

THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY

BULLETIN

MAY/JUNE 2005

MATUSADONA RHINOS

The Zambezi Society (UK) continues to raise some funds for our work in the Matusadona National Park, despite a difficult fundraising environment. This enables our core work to continue, including the ongoing employment of three rhino monitors, working in collaboration with Matusadona field staff, and we hope to undertake an ear-notching and horn implant exercise throughout the Park later in the year.

Several rhino calves have been born within the Matusadona this year, and since the Park's lion population has declined owing to natural causes it will be interesting to monitor the effect this might have on the rhino population. The Matusadona project continues to be managed by Duncan Purchase, the Society's assistant director.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Average temperatures within the Zambezi Basin may be rising at a rate almost double that predicted by the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), according to experts consulted by the Society, with a simultaneous decline in rainfall. A close scrutiny of available data appears to indicate that these trends date approximately from 1975.

The Society is currently acquiring further data but, if these trends are confirmed, the implications for both biodiversity and livelihoods within the Basin are potentially serious. As an example, yields from kapenta fisheries on Lake Tanganyika have declined by up to 50% since the 1970s, and recent research indicates that this may be caused by climate change and associated warming trends.

The Society is currently seeking funds from a range of donors in order to reinforce its capacity to implement work related to climate change; evaluate the Kariba fisheries scenario, and develop suitable "indicators" for the assessment of ecosystem changes due to climatic factors.

PREDATOR RESEARCH

Funding is likely to become available to the Society shortly to implement a major project to evaluate the status of mammalian carnivores throughout the Zambezi Basin and their relevance as indicators of biological diversity and ecosystem health. The project has been designed by Dr Gianetta Purchase, who will supervise the work on behalf of the Society. Dr Purchase has wide experience of predator behaviour and biology, and is currently managing the ongoing evaluation of the cheetah population introduced into the Matusadona during the early 1990s.

MARROMEU BUFFALO RESERVE

Assistant Director Duncan Purchase is, in collaboration with Zambezi Society (UK), developing a project designed to reinforce the management capacity of the Marromeu Buffalo Reserve, in the Zambezi Delta. Consultations are taking place with key stakeholders including the International Crane Foundation.

ZIMBABWE WILDLIFE CONSULTATIVE FORUM

The Society has accepted a seat on the Zimbabwe Wildlife Consultative Forum, which was recently established by the Chairman of the Parks & Wild Life Management Authority (PWMA) board. The forum's major aim is to assist PWMA to finance and strengthen its wildlife management operations, which are severely underfunded owing to the collapse of the tourism industry and the withdrawal of donor funds. The forum is also expected to advise PWMA on such topics as the promotion of wildlife conservation on newly resettled areas, and on opportunities arising from the land reform programme. The forum's recommendations will be routed to the Ministry via the Parks Board, and thence to PWMA. An initial meeting took place in early June, and the Society was represented by its director.

THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY

LIUWA PLAINS, ZAMBIA

The Society is working with the Norwegian Institute for Nature Research (NINA) and other partners to develop an EU-funded project for the sustainable management of natural resources in Zambia's Liuwa Plains National Park by the community within and surrounding the Park boundary. An initial concept was submitted to EU evaluators in May, and received a positive response. Assistant Director Duncan Purchase subsequently travelled to Lusaka for a meeting with NINA, to commence the detailed structuring and budgeting for the project. The Society was invited to join the partnership because of its relevant experience in biodiversity evaluation, natural resource management, and interpretation and information dissemination.

ANTI-POACHING APPEAL FOR THE DOMA SAFARI AREA

As part of the Society's on-going support for formally-protected areas within the Zambezi region, we have offered to assist Mike Jonasi, who is the new Parks & Wildlife Warden of the Doma Safari Area in Zimbabwe with supplying equipment for anti-poaching patrols in his area. Mike is one of the senior Parks' personnel who benefited from the Society's sponsorship to attend a two-week course in Wilderness Awareness and Management in South Africa last year. His area, located on the Zambezi Escarpment, forms an important "buffer zone" between re-settled farming areas to the south and the vast protected Sapi/Mana/Chewore lowland Zambezi valley to the north. He and his scouts are facing increasing challenges from poaching. They have already apprehended one poaching gang, but to do their job properly, they desperately need more equipment. The Society is urgently seeking funds to supply the station with groundsheets, mosquito nets, sleeping bags, torches and a dozen or so strong, black 20-litre water containers. The provision of this equipment will enable anti-poaching sticks to base up in the interior of the Doma Safari Area which has very few water sources and, as a result, is virtually unpatrollable at the moment. Anyone willing to supply any of these materials at cost (or no cost!), or to donate funds to buy them, please contact us immediately.

Our grateful thanks to the following Harare-based companies for donations so far:

1. **Tex Colour Pvt. Ltd.** for providing free of charge 100 fabric "patches" printed with the Zambezi Society logo for sewing onto anti-poaching equipment supplied by the Society.
2. **Feredays** for a 20% discount off the cost of modifying donated rucksacks.

FRIENDS OF MANA POOLS

A group of people dedicated to assisting and supporting Zimbabwe's Mana Pools National Park in any way they can for the love of the area has been formed under the auspices of the Park's Senior Warden, Norman Monks and with the approval of The Parks and Wildlife Authority. "Friends of Mana" is being co-ordinated by Glyn Jermyn, one of the Zambezi Society's longest-serving committee members, who describes its objectives as:

1. to support and assist Mana Pools National Park in whatever way possible on request from the Parks' Senior Management.
2. to carry out services to Mana Pools through the auspices of Friends of Mana with no expectation of any reward or favours in return.
3. to provide services to the Park such as the provision of used or new equipment, repairs or maintenance of existing infrastructure etc.
4. to affect services to Mana Pools in any department or area required, ie. tourism, ecological research, mechanical, electrical, operational etc.
5. to liaise at all times closely with the Senior Warden, Mana Pools through the Friends of Mana Coordinator.
6. to provide donations according to Zimbabwe Parks & Wildlife Management Authority conditions – i.e. all donations will be cleared with the Authority through the Friends of Mana Co-ordinator.

Friends of Mana have been asked to assist with renovating and repairing the existing tourist lodges in the Park and with completing and equipping a partly-constructed new 4-bed lodge. There is a very long wish list. Anyone interested in making a donation or assisting, should contact Glyn Jermyn on Harare (+263 4) 720616 or e-mail raven@mango.zw or goliath@africaonline.co.zw

THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY

LIFE MEMBER DONATES CAR STICKERS

We are delighted to inform our members and friends that you can now proudly display your commitment to the Zambezi Society with an attractive car sticker, displaying the Society's name, logo and website address. We are most grateful to **Dr Ian Ternouth**, a faithful and long-standing Zambezi Society life member living in New Zealand, who organized for their printing and shipping and has donated the lot. Those living near Harare, please pop into our offices and collect yours. Members further afield, please let us know if you would like one, and we will make a plan to get it to you.

THANKS

The Zambezi Society wishes to express its sincere thanks to **Price Waterhouse Coopers (Zimbabwe)** who, for the past few years have audited our local accounts without charge, and to **Simon Gregan**, who gives his valuable professional time and expertise to do the same for our UK accounts. We are extremely grateful for their generosity.

The Society also wishes to thank **Philip Dewhurst** for patiently storing donated anti-poaching equipment in his garage in Harare for the past five years and for diligently arranging for sales of redundant equipment to be converted into cash for the Society's anti-poaching fund.

Visit our website at: www.zamsoc.org