proceeding according to plan. According to the laws of engineering, the time was therefore ripe for the first in a series of disasters. Unexpectedly heavy rains were received in early 1957, and the Zambezi rose rapidly. In July 1957, and the coffer dam was overtopped on 14 March 1957 thanks to the Sanyati flooding unexpectedly. The river rose constantly until March and damaged the results of many months hard work. Luckily the contractors had taken the flood warnings seriously and only a single derrick was washed away when the main Zambezi floods began.

### **Peace for a time**

After the water subsided, the next dramatic event was the dynamiting of the cofferdam on 6 July 1957, timed to happen at 1230 as the Queen Mother flew overhead on her way to Lusaka during her tour of the nascent Federation. Four tons of explosives were used to destroy 3,000 tons of concrete and allow the Zambezi to flow for a time. The purpose of the dam was to supply electricity to the three countries and work proceeded smoothly on the generation hall and 3,600 pylons, the first of which went up in May 1957.

### **It got worse!**

The central coffer dam was completed in late 1957, to a height greater than the first in case of more rain and was emptied of water in November that year; for perhaps the first time ever in its history, the bed of the Zambezi was exposed and dry. News came to expect floods and work was stopped before being resumed. On 16 February, the coffer dam developed a hole near the join with the previous north-bank coffer dam and filled up with water. In late February 1958 the road bridge linking Zambia and Zimbabwe was washed away and shortly after, on 3 March, the suspension footbridge suffered the same fate. The Zambezi river reached a height of nearly 34 metres above its low water mark and it was estimated that 16 000m<sup>3</sup> of water per second were flowing through the gorge every second! This was a 1000-year flood, something only to be witnessed in awe every hundred generations or so!

### **What to do?**

In spite of nature's ferocity, work continued on the power generation hall and the rain eventually stopped which of course paved the way for massively high humidity and temperatures. On occasions the temperatures reached 55°C! It got so hot that tools had to be carried in buckets of water so they were cool enough to be handled. It was tough work that left little time or energy for relaxation - except for that quintessential Zimbabwean pursuit. In six months, it was calculated that 300 of the white workers ran through nearly 250,000 bottles of beer (stored in the local mortuary) and 20,000 bottles of spirits. That works out to 830 beers per man for the time period, or 139 per month, or five per day. Ironically the water from the river wasn't safe to drink and most would use beer in their breakfast cereals, soda water for shaving and the spirits as a pick-me-up in lieu of their morning tea.

### **Cement pouring records**

From May to September, 1958 concrete pours exceeded 90,000 cubic yards a month. Every bucket of concrete brought by the Blondin cables had to be kept cool, otherwise the texture of the wall would be cracked and irregular. Pipes in the wall carried water to cool the concrete down and prevent cracking. The final skip of 12 tons of cement was poured by the Federal Prime Minister, Roy Welensky on 22 June 1959, 10 months ahead of schedule! The volume of concrete poured during construction reached 1,032,000 cubic metres creating the 36.6 metre high wall with a thickness of over 24 metres to sustain the pressure of nearly ten million litres of water passing through the spillway each second.

### **And then - Victory?**

At last, after 10,000 men had laboured for four years and 87 of them had lost their lives to the project, the diversion tunnel and temporary openings in the dam were closed, starting on 1 December and completed on 3 December. For the first time ever, the mighty Zambezi was stopped in its tracks and began to back up against the wall. It was a bittersweet moment. Andre Coyne said at the time, "We are proud of what we have created but there is also the feeling that something has been destroyed". By the end of the month, the Zambezi-Sanyati confluence was subsumed and never been seen since. In September 1963 the lake reached its optimum level, covering over 5 500 square kilometres of the Zambezi Valley. Today the Kariba Dam controls 90% of the total runoff of the Zambezi River, thus changing the downstream ecology dramatically.

