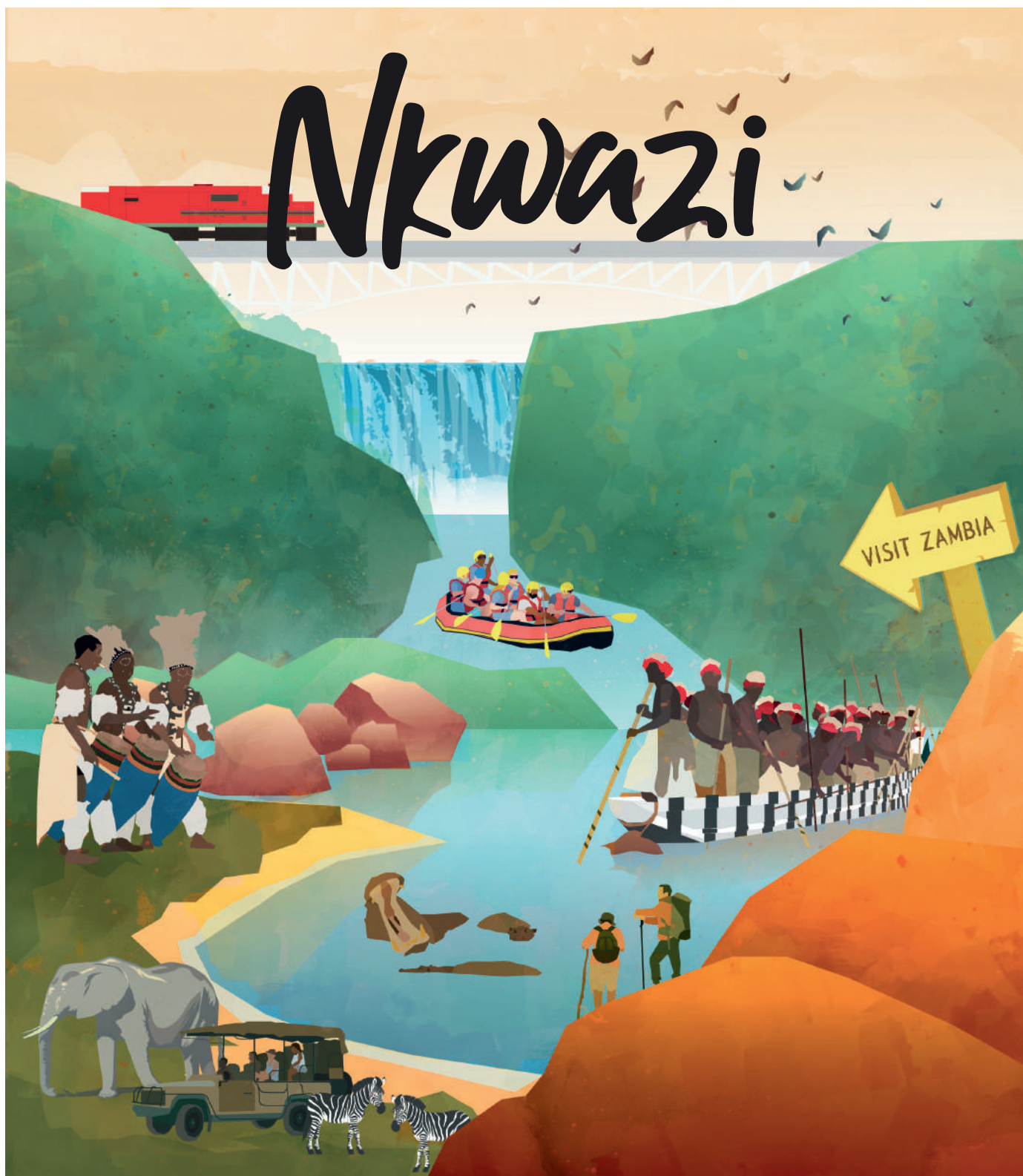


Nkwazi



106

GEOGRAPHY OF BELONGING

STROKE TEN, STROKE ONE

76

THE OKAVANGO DELTA
AND THEN THERE WAS WATER

82

LUSAKA BY LUSAKANS
THE PLACE IN BETWEEN

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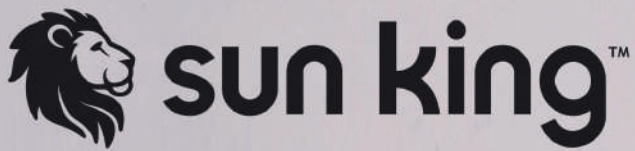
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Zambia's tourism offering stretches from the thunder of Victoria Falls to expansive safari landscapes, rich cultural ceremonies like Kuomboka and Nc'wala, and pristine rivers and parks, where wildlife, heritage, and untouched nature converge in an immersive, layered experience that continues to define the country's global appeal.



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RESURRECTION IN A BACKYARD

A few years ago, I came across the idea of a 'backyard destination' and fell in love with the notion of the backyard not simply as somewhere local, but as somewhere within reach: a place that feels close enough to return to, rediscover, or see anew. Since making Zambia my home, I have come across people who moved here from abroad to stay, people who grew up here, moved away, and decades later found themselves back here. We joke and say, 'Zambia will do that to you.' You think you want to leave, but she makes sure you never forget her, or ever truly get over her.

For this special edition, we are highlighting everything I have loved about Zambia: her beautiful people with their warm, welcoming hearts. We also profile Maureen Mulenga, a former anti-poaching ranger who chose to dedicate her life to helping her community navigate human-wildlife conflict in the Game Management Area (GMA) near South Luangwa National Park.

We travelled to a gem that is sometimes overshadowed by South Luangwa's pristine beauty: the town of Mfuwe. We explored the lesser-known side of Mfuwe, including Mfuwe Fitness, a community-run gym for youth, a satisfying meal at the locally owned Dorphil Restaurant, and, of course, what's a trip to Mfuwe without a stop at the Bush Spa?

Livingstone shows the beauty of its duality as we oscillate between high-end luxury at the David Livingstone Lodge and dinner on the Royal Livingstone Express, and an immersive local experience visiting all of our tour guide's favourite haunts beyond the usual tourist hotspots.

And of course, we explored Lusaka beyond the glitz and the glam, and looked at the spaces in between. The spaces that have been a part of Lusakans' daily life for decades offer a slower, more meaningful exploration of the bustling capital.

Naturally, you cannot speak of Zambian travel without speaking of safari. We ventured deep into the Lower Zambezi and its changing moods and seasons, and visited a far-flung location close to the photographer's heart. The images on page 114 will whisk you far from where you now sit to the otherworldly magic of the winterthorn forest.

We end our ode to this beautiful country with a poetic tribute to an attraction that is accessible year-round and is never out of season: Zambians themselves. *The Geography of Belonging* (page 106) explores the connections between Zambians and our neighbouring countries, as well as the natural inclination for movement that is a part of African identity, one that is 'circulatory rather than territorial', as the writer of this beautifully illustrated story puts it.

Beyond these beautiful destinations are the people working diligently to ensure Zambia is seen, experienced, and invested in by the world. I offer special thanks to Hon. Rodney Sikumba, Minister of Tourism of the Republic of Zambia, for outlining the policies and initiatives that have helped shape this tourism edition in his special contribution on page 48. While policy sets the direction, implementation drives impact, and the Acting CEO of the Zambia Tourism Agency, Abigail Shansonga, offers valuable insights into the initiatives positioning Zambian tourism on the global stage (page 54).

I would say sit back, relax and be transported away, but I hope this special love letter to Zambia does the opposite and compels you to plan your next destination.

Bon voyage!

Shammah Phiri,
Deputy Editor

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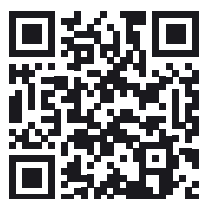
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WELCOME ON BOARD PROFLIGHT ZAMBIA

It is my pleasure to welcome you on board and to the latest edition of *Nkwazi*, our inflight magazine. As we embrace an exciting new season at Proflight Zambia, I'm delighted to share some of the positive developments taking shape across our network.

This year has already seen remarkable progress. In March, we successfully launched our new route to Windhoek via Livingstone, strengthening regional connectivity and enhancing the travel experience for our passengers across Southern Africa. The new route directly links Zambia and Namibia while offering seamless same-day connections across Lusaka, Livingstone, and Windhoek, creating a three-city corridor that supports business, tourism, and investment throughout the region. This milestone reflects our ongoing commitment to delivering greater choice, reliability, and convenience.

In May, we commenced our scheduled flights to Maun, also via Livingstone, opening seamless access to one of Africa's most iconic natural wonders, the Okavango Delta. This route is an important addition for both adventure seekers and regional tourism stakeholders. This seasonal service links the iconic Victoria Falls, which borders Zambia and Zimbabwe, and the surrounding tourism hubs of Livingstone and Victoria Falls Town with Botswana's Maun, one of Africa's most spectacular safari destinations.

The new route will operate three times weekly between 2 May and 31 October 2026, using the 29-seat BAE Jetstream 41 turboprop aircraft. Passengers travelling between Lusaka and Maun will clear immigration at Livingstone Airport, ensuring a smooth and efficient cross-border travel experience. This service will also enhance onward connectivity from Lusaka to other premier Zambian destinations, including South Luangwa (Mfuwe) and the Lower Zambezi (Jeki and Royal), significantly reducing travel time between the iconic safari regions of the Okavango Delta, South Luangwa, and the Lower Zambezi to approximately four to five hours by air. Previously, travellers relied on costly private charters, complicated land border crossings, or long routings through Johannesburg.

This new corridor is a gamechanger for the safari market, offering a time-efficient, seamless link that enables visitors to experience the very best of Zambia and Botswana with unprecedented ease.

As we move into the busy season, we are equally excited to operate our regular flights to the Lower Zambezi, providing travellers with convenient access to one of Zambia's most breathtaking wildlife destinations.

Through every new route and every journey, our priority remains the same: delivering a safe, reliable, efficient, and friendly service. Our teams, both in the air and on the ground, are dedicated to ensuring a smooth and memorable travel experience for you.

Thank you for choosing Proflight Zambia. We look forward to welcoming you aboard again soon as we continue connecting you to the heart of our beautiful region.

Warm regards,

*Captain Josias Walubita,
Director Flight Operations*

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UP FRONT

24

PLAN

MAY | JUNE 2026

A round-up of events, festivals and conferences from around the region, highlighting what is happening across the May and June season.



EXPERIENCE
Chinzombo



EXPERIENCE
Lion Camp

34

DINE

Royal Livingstone Express

Fine dining aboard the Royal Livingstone Express, where vintage carriages, fine food and passing landscapes gently shape the journey.

38

BACKYARD

Mfuwe

Mfuwe reveals itself slowly, beyond its gateway role to South Luangwa National Park, with quiet villages, river life, and everyday rhythms.

46

ESSENTIALS

Veldskoene

Shilongo Leatherworks' veldskoene combine traditional design with Namibian craftsmanship, using soft kudu leather to create lightweight, durable shoes.



INSIGHT
Hon. Rodney Sikumba



TABLETALK
Abigail Shansonga

58

BRIEFING

Tourism at an Inflection Point

Tourism stands at an inflection point in Zambia, where stronger connectivity and smarter policy could unlock broader, lasting economic growth.

