

THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY

<http://www.zamsoc.org>

BULLETIN

NOV/DEC 2006

SEASONS GREETINGS

The Zambezi Society wishes all its members and friends best wishes for the holiday season and a peaceful and fulfilling New Year in 2007. We thank you for your support over the past year and hope that you will continue to find our communications and news bulletins of interest. We encourage you to bring to our attention any concerns or issues that you feel need to be addressed with regard to conserving the Zambezi Basin's biodiversity, wilderness and natural resources for the benefit of its biological and human communities.



CHISIPITE SCHOOL: ANOTHER AMAZING RHINO FUND-RAISING YEAR



For the 19th year running, the Grade 6 girls of Chisipite Junior School in Harare, and their dedicated teachers, Mrs Mann and Mrs Malunga have raised a staggering sum in support of The Society's black rhino conservation programme in the Matusadona National Park. At the end of November, they presented The Society with a cheque for Z\$1.3 million (approx. £450 or US\$800) and proudly showed Society staff their delightful classroom displays on the theme of saving endangered species such as the black rhino. This school has set a magnificent example. We would like to thank them publicly, and challenge other schools to do the same. This type of conservation fund-raising challenge is a fantastic life skills learning experience for children and The Zambezi Society has a number projects which could benefit : see <http://www.zamsoc.org/html/activities.html>

25th ANNIVERSARY BRINGS CELEBRATION AND CHANGE

2007 is an important year for the Zambezi Society. We will be celebrating 25 years of helping to conserve the Zambezi River's rich biodiversity and magnificent wildernesses and encouraging its people to use its natural resources without destroying them. The occasion will be marked with various celebratory events which will be announced in future Bulletins. It will also herald some major changes within the organisation:

Change of Director

As already announced in our last Bulletin, Dick Pitman, who has directed the Zambezi Society since its inception in 1982 retires in 2007 but will continue to guide the Society through a leading position on its Board. Duncan Purchase, who has been in charge of the Society's Projects and Operations for the past year, will be taking over as Director.

Zamsoc UK changes identity

In 2007, the relationship between The Zambezi Society and the Zambezi Society (UK) will also be changing. The two organisations have been closely tied by name and function for the past fifteen years. During that period they have shared many challenges and have together contributed substantially to regional conservation. Recent discussions between the two have resolved that for both organisations to achieve their full potential, they should now embrace a distinct and separate identity. To fully realise this change, and to avoid any future confusion, The Zambezi Society (UK) will change their name to Conservation Zambezi. Conservation Zambezi and The Zambezi Society will still maintain mutually supportive and fraternal links, which of course will be necessary for their own integrity, and especially for the benefit of conservation in the Zambezi Basin.

Implications for UK and Overseas membership renewal

While the Zambezi Society will continue to have a membership base, Conservation Zambezi will not. We value your support as an international member and ask that you await new payment instructions which will be included on your membership renewal notice which we hope to send out later in January 2007.

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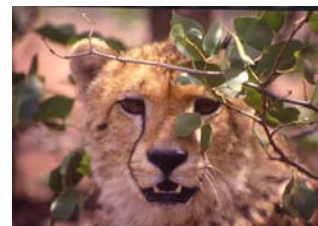
<http://www.zamsoc.org>

Please note that the new UK organisation, Conservation Zambezi, is no longer able to accept membership payments or cheques on behalf of The Zambezi Society as previously. Existing Standing Order or Deed of Covenant arrangements previously set up through the former Zambezi Society (UK) should be stopped as these can no longer be accepted. Alternative banking instructions will follow from us shortly.

ONCE AGAIN, WE APOLOGISE FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE THAT THESE CHANGES BRING AND ASK FOR YOUR PATIENCE AND CONTINUED SUPPORT WHILE WE GO THROUGH THIS TRANSITION PERIOD.

BASIN CARNIVORE ATLAS FUNDING FROM FFI

One of our UK partners, Fauna and Flora International has agreed to provide part funding for our Basin Carnivore Atlas project. Although we are still seeking funding for this project, we can get started while we secure the balance. The Basin Carnivore Atlas project will map the distribution of important carnivore species in the Zambezi Basin. The results of this project will fill an important spatial gap between two similar projects in Tanzania and Namibia.



ZAMBIAN DEVELOPMENT AT VICTORIA FALLS

We reported in our last Bulletin on the controversy surrounding an over-sized tourism development on the Zambian side of the Zambezi River above the Victoria Falls, within the Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park and within the UNESCO World Heritage Site boundary. The Zambezi Society submitted its own comments on the development after consideration of the



Environmental Impact Assessment document, and these were presented to a Public Hearing on the issue in Livingstone in November. We had also previously had the opportunity to discuss this development and its potential impacts with several senior staff of the Zambian Wildlife Authority who attended our September training course in Wilderness Awareness and Management.

Recent press articles indicate that Zambia has now given the green light to the developers, but for a very much scaled-down version of the hotel project. It is reported that the country's Environmental Council of Zambia has approved the project only on condition that it does not include the 450 villas, the 18-hole golf course or the fences within the National Park originally proposed. The Zambezi Society is seeking clarification of the situation, but is cautiously encouraged that its major concerns about the proposal appear to be receiving attention and may in fact have been addressed in the scaled-down version of the development.

WILDERNESS AWARENESS SPREADING

At a recent stakeholder workshop held by Zimbabwe's Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (ZPWMA) to review the syllabus for a national Diploma in Wildlife Management, senior ZPWMA management staff who, in September 2006, had attended The Zambezi Society's training course in Wilderness Awareness and Management recommended that the wilderness concepts learned during their training be incorporated into the tourism module of the Diploma syllabus. This is excellent news which we will be following up on in the coming year.

ELEPHANT INCIDENTS IN CHIRUNDU

Recent publicity surrounding the inhumane killing of "problem" elephants near the Zambezi River border town of Chirundu was followed up by the Zambezi Society. Rather than relying on media reports, we obtained an objective eye-witness account from an international visitor which we sent to the Zimbabwean Parks and Wildlife Authority querying their policy on "Problem Animal Control" (PAC). We have received a response from the Authority's Director-General which assures us that guidelines for PAC do exist and that the Authority will be undertaking investigations into the incidents so that action can be taken against any officers who ignore these guidelines.

Visit our website at: <http://www.zamsoc.org>

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