### **What happened on May 17, 1960?**

The Queen Mother officially opened Kariba, throwing a switch to start the second generator, in front of 900 guests from all over the world. The first generator, located 176 metres underground (there is as much impressive engineering underground as above), had been turned on 28 December 1959 to transmit power to Kitwe. By February 1962, all 6 were working generating 705 MW of power. In 1976, construction started on the North Bank power station, which would produce 600MW. New technologies have seen the South Bank capacity rise to 750MW and North Bank to 720MW. On March 8, 2009, President Banda launched a \$400 mln project to install another 360 MW on the north bank using Chinese engineers.





# Z.P.G.A. Diary

## February 2026

- 5th – BVC Course One Ends
- 8th 05:30am – BVC Course Two Starts
- 14th – BVC Course Two Ends
- 15th – Shooting Proficiency (Hre)
- 16th – Oral Interviews (Hre)
- 17th - 18th – Theory Exams (Hre)
- 20th – Z.P.G.A. Talks (Barney O'Hara) Byo

## March 2026

- 19th – Z.P.G.A. Talks (Paul Hubbard) Hre
- 20th – Z.P.G.A. Talks (Woody Cotterill) Byo

## May 2026

- 1st - 3rd – L. Zam Canoeing Proficiency
- 22nd – Z.P.G.A. Talks (Nicky Pegg) Byo

## September 2026

- 13th – Shooting Proficiency (Byo)
- 14th – Oral interviews (Byo)
- 15th - 16th – Theory Exams (Byo)

## October 2026

- 25th - 27th – U. Zam Canoeing Proficiency

## November 2026

- 01st - 07th – Proficiency Examination

**“Embrace the beauty of today, for it holds the seeds of tomorrow's memories.”**



**Ethics Are Everything!**

**“Something missing? Keep us informed by sending an email to [marketing@zpga.org](mailto:marketing@zpga.org)”**

# MEMBERSHIP

## Membership Statistics - 2026

It's a collaborative effort

Z.P.G.A. Members Breakdown by Qualification	
Number of Members	Qualification
94	ASSOCIATE
3	ASSOCIATE LIFE MEMBER
11	CONSERVATION PARTNER
7	CUBS
57	FULL PG
150	FULL PH
8	HONORARY LIFE MEMBER
5	INDUSTRY SERVICE PROVIDER
103	LPH LICENSE
3	RESTRICTION

Sunday, 01 February 2026 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
- 2023 ended with an active membership of 444
- 2024 ended with an active membership of 442
- 2025 ended with an active membership of 421

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

Our Association continues and deliver!

# 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
3. Monthly newsletters & articles
4. Insight into industry trends as they are spoken about
5. Ability to attract industry specific business
6. Opportunities to give back to the community

Email us today on  
[secretary@zpga.org](mailto:secretary@zpga.org)  
and we will send you  
an application form

# Venison, Pineapple & Yellow Pepper Kebabs

BY LAURA SMITH

## Ingredients (Serves 4)

- 1.5 lbs (680g) venison steak, cut into 1.5-inch cubes
- 1 large yellow bell pepper, cut into 1.5-inch pieces
- 1 cup fresh pineapple chunks
- 1 small red onion, cut into chunks (optional, for contrast)
- 8 wooden or metal skewers

## For the Marinade:

- 3 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tbsp soy sauce
- 1 tbsp balsamic vinegar (or red wine vinegar)
- 1 tbsp honey (or brown sugar)
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tsp fresh grated ginger (optional)
- 1 tsp black pepper
- ½ tsp salt
- ¼ tsp crushed red pepper flakes (optional for a kick)



## Instructions

### 1. Prepare the Marinade:

- In a bowl, mix olive oil, soy sauce, balsamic vinegar, honey, garlic, ginger, black pepper, salt, and red pepper flakes.
- Add venison cubes, toss to coat thoroughly, and marinate for at least 2 hours (preferably overnight in the fridge).

### 2. Preheat the Grill:

- If using wooden skewers, soak them in water for 30 minutes to prevent burning.
- Preheat your grill (or grill pan) to medium-high heat.

### 3. Assemble the Kebabs:

- Thread the marinated venison, pineapple chunks, yellow pepper pieces, and onion (if using) onto the skewers, alternating for colour and flavour.