64

JOURNAL

Hospitality Skills

Experts weigh in on how hospitality skills can translate across roles, from communication and adaptability to teamwork, efficiency and problem-solving.



SCENE
Copperbelt, The Play

72

HUMOUR

Tourist Syndrome

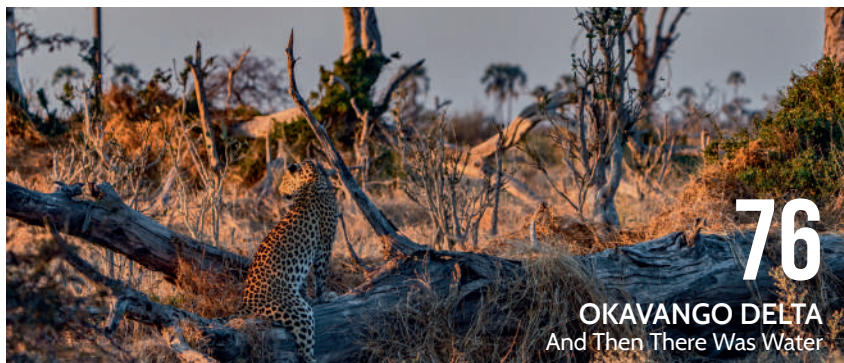
The monthly humour column is a collection of musings that promises to regale readers with satirical takes on current topics and the absurdities of daily life.



Intelligent development drilling

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INSIDE



82

LUSAKA BY LUSAKANS

Across Lusaka, places like Cairo Road and the Cathedral of the Holy Cross reveal how colonial planning, post-independence modernism, and everyday life shape the city.

98

WOMAN ON FIRE

Maureen Mulenga has broken barriers to become a wildlife ranger and rapid-response scout, protecting both communities and wildlife on the front lines of conflict.

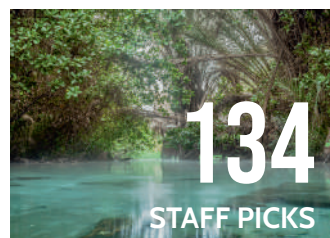
106

GEOGRAPHY OF BELONGING

The first 'tourists' were nomadic and migratory Bantu groups. Drawing a cultural line through southern Africa reveals shared roots in language, social structure, ritual, and belonging.



TAKE OFF



136

FLEET INFORMATION

A closer look at the aircraft that make up the Proflight Zambia fleet.

138

FAQ

Your pressing Proflight Zambia questions are answered.





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MTN Zambia Achieves First in Africa by Completing Starlink Direct to Cell Testing

Lusaka, 6th March 2026 – MTN Zambia and Starlink have entered a strategic partnership and are proud to announce that MTN Zambia is the first African operator to successfully complete field testing of Starlink's Direct to Cell service. This involved the transmission of the first-ever data session and fintech transaction in the country through the use of MTN Zambia's spectrum and Starlink's satellite constellation. These milestones pave a path forward to commercial service in the coming weeks subject to regulatory approval.

This service will enable customers to gain access to data, voice and video through supported applications, even in the remotest of areas where currently terrestrial service is unavailable. This service will include WhatsApp voice and video calls, along with access to the MoMo App, MyMTN App, navigation and weather applications with more launching in the future.

Starlink Direct to Cell works with existing LTE/4G-compatible devices wherever there is a clear view of the sky, enabling seamless connectivity in some of the most remote locations. Starlink Direct to Cell satellites act like a cellphone tower in space with the most advanced phased array antennas in the world connecting seamlessly across the Starlink network over lasers to any point in the globe, enabling network integration similar to a standard roaming partner.

Starlink Direct to Cell satellite connectivity means MTN Zambia will expand coverage to the most remote areas, such as the game parks and rural areas surrounded by water bodies and rivers will be covered. We would like to acknowledge the unwavering support from the Ministry of Technology and Science and our regulator Zambia Information and Communication Technology Authority (ZICTA) for the guidance throughout this process.

UP FRONT

28. EXPERIENCE • 34. DINE • 48. INSIGHT • 54. TABLETALK • 64. JOURNAL • 68. SCENE



38

MFUWE TOWN

Mfuwe represents more than a rest stop on your way to the prestigious South Luangwa National Park; it has its own rhythm and the charm that only small towns can offer.

JUNE 4-6, 2026

ZAMBIA TRAVEL EXPO 2026

Mulungushi Conference Centre, Lusaka.

Zambia Travel Expo (ZATEX) returns as the country's leading platform for connecting local tourism enterprises with international buyers, investors, and industry stakeholders. Designed to strengthen Zambia's position on the global tourism map by creating direct links between those who sell experiences and those who attract travellers, it is one of the few local industry events that offers this kind of direct access at scale.

The expo will attract a strong mix of participants, including tour operators, lodge owners, destination marketers, and travel agencies. International hosted buyers are also set to attend, creating real prospects for partnerships that go beyond the event itself. Expect engagements that may develop into working relationships, repeat business,

and longer-term collaboration within the sector.

As an attendee, ZATEX is an efficient way to understand the direction of the tourism sector. You will receive a clear sense of emerging trends, demand shifts, and where Zambia fits within the wider regional and global market, offering a practical look at how different players are adapting their offers, positioning their brands, and responding to changing traveller expectations.

If you are an exhibitor, expect increased visibility and the chance to present your offerings to a broader audience, while, as a visitor, you will gain insight into experiences and destinations you may not have previously considered. The setting allows for more focused conversations, making it easier to

move beyond general interest and into commercially relevant discussions.

Beyond individual business opportunities, ZATEX creates a space for broader industry engagement by bringing together stakeholders who share an interest in growing the sector, enabling dialogue on challenges, opportunities, and the direction of travel for Zambia's tourism offering.

Whether you're in tourism, looking to invest, or exploring opportunities for collaboration, ZATEX provides a structured space to connect with the right people and ideas, and remains one of the few local events where access, relevance, and timing come together in a way that makes attendance genuinely worthwhile.

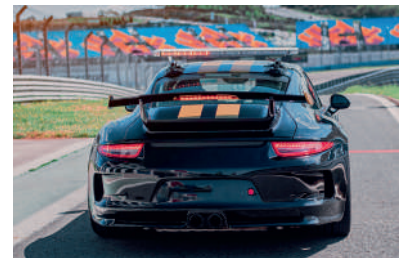




JUNE 4, 2026

FOOD TRUCK THURSDAY

If your week needs a reset, Food Truck Thursday remains one of Lusaka's easiest social outings. Bringing together a strong mix of street food vendors for one evening, it combines good food, music, and a lively crowd in a casual, easy-to-enjoy setting. There is usually plenty to choose from, from comfort food favourites to bolder options that do not often appear on standard menus. With music, an energetic atmosphere, and enough variety to keep things interesting, it quickly becomes more than just a stop for dinner at the Arena Bistro in Lusaka. Tickets start at K100.



MAY 9, 2026

MUSIC COLOUR FESTIVAL

The Music Colour Festival promises a high-energy day built around live performances, colour throws, food, and a festive crowd. It is the kind of event aimed squarely at people who want noise, movement, and a more playful social atmosphere. If you are after something loud and youthful, this will deliver.

Location: NASDEC, Lusaka
Tickets: K250

JUNE 7, 2026

EAST RAND MOTOR SHOW 2026

The show brings together a broad mix of vehicles, from classics and custom builds to louder crowd-pulling entries. Its appeal lies in its more relaxed feel: less polished than a formal expo, but often more enjoyable because it gives visitors time to move around, look properly, and speak to owners.

Location: Benoni, South Africa
Tickets: R35–R45

JUNE 14, 2026

COMRADES MARATHON 2026

One of the most demanding races on the calendar returns with the 'Up Run', taking runners from Durban to Pietermaritzburg over roughly 87 kilometres. Even as a spectator, it remains one of South Africa's landmark sporting events, known as much for its atmosphere and tradition as for its difficulty.

Location: Durban, South Africa
Tickets: From R1,200 for runners



Learning to Lead, Serve and Transform Their Communities

OUR MOON'S YOUNG LEADERS

Words by Helen Leale Green, images by Malama Mushitu

Tucked into the quiet landscape of Mbulo–Chipansha Village in Central Province, you'll find something unexpected: a residential programme where talented young school leavers are supported to become Zambia's next changemakers.

Our Moon Zambia, a registered NGO, runs an 18-month, full-time Young Leaders Programme that transforms the often inactive post-school gap year into a structured period of academic, personal exploration, leadership and professional growth. Our Moon believes in depth over scale, ensuring that every student experiences meaningful, sustained development.

Students undergo a powerful mind shift as they build academic, practical, social and technical skills. They combine these with community service and internships that help shape them into thoughtful, grounded leaders. Each student explores a global issue through a Zambian lens and presents a 4,000-word research paper that will guide their future studies and career.

University access is a central outcome of the programme. Our Moon supports students in applying to high-quality universities across Africa and around the world. This exposure broadens horizons, strengthens Zambia's talent pipeline and

supports their leadership journeys. So far, every Our Moon student has either gone on to university or is currently applying. Their destinations include US Ivy League institutions, Oxford and Edinburgh in the UK, Ashesi, USIU, and KNUST in Africa, and Ashoka in India.

Community remains at the heart of Our Moon's model. Students learn with, from and for their communities, keeping their development grounded and relevant. They understand the challenges Zambia faces because they have lived them. They graduate with curiosity, courage and confidence, qualities that reflect the kind of leadership Zambia needs.

Selah's story shows what happens when a young person is truly supported. When she arrived, she didn't believe she could make an impact. She imagined impact required a grand plan, something she wasn't sure she could ever deliver. But at Our Moon, her perspective shifted: "I learned that curiosity is courage. That learning isn't just for me; it's a tool for change."

Her research on the health implications of climate change on fruit flies may seem small, but its relevance to understanding human health is significant. She now holds an offer to pursue a PhD at the University of Oxford—a remarkable

journey from self-doubt to preparing to contribute to global research.

Thomas's journey is equally inspiring. After completing the programme, he volunteered as Our Moon's IT intern during its early days on newly acquired land. With no internet and a tiny solar system, he improvised:

"I used high school physics, some research and a minuscule budget to build a network that covered the whole site."

He later studied in India, travelled widely, learned cloud engineering and designed systems for NGOs, all while supporting Our Moon. Today, he manages IT for both a partner organisation and Our Moon.

"Our Moon widened my world; now I want to widen what's possible for others."