### 4. Grill:

- Place kebabs on the grill.
- Cook for about 8–10 minutes, turning every 2–3 minutes to ensure even cooking.
- Venison should be medium-rare to medium (internal temp: 130–135°F or 54–57°C) for best tenderness.

### 5. Serve:

- Let rest for 5 minutes after grilling.
- Serve with rice, grilled flatbread, or a side salad.





**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**
  - **PERMANENT DISABLEMENT**
  - **TEMPORARY TOTAL DISABLEMENT**
- **ADDITIONAL COVER**
  - **WE ALSO ARE ABLE TO OFFER OTHER FORMS OF 'SHORT TERM' COVER SUCH AS MOTOR, HOME COMPREHENSIVE, ALL RISKS, PUBLIC LIABILITY, TRAVEL & AVIATION**





VISIT OUR WEB PAGE, ITS EASY SCAN OUR QR CODE AND WE WILL TAKE YOU THERE.



**REGISTRATION:**

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secretary@zpga.org 

www.zpga.org 

# Some trivia from the Buby Valley Conservancy course

By John Laing

## Anthocyanin

Why are Mopani s (*Colophospermum mopane*) new leaves red?

The new leaves of *Colophospermum mopane*, commonly known as Mopane, are red due to the presence of **anthocyanin**, a pigment that provides a reddish tint to the leaves. This pigment is a form of carotenoid that protects the young, tender leaves against the sun's harmful rays. As the leaves mature and become harder to withstand full sunlight, they transition to their normal dark green coloration. The reddish colour is a natural adaptation that helps the tree survive in its native habitat by providing camouflage and protection from predators and harsh environmental conditions.

**“A rising tide floats all boats”**  
- English saying used by Paul Hubbard -



## Brumation

Brumation is a state of winter dormancy, or "reptile hibernation," where cold-blooded animals like snakes, lizards, and turtles significantly reduce their metabolism, activity, and heart rate to survive low temperatures and food scarcity. Unlike true hibernation, brumating animals may wake occasionally to drink water or move.



**Thomas Edison - “I didnt fail 102 times in making a light bulb, I found 102 ways it does not work”**

## Luciferin

Luciferin is a light-emitting compound found in fireflies and other bioluminescent organisms. In fireflies, it is specifically known as firefly luciferin. This compound undergoes a chemical reaction in the presence of oxygen and the enzyme luciferase, resulting in the production of light. The reaction is highly efficient, converting nearly all energy into light with minimal heat, which is why it is often referred to as "cold light".

**Assume - Making an “Ass out of you and me”**  
- Andy Smith -



# Before the First Track in the Dust

By John Laing

Before the first track marks the dust,  
Before the engines turn,  
Before the first flights land  
And cooking fires burn

There's a quiet hum across the land,  
A readiness in the air,  
As Africa waits in golden light  
With stories still to share.

Diaries fill, the routes take shape,  
The bush begins to call,  
From distant cities, skies, and seas,  
Our guests will come, one and all.

They come with wonder in their eyes,  
With cameras, hats, and dreams,  
Of elephant paths and lion calls,  
Of rivers, plains, and streams.

And we, who know these dusty roads,  
These trees, these winds, this sky,  
Prepare ourselves in careful ways  
Before the season's high.

We check the kits, replace the old,  
Each bandage, glove, and brace,  
For being ready, calm, and skilled  
Is part of our embrace.



Licences filed, radios charged,  
Vehicles steady and sound,  
Because professionalism is shown  
Long before tracks are found.

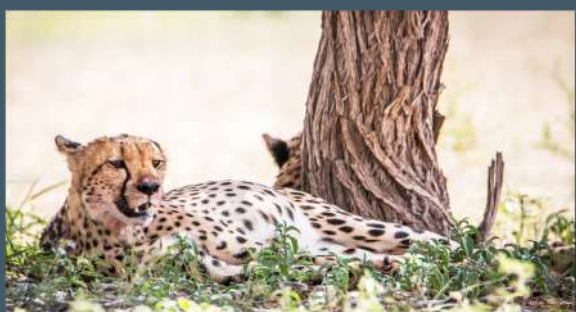
We read, we learn, we sharpen minds  
On birds, on spoor, on land,  
So every question asked in camp  
Is met with a steady hand.