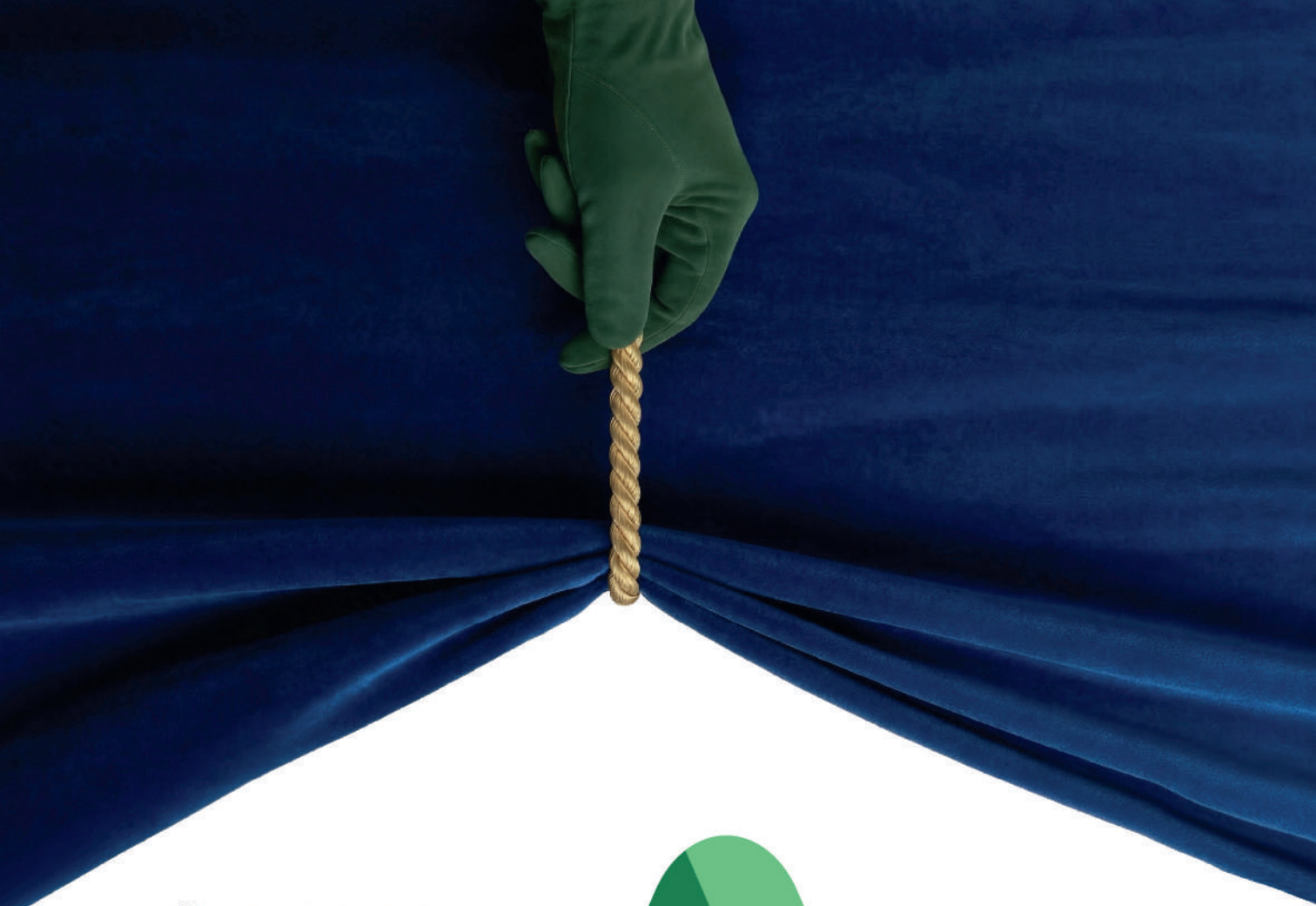
These stories show what becomes possible when young people are seen, supported and believed in.

Help Our Moon by sponsoring a student through the programme, providing internship opportunities, or offering mentorship.

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A Journey Inward

TIME + TIDE CHINZOMBO

Words by Charlotte Ross Stewart, images by Oliver Fly for Time + Tide



Safari has long been told as a story of movement. Vehicles setting out at first light, dust rising behind them, radios alive with the promise of something rare just beyond the next bend. The word itself comes from the Swahili word *safari*, meaning journey, and for many years that journey has been understood as distance travelled across wild ground. Yet there is another meaning waiting quietly within it. The journey may also turn inward.

Time + Tide is a family-owned safari company working in some of Africa's most remote landscapes, guided by the belief that the greatest luxury is time and connection. At Time + Tide Chinzombo, I found that the journey became less about how far I travelled and more about how deeply I was willing to feel, to notice, and to be present. In a world that rarely pauses, time, unclaimed and uninterrupted, is the rarest gift of all.

Each day was spent differently. One morning, I woke before dawn and headed out into the cool blue light, tracking fresh prints pressed

into the sand. On another, I decided to skip the drive entirely and linger over a second cup of coffee as elephants moved silently along the riverbank. There is no single way to do safari, and the team at Time + Tide Chinzombo shaped my days around my mood, curiosity, and the gentle pull of the weather.

As the light strengthened and the air warmed, I would sometimes return to my tent and roll out a yoga mat, stretching slowly while the bush hummed around me and the call of a fish eagle drifted across the water. While I was there, rest was not squeezed between activities but something woven into the fabric of the day.

With hours unfolding gently, creativity found space to surface. I found myself reaching for a paintbrush to attempt the vivid blue of the sky or the curve of a branch reaching towards the sun. I discovered that the act of looking closely was more important than the outcome on the page. Perhaps most wonderfully, I realised that when you slow down, colours feel richer, sounds carry further, and even the smallest

WHERE

- The journey inward is only an hour's flight from Lusaka, in the heart of the pristine South Luangwa National Park.

WHAT TO EXPERIENCE

- Welcome the sunrise with a private yoga session on the shaded verandah of your luxury safari tent, surrounded by the sounds of the wilderness.
- Enjoy personalised in-room massage treatments where you melt into the park's stillness, and time slows to a stop.
- Authentic safari experiences await on the ground alongside expertly trained guides on an intimate walking safari.
- A magical sundowner can be enjoyed on the riverbanks, drifting on a boat, or on the deck at camp; the Zambian sunset is a cherished bush ritual.



Proflight Zambia operates regular scheduled flights from Lusaka to Mfuwe. Proflight Zambia also operates regular scheduled flights into Lusaka from Cape Town, Johannesburg, Maun, Windhoek, Kalumbila, Kasama, Livingstone, Mansa, Ndola, and Solwezi. Visit flyzambia.com for the latest flight schedule.



details begin to hold your attention with surprising depth.

A slow safari is not about doing less or turning away from the thrill of a sighting. The exhilaration of tracking, the quickened pulse when something rare appears, will always have its place. Slowing down simply creates space around these thrilling moments, allowing them to breathe and unfold naturally, and



settle deeply. The journey I began across the landscape became a quieter exploration of self, guided by attention given, and not by distance.

In this sense, my *safari* at Time + Tide Chinzombo returned me to the truest meaning of the word: a journey not only across one of Africa's great spaces, but inward, where time expands and something else, something essential, has room to surface.

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A Personalised Itinerary in South Luangwa

LION CAMP'S SOFT LUXURY

Words by Vicky Nel, images courtesy of Lion Camp



Arriving at Lion Camp feels personal from the very first moment. There is no rush or formality that breaks the spell. You are welcomed with genuine warmth by a team that moves with ease, greeting you by name and guiding you through the camp.

It is clear that they are introducing you to a place that they care deeply about. There is a quiet confidence among individuals who are empowered, supported, and lifted by one another, and a strength that comes from years in the bush. You feel it immediately.



Your experience as a guest is a natural result of the camp and the people who make it. The main lodge is inviting and understated, never distracting from the natural surroundings. The chalets blend seamlessly into the landscape, using natural materials like canvas and timber. The result is an atmosphere that feels open and organic.

Early mornings begin gently with the first light spilling across the plain in front of the lodge, and evenings end beneath wide African skies as the sounds of the bush settle in around you. Light, thoughtfully prepared lunches are enjoyed overlooking the floodplain's oxbow, where wildlife activity comes alive right in front of the lodge.

When the shadows grow long and afternoon activities come to an end, wholesome, hearty dinners paired with a thoughtful selection of wines and memorable conversations unfold beneath the open skies as the sounds of the bush crowd the evening's silence.

Here, the luxury is soft and gentle, found in the simplicity of the spaces, the way the light falls, and the uninterrupted views over the plain. Comfort and wilderness co-exist in a way that

WHERE

- Nestled inside an oxbow lagoon, Lion Camp is situated in the remote northern section of South Luangwa National Park.

WHAT TO EXPERIENCE

- Overlooking the plains teeming with wildlife while you dine on bold flavours crafted with locally sourced ingredients from nearby farmers in Mfuwe.
- Immerse yourself in complete wilderness on an expertly guided walking safari, tracking predators and other wildlife.
- Come eye-to-eye with untamed wildlife in the on-site animal viewing hide, where wildlife, just as curious as you, comes close enough to touch.
- Share war stories in the communal bar, gallery and snooker table areas when the sun goes down and dinner plates are cleared away.



Proflight Zambia operates regular scheduled flights from Lusaka to Mfuwe. Proflight Zambia also operates regular scheduled flights into Lusaka from Cape Town, Johannesburg, Maun, Windhoek, Kalumbila, Kasama, Livingstone, Mansa, Ndola, and Solwezi. Visit flyzambia.com for the latest flight schedule.



means your afternoons will be spent on your private deck, watching giraffe drift across the plains, or taking an unhurried lap in the pool as elephants move in the distance, while puku, impala, zebra and other plains game glide through the landscape, a constant presence.

On safari, the stories your guide shares come to life. Every encounter with the wild in the open safari vehicle is intimate and unhurried, with your guide taking the time before moving

on. Lion Camp is about thoughtful guiding, genuine hospitality, and the privilege of spending time in one of Africa's great wildlife areas. It suits travellers who value authenticity and space over performance. Beyond the predators, abundance defines this ecosystem. Guests often arrive expecting a typical wildlife experience and leave with a deep connection to the land and South Luangwa's magic as one of the few truly ecologically intact wilderness systems left on earth.

FOR ENQUIRIES



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Fine Dining on the Royal Livingstone Express

A STEP BACK IN TIME

Words by Jolezya Adeyemo, images by Chona Mweemba for Nkwazi Magazine



Glasses and crockery clink. Multilingual conversation rings out. The Royal Livingstone Express chugs along slowly.

Just before sunset, we rolled slowly towards the Victoria Falls Bridge. Along the way, we were offered *amuse-bouches*, small bites to awaken our appetites and hint at what was to come. Crispy bruschetta stacked with fresh tomato, herbs, and garlic, a deceptively simple dish that delivers complex flavours, was followed by tender, lightly seasoned chicken skewers.

As the sun slipped faster below the horizon, we were seated in the dining car and served focaccia, another pre-menu treat. Each bite carried hints of rosemary and olive. I chose the house white. Soon after, the first course made its entrance: the Royal Express cornet, a butternut hummus, held in a pistachio cone, crowned with pumpkin seeds. Subtle sweetness

met the crispness of the cone and seeds against the hummus's velvety texture.

Next was roasted local tomato soup. I do not have fond memories of tomato soup, but I was pleasantly surprised by the depth of flavour I often find lacking elsewhere. Slow-roasted tomatoes and onion formed a rich, smoky umami base, while the generous drizzle of basil oil further elevated an otherwise humble dish, garnished with light, airy Parmesan puffs.

The third course was the star of the show. Bream ceviche. Our delicate Zambian river bream was dressed in a bright, creamy citrus vinaigrette. *Aji amarillo* and jalapeño added a gentle heat, while fresh, aromatic coriander tied the whole dish together, one tender bite after another.