For more than guides, or hunters named,  
More than a job we do,  
We are the face of Zimbabwe,  
Of Africa, proud and true.

In every greeting, every mile,  
In safety, care, and grace,  
We shape the stories guests take home  
Of this wild, timeless place.

So here's to dawns not yet begun,  
To journeys still unseen,  
To laughter round the evening fire,  
To bushveld gold and green.

The season waits. The land is ready.  
The call is clear and strong  
Prepare with pride, step forward well,  
This is where we belong.



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**PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE Z.P.G.A.**



# Vehicle Registration and ZBC Listener's Licence Fees Come Down.

By Big Sky Supplies

Good news doesn't come often for motorists in Zimbabwe, however vehicle registration fees in Zimbabwe have been significantly reduced and came into effect on 12.01.26, along with a welcome reduction in ZBC Listeners' License fees.

Motorists are benefitting from the long-awaited reduction in vehicle-related costs, proposed early in 2025 when President Mnangagwa directed all ministries to review and reduce taxes, licences and user fees. During 2025, we also saw a major pushback from the public regarding the cost of changing vehicle ownership, of up to \$515! It's no surprise that a significant number of vehicles on the road are not registered under the current owner's name ...

In some instances, the reductions are significant. For example, change of ownership on a motor vehicle reduces from \$515 to \$95 (when buying new plates). Similarly, a ZBC Listener's Licence for an employer-owned vehicle reduces to \$30 per term, down from \$67 per term (of 4 months).

Download our blog here: <https://bigsky.co.zw/vehicle-licensing-and-registration-fees-in-zimbabwe/>, for:

- Context and links to resources, including a copy of Statutory Instrument 10 of 2026, and a just published Comparison Schedule of Vehicle Registration Fees, from September 2024 to January 2026.

- “Frequently Asked Questions” covering the Third Plate, the purchase of new number plates and ZIMRA's Special Excise Duty Rates.

Readers are invited to ask any questions or add any information for the benefit of other vehicle owners, in the comments section below our blog, alternatively, email [sean@bigsky.co.zw](mailto:sean@bigsky.co.zw).