With the arrival of the Zambian beef tenderloin, I switched to the house red. Seared

ON THE MENU

Hotel Transfers
Sundowners
Amuse-bouche
Royal Express Cornet
Roasted Local Tomato Soup
Bream Ceviche
Zambian Beef Tenderloin
Eton Mess
House Wines and Spirits

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Proflight Zambia operates regular scheduled flights into Livingstone from Cape Town, Maun, Windhoek, and Lusaka. Proflight Zambia also operates regular scheduled flights from Lusaka to Kalumbila, Kasama, Mansa, Mfuwe, Ndola and Solwezi. Visit flyzambia.com for the latest flight schedule.



beef lay on a bed of pumpkin puree, spinach, and mushroom duxelles. The beef's richness was cut by the sweetness of the pumpkin and the earthy flavours of the mushrooms. Flanking this quartet was a buttery-soft potato puree garnished with a shard of crackly puff pastry.

One course remained, and I was already satiated. Dinner service had been seamless throughout. The wait staff were attentive while giving me enough room to enjoy the courses. Our glasses were never empty for long.

There is always room for dessert: an Eton mess, airy meringue layered with tart lemon cream and fresh, succulent berries, a playful, light

finish to a formal evening. I followed it with a mint tea.

All the courses were a thoughtful balance of tastes and textures. Local, sustainably sourced ingredients were prepared using a mix of simple and sophisticated techniques, resulting in flavourful, memorable dishes. Even more memorable was the setting, a restored vintage steam train making its way through Livingstone and onto the bridge. The views before sunset, the excellent service, attention to detail, exquisite flavours, and refined atmosphere of the Royal Livingstone Express all came together to elevate the meal beyond the ordinary.

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Gateway to Luangwa

MFUWE TOWN

Words by Sebastian Moronell, images by Chona Mweemba for Nkwazi Magazine



Mfuwe is the gateway to the famous South Luangwa National Park, where safaris begin just minutes from town.

Mfuwe is not a town so much as a collection of villages that have since outgrown their old boundaries and now rub up against one another in forced neighbourliness. The road from the airport cuts through the villages like an artery, feeding them. Tourism is big business. Most visitors to South Luangwa National Park (SLNP) arrive from Chipata or Mfuwe International Airport and enter the park through Mfuwe Gate. There are four other, less popular gates: Kapamba, Nylon, Lusangazi, and Zikomo.

They exist more as names than real places, in reality no more than a boom gate operated by a bored ranger, letting in the odd tourist, or self-described explorer, wide-eyed and in search of some mythical beauty: an idea of wilderness, a savage drama played out in the remote reaches of the animal kingdom. Mfuwe obliges.

We cruise, avoiding potholes for about 40 minutes before quite suddenly the distance between the buildings on the roadside lessens, more shops appear, and the area's only petrol station comes into sight. If Mfuwe is a town, it is only because of the presence of the national park.

And yet, Mfuwe resists. It has its own economy of small dramas: a fully stocked hardware store doing brisk business, a woman selling tomatoes and impwa in the shade of plastic sheeting, a group of men hanging around their motorbikes, waiting for work. The park brings the money, but the town has its own business to attend to.



DID YOU KNOW?

Mfuwe sits within the Luangwa Valley, part of the Great Rift system, creating dramatic escarpments, floodplains, and river channels carved over millennia.

WHERE ELEPHANTS TREAD

The Luangwa River, which acts as a natural boundary for most of the park, is flowing strongly. So much so that it even threatens a lodge. We cross it as we enter SLNP, and about five minutes later, we come across Mfuwe Lodge on the right. Its ease of access makes it popular, and it is large, with about 20 rooms in total, overlooking an oxbow lake that dries up between the rains. From the veranda of my room, I can see crocodiles floating on the fast current. A pair of water monitors chase a vervet monkey. Hippos graze the grass between the rooms.

Mfuwe Lodge is known for the elephants that walk through the reception area to pick at the fruit of the large wild mango tree between the common area and the library, which houses books on Africa and all the tender things in between. The lodge is the flagship of the Bushcamp Company, a 'gateway' for more exclusive bushcamps set deeper into the park.

2

SERENITY IN THE WILD

The lodge is also home to the 'Bush Spa', overlooking the same oxbow lake. Janet, who has worked at the spa for 20 years, says that *mendosana* (which translates to 'back legs') is popular with many guests who have spent their days on walking safaris. South Luangwa is, after all, home to the walking safari. A two-hour early morning walk with the mist low on the ground and dew still clinging to the grass explained the treatment's popularity.



3

BEAUTY FROM CRUELTY

We walked around Mfuwe for a bit with Steven, our guide from the lodge. We started at Project Luangwa, an important community initiative that grew out of the Luangwa Conservation and Community Fund, a part of Conservation South Luangwa (CSL). The fund is supported by lodges in the South Luangwa area. A shop selling goods made by local residents, alongside a café, forms the public face of



the Project. A group of women are at the back tailoring goods.

SLNP, and by extension Mfuwe, is an example of a successful experiment in sustainable tourism. Project Luangwa is just one of the initiatives working hard to bridge the gap between the local communities surrounding the park and the tourism that operates within it. Other initiatives are less directly involved with conservation structures, such as Mulberry Mongoose, which sells jewellery made from snares found by game rangers in national parks and helps fund conservation efforts. We were earnestly welcomed and given a tour of the jewellery and the workshop in the adjacent room. The artisans are hard at work. The jewellery strikes a balance between its naturally bulky material and

the delicacy it demands. It is meant to be worn in the bush, in harsh conditions. I enjoyed the clarity of intention that transforms something so aimlessly harmful as snares into a thing of beauty.

DID YOU KNOW?

The region supports over 400 bird species, attracting birdwatchers from across the world to Mfuwe's lagoons, woodlands, and riverbanks.



5

THE SUMMER HOUSE

After speaking for about an hour, we headed to Dorphil Restaurant, which is known to all locals. 'Dorphil' is a portmanteau of the names Dorica and Philimon, the husband-and-wife owners of the restaurant. When we arrived at the restaurant, we were shown to a small thatched structure with a table and chairs, which Steven calls a summer house. I enjoy his description, like something out of a 19th-century novel. The flooded grass gives off a shimmer in the light. A dog is wandering around, begging for handouts. Dorica comes and takes our orders, and insists someone try her chicken schnitzel. I try it. It is quite delicious.

4

FOR US, BY US

As we walk around Mfuwe, I keep noticing banners hanging on shop fronts announcing a certain DJ Xtra Wiggle's 40th Birthday Bash. I ask Steven about it, and then he notices DJ Xtra Wiggle walking not far from us, holding a pair of live chickens by their wings. DJ Xtra Wiggle is friendly and invites us to his 40th birthday party. We apologise: unfortunately, we won't be in town.

Everyone knows everyone else in 'The Valley.' It is the charm of any small town. By asking around, we met Willy Malambo, a veteran tour operator in Mfuwe. He has played an important part in the Mfuwe community, co-founding the Mfuwe Sports Association and the Mfuwe Fitness Club, a free community gym. He is open and generous with his time and his stories—the pleasures and pressures of work, the scenic view of his house on the river. And most strikingly, his commitment to the Mfuwe community.



DID YOU KNOW?

Mfuwe lies roughly 100 kilometres from Chipata, surrounded by wilderness rather than conventional urban infrastructure or industry.





First Quantum's Thirty Years of Commitment

THIRTY YEARS OF COPPER

Words by Jolezya Adeyemo, images courtesy of First Quantum Minerals Ltd



First Quantum acquired Bwana Mkubwa in 1996 and processing of tailings began in 1997.

Anniversaries and commemorative dates often invite reflection and celebration, while milestones have a way of grabbing attention, and rightly so. However, a milestone does not tell a full story.

First Quantum Minerals is celebrating 30 years of operations in Zambia. This number signals commitment, endurance and longevity. Yet a number alone cannot fully encapsulate what happened during those years: the lives impacted, the infrastructure developed, the communities that grew alongside mining operations, and the role those developments have played in shaping Zambia's economy.

Copper has always been part of Zambia's identity, and for generations, even before modern times, it has shaped landscapes, livelihoods and national identity. For

three decades, First Quantum has been part of Zambia's story and one of its biggest copper producers. But beyond the fanfare, it has done more than build mines and beat records. It has invested in people and made an indelible mark on the country's modern copper economy.

Firm Foundations

Long-term mining operations rarely begin with spectacle; they begin with the fundamentals: environmental due diligence, daily maintenance routines, consistent safety systems and technical standards that shape how work is done long before production reaches full scale.

For First Quantum, the Zambian journey began with an early bet. In 1996, the company acquired the Bwana Mkubwa Mine in Ndola, its first mining project in the country. Here, the company focused



on the reprocessing of tailing material before expanding into larger mining operations. At the time, Zambia's mining sector was undergoing profound change, and investing in the industry carried risks that required a long-term view of the country's potential.

That early step was followed by a move that would define the company's presence in Zambia for decades to come: the acquisition of the Kansanshi Mine in 2001 in North-Western Province. Kansanshi would go on to become one of Africa's largest copper operations and a cornerstone of First Quantum's global portfolio.



These early decisions set the tone for the company's culture and what would follow. Mining is an industry where optimism alone cannot sustain an operation. Long-term success depends on a combination of high-quality assets, disciplined project execution and operational excellence, together with a commitment to the responsible stewardship of people and the environment.

From Vision to Scale

Ambition becomes reality the moment production begins.

At Kansanshi, commercial production started in April 2005, transforming what had once been a promising asset into a functioning system that had to operate continuously and efficiently.

The mine would soon grow into one of the largest integrated copper operations in Africa, employing thousands of people in the process.

Yet the story of growth in Zambia did not end there. Over time, First Quantum's footprint expanded further within North-Western Province with the development of Sentinel Mine at Kalumbila, which attained commercial production in 2016. Sentinel represented a US\$2.1 billion investment and was described as Zambia's single largest infrastructure investment since the construction of the Kariba Dam.

The Mining Ecosystem

The most visible changes around a long-running mine are not always the processing plants or tangible extractions. Often, they are the communities that gradually take shape nearby.

Historically, mining projects frequently relied on a camp model: temporary housing, short-term services and settlements that mirrored the project's cycles. Then came Kalumbila, an example that challenged this prescribed model. Rather than emerging as a temporary settlement, Kalumbila was planned as an integrated town designed to support both mining operations and the surrounding population over the long term, and to continue benefiting government and communities alike through infrastructure and services that will continue to function long after mining operations end.

An example of infrastructure with long-term community benefit can be seen in healthcare services. In 2025, First Quantum Minerals handed over the newly built, fully equipped Wumi Mini Hospital to the Government of Zambia. Developed with contractors, communities and government, the facility strengthens access to essential health services in North-Western Province.

Another example of infrastructure with long-term benefits is found in the Mutanda-Kasempa-Kaoma corridor, a 371-kilometre bituminous road being built under a concession model, alongside additional urban roads in Kasempa and Kaoma. While it will support mining logistics, it will

Top: Aerial view of the expansion of the oxygen plant at the Kansanshi Copper Smelter. The smelter was expanded in 2025 to increase its concentrate capacity from 1.38 Mtpa to 1.65 Mtpa. The white cold box that famously attracted crowds on its journey to Solwezi is in the foreground.

Left: H.E. President Hakainde Hichilema at the Enterprise nickel mine groundbreaking.



also improve mobility for surrounding communities, strengthen trade routes and make travel more reliable during the rainy season.

In these ways, the mine's footprint has gradually become intertwined with regional development.

Building Capability

While infrastructure and economic activity are often the most visible impacts of mining, the most lasting contributions may be less obvious.

Modern mining operations are highly technical, and operating them safely

requires skill and consistency. Over the years, more of that capability has been built locally. Today, First Quantum directly employs more than 12,000 people in Zambia, of whom around 96 per cent are Zambian nationals.

Training has played a big role in achieving these numbers. As Zambia's mining industry continues to evolve, the depth of local expertise has become one of its greatest assets. Since 2012, the Kwambula Training Centre at the Solwezi Trades Training Institute, a fully funded initiative of Kansanshi Mining PLC, has focused on developing Zambia's artisanal workforce by producing artisans

and technicians prepared to meet the demands of modern mining operations.

Supporting a Network of Local Businesses

Besides supplying raw materials, a long-running mining operation is also a large and consistent customer; transport companies move equipment and materials, while local contractors may provide construction, fabrication and engineering services. Businesses supply fuel, food, machinery parts and specialised technical support. First Quantum has nurtured and developed these relationships locally, and the economic impact has extended far

Top: Heavy-duty lifting operations at the FQM Trident Limited processing plant and daily mining activities that keep production moving forward.

Bottom: Engineering teams at the FQM Trident Limited processing plant conduct routine inspections that support safe operations and reliable performance across the site.

Top right: The company supports school initiatives around its mines in Solwezi and Kalumbila, including school feeding programmes.





beyond the mine's direct workforce. Across Zambia, First Quantum's operations directly support a wide range of suppliers and contractors within the broader economy.

This network of activity builds layers of economic participation over time, fostering and sustaining an entire ecosystem of service providers and businesses.

For many companies, these partnerships represent an opportunity to grow alongside the mining sector, building expertise and capacity that can also serve other industries.

Responsibility and Stewardship

Mining is an industry that operates in close relationship with the environment and surrounding communities. As technology and expectations have evolved, so too have the standards governing how mines operate.

Environmental management involves rigorous tailings dam management, detailed monitoring systems, water management strategies, and rehabilitation planning, all designed to minimise long-term impacts.

First Quantum has led the way in mining and in protecting ecosystems.

Through partnerships with bodies such as the West Lunga Conservation Project (WLCP), First Quantum has funded tangible efforts, including recruitment, training, and equipment provision for wildlife rangers; transport support; infrastructure development; conservation-related livelihood programmes; and the strengthening of Community Game Reserves around WLCP. The long-term goal is to make this vital landscape ecologically, socially, and financially sustainable.

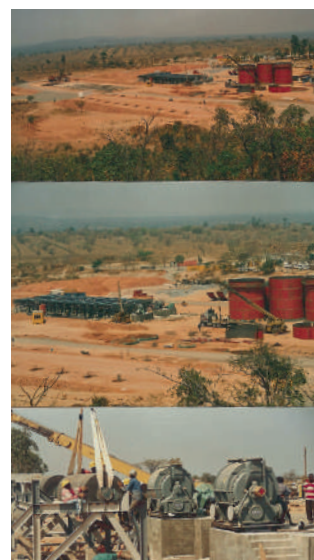
Beyond 30: A Story Still Being Crafted

For First Quantum, 30 years in Zambia is an important milestone, but it is not a conclusion. It is one moment in a continuing story.

The global copper industry has entered a period of renewed demand, presenting immense opportunities for Zambia. As the world expands electrification, renewable energy and digital infrastructure, copper has become central to the technologies driving that transformation.

Marking 30 years of First Quantum in Zambia is less about a slogan and more about recognising the growth of both the company and the country, and the work that has gone into building something that lasts. Over time,

systems have been put in place to keep operations steady, skills have been developed locally, and the company's presence has gradually become part of the wider fabric of the country and its communities. In many ways, it reflects how Zambian expertise has become an integral part of a global mining company operating to international standards.



Bwana Mkubwa was the first mining licence issued after the 1995 Mining and Minerals Act.

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VELDSKOENE

Words by Akatoka N Kayama, image courtesy of Shilongo Leather Works.



Rooted in Southern Africa's arid terrain, *veldskoene*, the Afrikaans word for "field shoe," is a testament to timeless design. Shilongo Leather Works' interpretation of this shoe honours centuries of heritage while showing a strong commitment to Namibian craftsmanship.

Made from 100% full-grain kudu leather, Shilongo Leather Works' *veldskoene* are built to last a lifetime. The leather is strong and durable yet flexible and soft, allowing it to conform to the wearer's foot over time for a fit that feels personal. Using a specialised stitch-down method, the upper is hand-stitched to the sole,

creating a lightweight, durable and breathable shoe that remains cool even in warm climates.

The design's origins trace back to the Khoisan people, evolving over generations into a classic Namibian heritage shoe valued for its simplicity and resilience. *Veldskoene* are made in earthy tones like tan, stone, and dark brown, reflecting the terrain that inspired their creation.

In a society where so much is replaced, Shilongo Leather Works' unisex *veldskoene* are made to last. The shoe does not wear out easily; it improves with time, holds its shape for years and develops a rich beauty with every wear.

ABOUT SHILONGO LEATHER WORKS

Established in 1986, Shilongo Leather Works is a family-run Namibian company known for its high-quality, crafted leather goods. Specialising in 100% genuine kudu leather, the brand's core belief is embodied in its slogan, "Your Quality Products for Life".

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- Clean regularly with a soft brush or dry cloth.
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- If veldskoene become wet, allow them to air dry naturally.

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Positioned along the **African North-South Railway Corridor**, Lilayi City provides unparalleled logistics advantages for light industrial use. The development is interconnected to neighbouring suburbs by **15 km of dual carriageway roads**, ensuring seamless access for international and local trade.

A Secure Investment Model

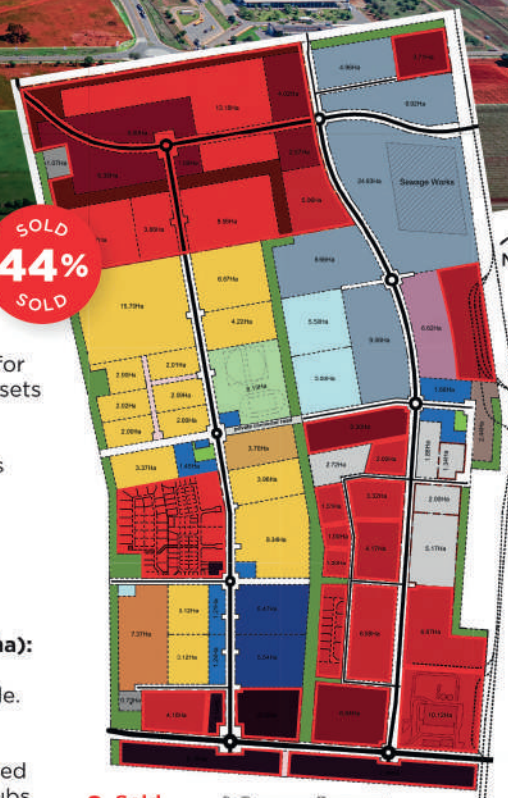
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The vision is taking shape as construction progresses on the 15km dual carriageway network. These arterial roads support future connectivity, positioning the development as an emerging economic hub for Lusaka.



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Special Contribution From the Minister

HON. RODNEY SIKUMBA

Words by Royd Kapesa, images by Dickson Kunyongana



RODNEY SIKUMBA DOES NOT FIT THE USUAL MOULD OF A TOURISM MINISTER. YOUNG, COMMERCIALY MINDED, AND UNUSUALLY DIRECT, HE SPEAKS ABOUT THE SECTOR WITH THE FLUENCY OF SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS BOTH POLICY AND BUSINESS.

In his own words, Honourable Rodney Sikumba is the self-proclaimed “Minister of Enjoyment of the Ministry of Entertainment.” This gives you an instant glimpse of a man who is more than a high-ranking public officer. After five years of interviewing Zambia’s foremost captains of private industry, I found him to be a welcome change. But Rodney is more than a public servant. Unlike many of his peers who have spent most of their careers walking the corridors of the public sector, Rodney exudes

the unmistakable passion and adaptability of the private sector, where he spent almost 20 years across insurance and telecoms. Today, he is the area Member of Parliament for Livingstone and the current Minister of Tourism, both positions he has held since 2021.

In many ways, Rodney is the right man at the right moment for Zambia’s tourism sector, embodying a vibrant, youthful energy that reflects Zambia’s spirit and youthful population. This energy is evident in his recent collaboration with global influencer @IShowSpeed, whom Rodney joined in Livingstone after riding his motorbike there. Together, they bungee jumped off the Victoria Falls Bridge.

Born and raised in Livingstone, Zambia’s tourist capital, Rodney describes it as the “golden egg” of Zambia’s tourism product, offering varied attractions anchored by the Victoria

Falls, and notes that Livingstone is the biggest contributor to the sector and a key source of foreign exchange.

Rodney hails from a family line with tourism in their veins. His father, uncles, and older brother all worked in the sector at one point. After leaving a successful corporate career at the age of 35, he returned to Livingstone and started his own boutique 360-degree tourism concierge business before the public sector came calling.

His foray into entrepreneurship after full-time employment was the genesis of his political career. “At 35, I had left corporate, and I rediscovered my love for tourism. However, I had to market my small tourism business, but the bureaucracy was eating me up. I reached out to my network within the sector and found that their challenges were just like mine,” he narrates. To solve this challenge, he joined and eventually became the chair of the Livingstone Tourism Association, which advocates for the sector in the tourist capital. “But we kept hitting a brick wall, and corridors of government were not as receptive to our issues.” So, he took it a step further and stood as the area Member of Parliament, hoping it would give him a direct platform to advocate for his beloved hometown as a lawmaker. He won. That same year, he



WE NOW HAVE NUMEROUS MEETINGS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE IN ZAMBIA. WE NEED MORE INFRASTRUCTURE TO HOST THIS INCREASING DEMAND. ADDITIONALLY, WE NEED MORE EXPERIENCES FOR VISITORS ARRIVING. IN 2025 ALONE, NEARLY 200 NEW RESTAURANTS OPENED IN LUSAKA.

was appointed Minister of Tourism, placing him at the forefront of policy reforms shaping the sector, while the Zambia Tourism Agency continues to support implementation and marketing.

Tourism contributes approximately 7–8 per cent to Zambia's GDP and is a critical foreign exchange earner for the country. Under Rodney's leadership, the sector is being positioned with greater seriousness and ambition. In 2025, Zambia recorded 2.3 million international arrivals. The target for 2026 is an ambitious 3 million that Rodney believes is well within reach. “Now that Zambia is becoming well known, we are confident we can hit the target. The Zambia Tourism Agency is the body mandated to effectively market Zambia, and we now have numerous meetings scheduled to take place in Zambia. We need more infrastructure to host this increasing demand. Additionally, we need more experiences for visitors arriving. In 2025 alone, nearly 200 new restaurants opened in Lusaka. This is a spillover effect from people attending meetings at these establishments that boost local economies.”

Infrastructure investment is also on the rise to support this demand. Kasama Airport is open, and more are on the cards, including Mansa and Nakonde. Zambia's aviation industry is opening new routes and will benefit from policy shifts, such as the expansion of visa-free access across Africa. Zambia is clearly open, as Rodney shares that visa requirements have been lifted for 167 countries, a sharp increase from 55 when he first took office.