Safe journeys,  
Sean Q. and the Big Sky Team  
<https://bigsky.co.zw/shop/>



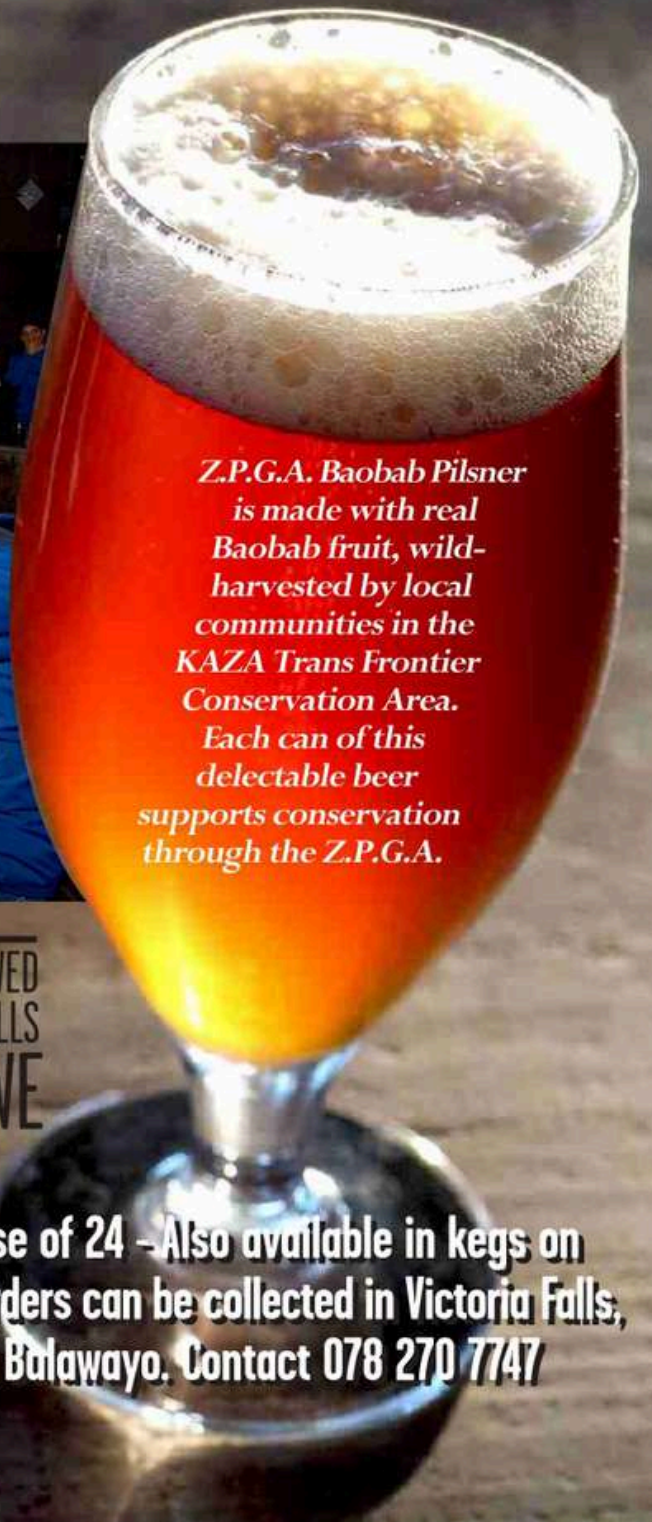
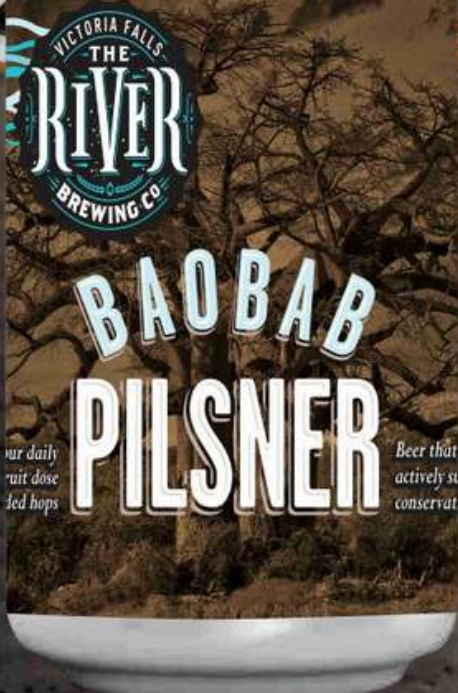
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the Z.P.G.A. Membership  
cards for 2025**

# OUR VERY OWN BEER!



Z.P.G.A.

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### What happened to the people living in the area?

Within the area that the dam would cover lived over 50,000 people, mostly BaTonga, many of whom were vehemently against moving. Although land was set aside for them further up the valley, they were reluctant to leave their homelands and felt the move from the riverside would displease Nyaminyami. When the floods came and did in fact destroy parts of the bridge, this only served to confirm their fears. It took many months of reasoning and coaxing to convince the people that the bridge would provide power - a luxury they had no knowledge of - for the whole country. Eventually, however, when the trucks moved in to relocate them, they conceded, having little choice. Ceremonies were held to honour their ancestors and gods and the journey to new lands began. Schools and clinics were built in some of the new areas and wells installed for their arrival. Some new villages that were relocated close to the water's edge have prospered with the new fishing opportunities on the lake. But many mourn the loss of the rich alluvial river soil and battle to produce crops in the higher sandier areas. For the most part, the move was a severe disruption of their way of life. As noted in the 2020 book on Kariba by Waters, a commonly cited myth on the internet and elsewhere, is that more money was spent on rescuing animals than people. The authorities spent £2.661m on the preparation of new resettlement areas in the north, relocation and compensation, while £1.318m was spent in the south.