The latest in the sector is the launch of the Brand Zambia campaign, an all-encompassing marketing platform commissioned in March 2026. For reference, Brand Zambia is comparable to the Visit Rwanda platform, which has seen the country positioned through a unified national brand, including sponsorships with Arsenal Football Club and other cross-





cutting initiatives. Zambia hopes to do the same under the bold tagline "Zambia Moves You." "The tagline resonates with what we are doing. What moves you in Zambia? It's our tourism, our mining, and our manufacturing."

As the current chair of the UN Tourism Regional Commission for Africa, a body that aims to foster sustainable tourism across the continent, Rodney is a strong proponent of sustainable tourism, particularly sustainable hunting, which he believes could restore the traditional balance between human livelihoods and wildlife conservation. "We are taking a scientific approach to hunting and supporting communities, where we study the population of animals in specific areas, calculate gestation periods, and then give hunting quotas. When tourists pay to hunt, 50 per cent of the revenue will be used to support communities. Professional hunters are interested in trophies, not the meat. After hunting, the meat goes back to the communities, and this is a further win for them."

When he is not working, Rodney is a family man who loves his food and knows his way around the kitchen. I could tell from his choice of order when we met for breakfast. He had blueberry

French toast, while I settled for a good old English breakfast.

Our conversation reminded me that there are many paths to success, whatever that may be. Sometimes it feels like taking a leap of faith into the unknown, leaving a successful career at 35, and choosing to pursue what lights you up instead. His story is a reminder that reinvention often begins where certainty ends. Although he is now in the upper echelons of government, this conversation felt more like talking to a peer in the business world than to a politician, and maybe that's what Zambian tourism needs at this moment.



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A Class of Her Own

ABIGAIL SHANSONGA

Words by Royd Kapesa, images by Dickson Kunyongana



I recently sat down with Abigail Shansonga, the Acting Chief Executive Officer of the Zambia Tourism Agency (ZTA), the principal custodian of Zambia's tourism offering. We met for lunch at The Dining Enclave during a pivotal time in Abigail's career. Since assuming office in January 2026, Abigail has already played a key role in advancing the national branding campaign, *Zambia Moves You*, now under the stewardship of ZTA following its presidential unveiling. When I ask about the rationale behind the campaign, she is direct:

"We want Zambia to present a unified front. Each sector has been selling Zambia in its own way, but we were not speaking with a single voice. When you see the campaign logo and co-branding across sectors, you will know that it is Zambia."

Even though her feet are firmly planted in the tourism sector, Abigail is a lawyer by training and brings a breadth of experience to her leadership role. From a young age, she was clear that she would be a lawyer. "I was very argumentative as a child. I also had an aunt who was a lawyer, and that inspired me."

She tells me, "Tourism wasn't part of the grand plan. I started my career in the local authorities and then moved into the private sector with one of the country's largest law firms. About a year after I left the firm, one of my clients asked me to run their commercial vehicle dealership as General Manager, a role I held for almost five years. It was a challenging but exciting stint. But I returned to my first love, which is law."

She began her journey at ZTA as Board Secretary and Legal Counsel. She rose into the role of Chief Standards Officer, where she was tasked with ensuring compliance and upholding standards across the sector. This grounding in regulation and governance now shapes her approach as Acting CEO.

The role of Chief Executive Officer is demanding at any level, let alone at a public-facing institution whose every move is tracked under intense public scrutiny. Abigail is candid about navigating the early pressures of transition. "You know when they say the top is a lonely place? It really is lonely. Managing the expectations of different stakeholders, from superiors to team

members to industry players, has been challenging, but not impossible."

Her 'can-do' attitude, she says, comes from the values taught and cemented in her childhood. When I ask her how she thinks she got here, she is quick to give credit to her upbringing. "I grew up in a home where education and hard work were the name of the game. My father was very strict and believed deeply in



We want Zambia to present a unified front. When you see the campaign logo and co-branding across sectors, you will know that it is Zambia.

—Abigail Shansonga, Acting CEO, ZTA.





discipline. That has shaped my work ethic. I don't think twice about working late; it doesn't feel like a sacrifice. When someone asks me what time I get off work, I say when the job is done."

Under the Ministry of Tourism, headed by Hon. Rodney Sikumba, ZTA has dual mandates: to market and promote Zambia as a destination and to regulate the tourism sector. For years, the sector has been seen as an unpolished gem, full of potential but lacking the lustre of the finished product. This narrative has changed recently, with the sector beginning to take its rightful place in Zambia's economic architecture. In 2025, Zambia recorded 2.3 million travellers and is expected to achieve 30 per cent growth, with a projected 3 million visitors in 2026. The sector also continues to increase its contribution to GDP, approaching approximately 9 per cent of the US\$30 billion economy, which remains heavily driven by mining exports.

ZTA and the Ministry of Tourism have played a significant role in that success. For the past five years, they have embarked on an ambitious marketing campaign to position Zambia as the travel

destination of choice for the discerning traveller. A traveller seeking a Southern African adventure has plenty to choose from, with Namibia, Botswana, Kenya, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe all vying for attention.

Domestic tourism has also emerged as a strategic priority for the sector's overall growth. The 'Yamuloko' campaign aims not only to encourage Zambians to travel locally but to reshape perceptions around leisure and rest.



We can't downplay the power of mentorship. The easiest way to get through challenges is to learn from those who have gone through them.

—Abigail Shansonga, Acting CEO, ZTA.

"There is a belief that travel and holidaying are for the elite. That's why we said, 'Take a holiday, Yamuloko.' Whether you are high up on the corporate ladder or just starting out, the fact that you are working means you need a break. Take the time to rest and enjoy the country. Zambia has a place and a budget for everyone."

Early this year, the 24-hour economic model was launched in Zambia to keep the wheels of production turning around the clock. I told Abigail about the time I went to the airport at 4:30 am for a 5:30 am flight, only to find the security gates were locked. I remember being struck by this and wondering if it only happened in Zambia.

"A 24-hour economy translates to more jobs as people will work in shifts to deliver. We need vibrant cities with activities that will deliver all-round experiences for guests. The airports and borders will also operate around the clock, which means more money generated for the economy," Abigail explains. Other African countries implementing this model are South Africa, Rwanda, Egypt, and Ghana.



Mentorship is a catalyst for progress, and as we closed our conversation, I wanted to learn more about the role it played in Abigail's journey to the top.

She reflects, "We can't downplay the power of mentorship. The easiest way to get through challenges is to learn from those who have gone through them. It helps to know you are not alone and to gain perspective on how to approach challenges."

She recalls a woman she met early in her career, someone she refers to only as Mrs B, who offered guidance, accountability, and access to opportunities.

"She kept me on track and made introductions to people who opened doors. I want to be a Mrs B to someone and move away from this narrative that women don't help each other."

Abigail Shansonga represents a new era in Zambia's professional and leadership landscape. She is young, accomplished, female, and already operating at the highest levels of a sector critical to Zambia's economic future. From Chief Standards Officer to Acting Chief Executive of Zambia's premier tourism statutory body, her journey is marked by discipline, purpose and conviction.

By all indications, her story is only just beginning.



When someone asks me what time I get off work, I say when the job is done.

—Abigail Shansonga, Acting CEO, ZTA.



TO GO FAR, GO TOGETHER

Abigail is a strong advocate for mentorship and women building together. She wants to open the same doors and opportunities to other women that were once opened for her.

ABOUT THE DINING ENCLAVE

Located inside the new extension of Arcades Shopping Mall, The Dining Enclave boasts a multi-cuisine menu that brings together flavours from around the world. Pairing local ingredients with global techniques, The Dining Enclave is the perfect venue for an intimate romantic dinner or a high-stakes business meeting.

Can Zambia's Natural Advantage Translate into Sustainable GDP Growth?

TOURISM AT AN INFLECTION POINT

Words by Royd Kapesa, images by Chona Mweemba and Chosa Mweemba for Nkwazi Magazine



Tourism in Zambia, frequently dubbed a "sleeping giant," has long been seen as a key driver of economic growth, though it has not lived up to that promise. However, recent data suggests a sector on the move. In 2025, Zambia saw a record 2.3 million international tourists, up from 2.2 million in 2024. This represents a 4 per cent increase, fuelled by easier visa requirements and ongoing promotional efforts by the tourism authority. The significance of this achievement is heightened by the broader recovery of global travel in the post-pandemic period. It demonstrates a growing ability to compete and suggests that the tourism industry is gradually regaining its significance within Zambia's economy.

Travel and tourism today contribute an estimated 7 to 8 per cent of Zambia's GDP, including both direct and indirect contributions. Direct contributions flow from accommodation, transport, food services, tour operations, and other recreation. Indirect contributions span supply and value chains and

include, for example, fresh produce supply, lodge and hotel construction, and logistics companies that transport goods and people. In a roughly US\$30 billion economy, that translates into well over US\$2 billion in activity. More importantly, it represents diversification in a country where copper still dominates approximately 75 per cent of export earnings.

Employment, Inclusion and Foreign Exchange

The contribution to employment further strengthens the case for tourism as a national economic pillar. The tourism business is labour-intensive and geographically dispersed. It supports tens of thousands of jobs, both directly and indirectly, especially for marginalised groups such as youth and women. Safari lodges in various national parks employ tour guides, chefs, drivers and maintenance staff. In Livingstone, tourism sustains wood and stone carvers, hospitality workers and informal traders at the border with Zimbabwe. Seasonal camps in remote areas, such as Liuwa

Plain National Park, anchor economic activity where typical formal employment is limited. Unlike mining, tourism can distribute income across provinces and integrate rural communities into national output.

Foreign exchange earnings are another strategic lever. As Zambia navigates debt restructuring and macroeconomic stabilisation, sectors that generate hard foreign currency are critical. Tourism receipts reduce pressure on reserves and provide a counterbalance to fluctuations in commodity prices. While copper will remain central, tourism's upward trajectory positions it as a credible complementary pillar rather than a peripheral industry.

Competitive Advantages and Growth Segments

The opportunity case for tourism is further strengthened by Zambia's natural assets. Victoria Falls remains unmatched and a global destination, but it is only one of many assets. Other sites include the picturesque Kalambo Falls, the



OLIMBA CAMP — AT THE HEART OF THE BBC KINGDOM SERIES

If you're a wildlife enthusiast then you've likely come across the BBC Kingdom series that was released in 2025. BBC Earth's write-up outlines the six-part wildlife series in a dramatic precis; "in the heart of Zambia, leopards, hyenas, wild dogs and lions compete to claim a home, in a paradise known as Nsefu. A story of power and survival filmed across 5 years in a single spectacular location, where the fates of 4 rival families are inextricably linked. As the dramatic rise of wild dog queen Storm sends ripples of chaos through the Kingdom, the jostle for dominance between Rita's lion pride and Tenta's hyena clan contrasts with their gentleness as mothers; while solitary leopard Olimba attempts to bring up her cubs in the midst of the turmoil. Who can rule this precious Kingdom?".

The compelling wildlife documentary is set in the Nsefu Sector of Zambia's iconic South Luangwa National Park. It's one of the few areas where park straddles the east bank of the Luangwa river whilst the bulk of the park is on the west bank. By virtue of the fact that there is National Park on both sides of this life-giving river, the Nsefu Sector boasts exceptional wildlife concentrations.