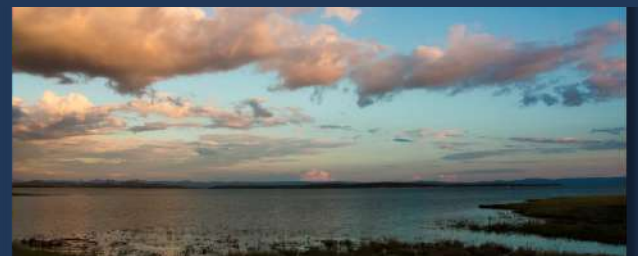
The 1961 CAPCO annual report claimed that the average expenditure in Northern Rhodesia was £134 per person moved, as compared to £59 per person in Southern Rhodesia. Operation Noah as carried out on the north and south bank owed more to fund-raising and volunteer work than government grants.

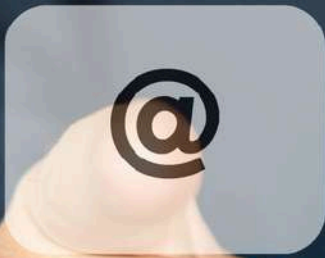
### Final Thoughts

Perhaps Kariba captures the imagination because the final success had been preceded by a great deal of tragedy. It is an incredible resource that has brought many benefits to the people of Zimbabwe and Zambia, not least in the form of reduced electricity prices. It is unlikely that its power generation capacity can be increased any further following the works of 2009-2018 which added a further 660MW to the 1266MW installed in two phases in 1962 and 1977. The tourism potential of the lake is almost unparalleled in the region, not least if the countries could agree to allow travel around and across the lake without having to go ashore. The potential for food production is immense and wildlife and aquatic tourism remains relatively stagnant, owing to the many difficulties of accessing the area thanks to dilapidated road and air infrastructure. There is always hope, at this time exemplified by the recent developments at Matusadona. With the support of local communities, revenue in there, generated largely through tourism, has grown by 1 300%, according to Matusadona National Park Manager Mike Pelham in a 2025 interview with plans to introduce more animals, develop regular flights, improved roads, new activities, and more accommodation options to bring the wonder and majesty of this lake to the outside world.

### References

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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 Nadine Laing on [secretary@zpga.org](mailto: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 John Laing - [chairman@zpga.org](mailto:chairman@zpga.org)
- Z.P.G.A. – Vice Chairman Pete Fick - [legal@zpga.org](mailto:legal@zpga.org)
  - Legal & Ethics
  - Guiding Code of Conduct
- Z.P.G.A. – Secretary - Nadine Laing - [secretary@zpga.org](mailto:secretary@zpga.org)
- Z.P.G.A. - Harare Office - Monica Sinclair - [hreoffice@zpga.org](mailto:hreoffice@zpga.org)
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- Z.P.G.A. - Victoria Falls Office - Zeb Laubscher - [secretary@zpga.org](mailto:secretary@zpga.org)
- Z.P.G.A. – Finance - John Laing - [finance@zpga.org](mailto:finance@zpga.org)
  - All payment issues
- Z.P.G.A. – Marketing & Advertising - John Laing - [marketing@zpga.org](mailto:marketing@zpga.org)
  - All branding including Membership Cards
  - Membership Discounted Rates Initiative
  - Fundraising
- Z.P.G.A. – Education and training - David Carson - [education@zpga.com](mailto:education@zpga.com)
  - SAVE Valley Conservancy initiatives
  - All Exam related issues
- Z.P.G.A. Next Generation - Ant Kaschula
- Z.P.G.A. – Research - Rob Lurie - [research@zpga.org](mailto: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](mailto:awards@zpga.org)
  - To discuss and agree what awards shall be current or pertinent to the industry
  - To look at and agree end of year award nominees
- Z.P.G.A. - Recruitment - Safari & Travel - [safaritavelrecruitment@gmail.com](mailto:safaritavelrecruitment@gmail.com)

**"The Z.P.G.A. committee stands united, dedicated to serving and supporting you on your journey."**



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