Remote Africa Safaris, in partnership with film fixing company, Reel Nature, constructed a camp on private property just north of the Nsefu Sector for exclusive use by the BBC Kingdom film crews. The guides at Remote Africa Safaris also played a helpful role in the field at various points

whether it was working with the production teams, driving vehicles or helping call in locations of characters who hadn't been seen for days at a time.

The filming may be over but the opportunity to explore this game rich area has never been more inviting as Remote Africa Safaris has converted the original BBC filming camp into a tourism property for safari lovers. The new Olimba Camp opens in 2026 and will accommodate up to eight guests in four chalets with a large communal area nestled under a towering ebony forest. The camp is a combination of scree, canvas and thatch, complete with plunge pool and sweeping views of the Luangwa river, offering the perfect balance between comfort and an authentic bush camp style. Olimba is named after the charismatic female leopard character in the Kingdom series, a leopard who's story the Remote Africa Safaris guides have followed since her birth 14 years ago. Sadly, Olimba the leopard died at the end of 2025 but her legacy lives on through her offspring.

Many of the filmed individuals, packs and prides are seen during activities from existing Remote Africa Safaris camps and are even spotted from the camps themselves and it's likely Olimba Camp will be no different. Being in such a prime location on the boundary of the Nsefu Sector, Olimba Camp stands to offer wildlife enthusiasts an enriching and memorable safari experience – perhaps with sightings of a few Kingdom characters too.





Bangweulu Wetlands in the northeast, and expansive wildlife corridors, collectively giving Zambia one of the most intact and well-preserved safari ecosystems on the continent and helping maintain a premium positioning in the safari market.

Often overlooked is the fact that, at the heart of Zambia's proposition as a tourist destination, are its people. Visitor surveys consistently highlight the warmth and friendliness of Zambian people as one of the key reasons to visit and return, an intangible asset that can be further leveraged through education and training.

For many years, Zambia has been described as landlocked, but the term 'land-linked' now has credence. Surrounded by eight neighbours, including Zimbabwe, Botswana and Namibia, Zambia is positioned within a two-hour flight radius of some of the continent's most visited attractions. Multi-destination packages linking Victoria Falls and national parks with regional circuits are already common. With strategic aviation and visa policies already in place, Zambia's tourism sector is receiving a boost from renewed global interest.

While high-value safari tourism remains the flagship, domestic tourism is gradually strengthening as a growing middle class explores local destinations.

Meetings, Incentives, Conferences, and Exhibitions (MICE) tourism is growing in Lusaka and Livingstone, supported by improved conference facilities such as the refurbished Mulungushi International Conference Centre and international hotel brands. Cultural heritage and community-based tourism initiatives are beginning to link conservation with livelihoods, ensuring that local communities participate more directly in tourism value chains and contribute to the fiscus.

Structural Constraints and the Path Forward

However, these positive developments are not without their challenges, namely infrastructure gaps, particularly road access to certain parks and increased operating costs. Energy constraints, exacerbated by drought and hydroelectric power shortages, have increased operational costs for lodges reliant on backup power systems. These realities affect competitiveness, yet they also highlight where policy attention must focus.

Encouragingly, recent reforms are demonstrating momentum. Initiatives such as expanded visa-free access have reduced entry barriers and contributed to the record arrivals observed in 2025. Continued marketing efforts have also strengthened Zambia's visibility in international markets. Private-sector investment in lodges, hospitality

infrastructure, and aviation growth signals confidence in long-term growth. The sector's recovery since the pandemic reflects meaningful resilience and growing investor confidence.

The seasonal nature of Zambia's tourism sector continues to affect revenue generation, with peak dry seasons outperforming rainy months that limit access to several national parks. To address this, diversifying into cultural events and strengthening regional conferencing (MICE) can help reduce volatility. Skills development is equally critical, and sustained investment in training to drive product innovation, as well as access to financing for small operators, can further unlock entrepreneurial energy.

Zambia does not need tourism to replace mining; instead, it needs tourism to stand confidently alongside it. Zambia already has a strong base to build on, from its unmatched natural assets and strategic geographic position to a hospitable population whose potential can be further strengthened through skills development and entrepreneurial acumen. With supportive policies and renewed investment interest, the sector is poised to evolve into a promising contributor to GDP and a dependable engine for diversifying Zambia's growth strategy.

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From Plastic Bottles to Badge of Honour

HOW ISL IS WEARING SUSTAINABILITY

Words by Nawa Luywa, images courtesy of International School of Lusaka

Weaving Sustainability Into Every Thread

Every minute, the world discards one million plastic bottles. Most sink into landfills or drift into waterways. But at the International School of Lusaka (ISL), a few of those bottles are taking a very different journey, one that ends not in an ocean, but on the backs of students walking across the school campus. Fashion and apparel are among the fastest-growing contributors to global waste. The statistics are stark: over 92 million tonnes of textile waste are generated worldwide each year, and single-use plastic pollution is accelerating alongside it. Against this backdrop, the International School of Lusaka (ISL) has made a quiet but deliberate statement, not through protest or proclamation, but through what its students wear every day.



ISL was recently recognised with a Sustainability and Green Economy Award from the American Chamber of Commerce in Zambia for its bespoke recycled-apparel initiative, a partnership with Scimitar Sports, a UK-based custom sportswear manufacturer, to fully commit to recycled polyester sports uniforms. The process is deceptively elegant: post-consumer plastic bottles are collected, cleaned, shredded, converted into resin chips, then extruded into yarn and woven into high-performance fabric. Six plastic bottles become one T-shirt, and a throwaway product is reborn as a wearable act of environmental conviction.

At ISL, sustainability is part of our ethos. It shapes not only what we teach, but how we act, how we procure and how we contribute to a greener future here in Zambia and beyond. One of our most tangible expressions of that commitment is our recycled-apparel initiative, developed in partnership with Scimitar Sports, a global leader in sustainable sportswear and the first custom manufacturer in the United Kingdom to offer recycled polyester as standard across its entire range.

Scimitar's sustainability credentials run deep. Since pioneering recycled sportswear in 2018, the company has expanded its recycled range to over 100 products, including running vests and cycling jerseys, backpacks, and base layers, all manufactured from 100% certified recycled polyester. Their fabric suppliers have collectively transformed over 13 billion plastic bottles into performance textiles.

What makes ISL's adoption of this model noteworthy is what happens beyond the procurement decision. Students in ISL's Business Development



and Environmental Clubs engage directly with the circular economy process, tracing exactly how discarded bottles become the kit they wear. This supply-chain literacy is woven into the curriculum and school culture alike. ISL, founded in 1963 and now serving over 700 students from 60 countries, has long emphasised environmental consciousness as a cornerstone of its IB-aligned mission. The school promotes community service opportunities, with a particular emphasis on environmental conservation, and develops students it describes as "environmentally conscious citizens of the world."

And it doesn't stop with recycled apparel. ISL is committed to environmental stewardship at every level of school life. From waste-reduction campaigns and student-led conservation projects to community outreach programmes that share sustainable living practices with local partners across Lusaka, we work to translate global sustainability frameworks into local, meaningful action.

In the Zambian context, this initiative carries additional weight. Plastic waste management remains a pressing

national challenge, and ISL's model offers tangible proof: schools can be active participants in the green economy, not merely observers. By embedding a circular economy framework into both its procurement and pedagogy, ISL demonstrates that sustainability is not an extracurricular virtue; it is a core institutional value.

ISL sees this not as a ceiling, but as a starting point. The ambition is scalability: to offer a replicable model that other schools and organisations across Zambia and the region can adopt. The message is straightforward: the shift from a throwaway culture to one built on re-use, recycling, and repurposing does not require a reimagining of everything. Sometimes, it begins with a uniform. What this initiative ultimately represents is a belief that schools have a responsibility not just to teach the next generation about the world's challenges, but to model the solutions. Zambia faces real and pressing questions around plastic waste and environmental management. ISL's model, replicable, scalable and grounded in genuine partnership, offers one answer.

Six bottles. One T-shirt. One school is choosing to do things differently and inviting Zambia and the rest of Africa to follow suit.



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Hospitality builds communication skills and emotional intelligence, equipping professionals to read people, adapt quickly, and respond under pressure.

HOSPITALITY SKILLS FOR ANY CAREER

Words by Precious Mwansa-Chisha

When you check into a hotel, whether on a work trip or on vacation, the staff usually go the extra mile to make your stay memorable. From the moment you walk into the lobby to the time you check out, many moving parts must come together perfectly to ensure you leave with a lasting impression and perhaps even a 5-star review.

The ‘machine’ whose wheels are constantly turning in the background is often underrated. From long hours that go into serving various guests, to the attention to minute details required (that others wouldn’t think twice about) and ultimately the problem-solving mentality

built from dealing with unhappy or angry guests, the skills attained in this industry may seem very specific, and we often downplay them as merely ‘people skills’. Yet they are the bedrock of efficient leadership, emotional intelligence, and effective communication, all of which can translate across any sector or line of work.

Anne Kaoma is a seasoned professional in the sector, serving as the Executive Director of the Zambia Institute for Tourism and Hospitality Studies (ZITHS), the human capital arm of the Ministry of Tourism, responsible for developing talent in the sector. She recalls a defining moment in her career when she hosted

a presidential function and recounts the teamwork, preparation, and immense commitment required to ensure the event’s success. This demonstrated to her that hospitality itself, and the precision it demands, is not only exhilarating but also deeply rewarding. The skills built from every experience become so deeply embedded that they become second nature.

Awareness and Adaptability

Situational awareness and adaptability are crucial skills that require professionals in the hospitality and tourism sector to read people daily and quickly prepare or adjust their responses in real time. “You don’t get to

think about it, you don't get to go and sit and strategise on how you are going to respond or tackle the issue. You have to respond on the spot", Kaoma clarifies.

Emotional Intelligence

As much as emotional intelligence may be innate for some people, it is actually a skill that can be built, like any other skill that is regularly exercised. "In this industry, you are not only offering a service, but you are responding to why the service matters to your guest", Kaoma adds. The emotion attached to the service is just as important, if not more so, than the service itself. As such, understanding the emotional context is central to delivering meaningful service.

Professionals in this space interact with people who exhibit a wide spectrum of human emotions: joy, frustration, excitement, anger and more. "Navigating these emotions and interacting with them calls for emotional intelligence, whether it be empathy, patience or attentive listening". Over time, hospitality and tourism professionals become highly attuned to many non-verbal cues, and this is a very powerful skill.

Communication Skills

It goes without saying that communication is a huge part of the industry. Words do not only convey messages, but they are powerful enough to convey feelings, to uplift, or to tear down. This is why hospitality and tourism professionals are particular about what they say, when they say it and how they say it.

Leadership Skills

There is something about handling high-pressure situations that builds effective leaders. In addition, the exposure hospitality and tourism professionals have to diverse cultures also builds wisdom and experience in handling different types of people. Kaoma notes that she built many of her leadership skills in the industry. One of the biggest leadership lessons she has learnt in her career journey is that "leadership is truly about service, and the most effective leaders are those who support their teams. You cannot ask your team to go where you yourself are not willing to go".

Transferability to Other Careers

The skills that are built and nurtured in the industry are not an end in themselves. They apply to different career paths and to various positions. This transferability is crucial for individuals, whether they are pursuing different career paths or



Problem-solving under pressure and teamwork in hospitality translate directly into leadership and other professional roles.

transitioning to leadership roles within the sector. Individuals in various careers can clearly trace their strengths to the hospitality and tourism industry. They transition well because they have mastered the core skills required not only to survive, but also to thrive anywhere.

Think about a high-stakes situation, like negotiating a large transaction. Being able to read body language and other non-verbal cues can be extremely valuable and, in some instances, aid in strategic decision-making. Mastering this skill set ensures that professionals can function in any industry and with various personalities, whether in an ideal environment or a 'pressure cooker' environment waiting to erupt.

Furthermore, the emotional intelligence required to hold space for the sentimental undertone of a guest's visit can be useful in leadership roles, as effective leadership is more about what is left unsaid.

Kaoma emphasises the importance of a 'people-first' mindset, which is one of the most critical skills built in the industry. "People drive everything that happens in this world", she says. While human skills, often called soft skills, can be taught, they are significantly refined over time, and at the centre of it all is a 'people-first' mentality that transitions across any career and any industry.

Although the industry is often considered more of a 'last resort' career path, it is in fact "one of the most comprehensive training grounds for professional development". It helps develop a wide array of essential skills that make for an attentive, driven and action-oriented professional. In many ways, the hospitality and tourism industry should not be seen as a 'side quest' or a stepping stone. It is a rigorous training ground where the best professionals are carefully, and sometimes intensely, moulded into shape. There are many lessons to be gleaned from how it operates and how it helps build a long, thriving, adaptable professional career.

Liquid Intelligent Technologies Zambia

LEAH NAKAZWE KOOMA APPOINTED AS CEO

Words by Wellington Makamure, image courtesy of Liquid Intelligent Technologies Zambia



Liquid Intelligent Technologies, a business of Cassava Technologies, a global technology leader of African heritage, is pleased to announce the appointment of Leah Nakazwe Kooma as Chief Executive Officer of Liquid Intelligent Technologies Zambia, effective 1 April 2026.

With over two decades of experience across the telecommunications, financial services, and media sectors, Leah's appointment underscores Liquid's strategic growth and commitment to strengthening its leadership in digital infrastructure in Zambia and beyond. This move reflects the company's ongoing commitment to innovation and

regional development.

"Leah's leadership is pivotal at this stage for our Zambia business and the broader region. Her proven ability to deliver results will drive Liquid Zambia's next phase of growth," said Wellington Makamure, CEO of Sub-Saharan Africa, Cassava Technologies.

Leah began her career at Barclays Bank before joining Celtel, where she worked across multiple African markets. She joined the founding team of Vodafone Zambia in 2016, playing a key role in launching the country's first 4G LTE network as Chief Sales and Distribution Officer. In 2017, she joined MultiChoice

Zambia as the GOTv Commercial General Manager and was later appointed Chief Customer Officer, then Managing Director.

"I am very excited about joining the Liquid team. I have watched from the terraces as the business has evolved over the years, and I believe that, together with my team, we can take it to the next level. Having started my career in sales, marketing, and customer service has helped me understand what customers want and how to treat them. Over the years, I have had the privilege of working with people from diverse backgrounds and cultures, enabling me to collaborate seamlessly across a range of business environments. This experience has also helped me grow into an effective communicator, whether with customers, clients, or co-workers," explains Leah.

Leah holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Economics and Development Studies from the University of Zambia and a Master of Business Administration from the University of South Wales. She currently serves on several boards, including as Board Chair for the Mulungushi International Conference Centre, and is a member of the Institute of Directors and Business Professional Women International.

About Liquid

Liquid Intelligent Technologies is a business of Cassava Technologies (Cassava), a technology company of African heritage with operations in 40-plus markets across Africa, the Middle East, and Latin America, through its group of companies.

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Class, Greed and Geopolitics

COPPERBELT

Words by Shilika Chisoko, images courtesy of Natasha Mumba

Restless, simple, and at times incredibly introspective, *Copperbelt*, a play by playwright and actress Natasha Mumba, invites audiences to engage with issues of class, race, and geopolitics through the multifaceted relationships between the central protagonist, Eden, and other characters. The play oscillates between Canada and Zambia, relaying the urgency of the concerns plaguing Zambia's contemporary mining industry. Characters in the play include Eden Chileshe, her partner, Peter Kund; her parents, Mr Chimfwembe Kasuba and Mrs Harriet Kasuba; her brother, Musulo Kasuba; her sister, Lombe Kasuba; and Dalitso Moyo, Lombe's husband. Most notable is the ensemble cast, which includes homegrown Zambian actors catapulted onto an international stage, including Kondwani Elliott Zulu (*Black Dollar, Can You See Us*) as Dalitso and Kapembwa Wanjelani (*Mpali*) as the formidable Chimfwembe.

The production, which premiered in early 2026, is a critique of the Zambian mining industry that feels both incredibly holistic and timely. Devoid of clear protagonists and antagonists, *Copperbelt*'s characters exist on a spectrum of greyness, with each possessing varying levels of resilience and greed. Eden embodies this duality quite well, motivated by the desire to succeed beyond her father's expectations and prove him wrong, while driven to

acquire large sums of money for herself. At times, her grit, wit and charm shine through, encouraging audiences to root for her.

In the play's opening scene, we are introduced to Eden and Peter, an interracial couple living in Canada. It is through their relationship that some of Mumba's most compelling socio-political commentary can be gleaned. Both are employees of Maverick Gold, where Eden is an operations manager and Peter is the head of exploration. This is also where the two met, and their relationship began with controversy. Mumba's decision to name the company Maverick Gold is a hilariously cheeky allusion to a similarly named mining company. In the scene, Eden scolds Peter for not taking her frustrations from their dinner with Maverick Gold's CEO seriously. I read Peter's disregard as a failure to understand the racial and power dynamics at play within their relationship and in their wider society.

Although Peter is her romantic partner, the exchange in the play's opening scene suggests they cannot be equals in any meaningful sense. Furthermore, Eden and Peter's relationship could be regarded as symbolic of the relationship between mineral-rich countries in the Global South and investors from the Global North. Despite being competent, Eden does not have the level of



Top left: The cast rehearses for the dinner table scene.

Top right: Natasha Mumba (Eden) and Kapembwa Wanjelani (Kasuba).

Bottom right: Eden and her brother in a heated exchange.



power that Peter has at Maverick Gold, and her attempts to close this gap are met with a dismissive attitude from Peter. The same could be said of the relationship between the Global North and Global South.

Eden's experience of subjugation in Canada is contrasted by her socio-economic background, personality and motivations. She is confident and ambitious, taking on a dominant role in her relationship with Peter. This is apparent from the first time they meet, when Eden cleverly goads Peter into buying her and her friend drinks at a bar. Peter is taken aback by Eden's brashness and confidence. She is also very upfront about her ambition, as evidenced by her telling Peter she knows his position at their company and by her giving him intel on his competitors.

If we speculate, Peter and Eden's relationship draws a parallel between the Global South (represented by Zambia) and the Global North (represented by the West), with Eden's ambitions mirroring Zambia's. The copper industry represents the lion's share of Zambia's income-generating activities and, as such, is the lifeline of many livelihoods in the country. This raises the stakes of Eden's relentless pursuit of success: she has to work hard and assert herself among her Canadian colleagues just as Zambians

seek to assert themselves as equal partners with foreign investors. However, Eden's dishonesty and greed complicate what would otherwise be a 'good versus evil' narrative.

For all her candour and confidence, Eden is simultaneously secretive and detached. Later, we learn that her last name is Kasuba and that she is the daughter of Mr Chimfwembe Kasuba, who owns the Zambian mining company, Rising Sun Investment Group, with which Maverick Gold is in partnership. Eden would benefit from the partnership between the two companies, and her failure to disclose this information to both Peter and her company suggests that she is just as cunning as she is ambitious. Furthermore, her behaviour aligns with her father's, despite his representation as the cut-throat antagonist in her life. This is one of Mumba's strongest creative choices. By aligning Eden's actions with her father's, Mumba unsettles the notion that Zambians are helpless bystanders as foreign investors pillage the country's natural resources.

Adding to the strength of Mumba's social commentary is her decision to cast the Kasuba family as wealthy, highlighting corruption within the Zambian mining industry. Mr Kasuba's rags-to-riches story is striking in that it draws attention to

Top right: Eden and Peter's dynamic parallels a power imbalance.

Bottom right: Members of the cast pose for the press.

Bottom left: A tender moment between cast members during rehearsals.



Zambia's colonial legacy. His purchase of the home once owned by his father's European boss is a reclamation of power, signalling the emergence of a new class of Zambian elites and the economic opportunities that existed in post-independence Zambia. However, his continued greed and that of his family suggest that this new class of elites replicated the machinations of power once wielded by a colonial ruling class, which makes Mumba's critique lucid.

Whether oblivious to their privilege or not, the Kasuba children take advantage of their positions to gain wealth (Eden), fame (Lombe), or a comfortable lifestyle (Musulo). As a foil to the family's greed, Dalitso's humble background and character represent the interests of ordinary Zambians. He works hard to be close to the Kasubas, particularly his wife, Lombe, whose carefree lifestyle he has to maintain.

I view their relationship as symbolising the dichotomy between the elite and middle- and lower-income people in Zambia. Lombe is carefree about generational wealth, whereas Dalitso is keenly aware of the work he has to do to achieve what the Kasubas have. Mumba invites audiences to engage with the power imbalances that mar Zambian society through this powerful portrayal.

Where the play falls short is in its presentation of auxiliary characters. Musulo and Dalitso's characters, for example, were robbed of the exploration they deserved. Perhaps Mumba was attempting to comment on various topics, but her choice not to explore wonderfully complex characters like Musulo made important social commentary fall flat.

By the end of the play, Peter has attempted to outmanoeuvre Eden, but she outsmarts him and secures a deal with the Zambian government. Eden comes out on top at the end, although she has still bent the knee to a foreign investor, albeit one of her choosing. Ideally, audiences should root for her triumph. However, I find myself wondering whether she will truly be on equal terms with the new investors and thinking about the magnitude of her greed, which might be the point of *Copperbelt* as a production.

Mumba's latest theatrical entry shows the importance of art that speaks to contemporary Zambian and global issues. Her inclusion of Bemba dialogue and indigenous Zambian actors in the cast is powerful and necessary, centring Zambian audiences and asserting her cultural identity. I look forward to what's next for the playwright and hope this signals a much-needed renaissance of Zambian theatre.



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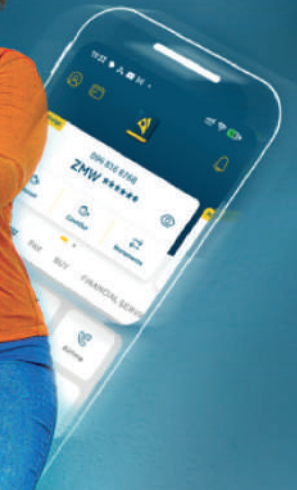
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TOURIST SYNDROME

They can't help themselves, can they? Those suffering from Tourist Syndrome. I guess it's a combination of air travel and money. It does something to you: destabilises your brain chemistry, gets into your blood, and makes you volatile. You're prone to sudden outbursts of travel, followed by generic Instagram posts, exceedingly long and dull dinner-party stories, and a copper bracelet that you copped off some 'native' for a 'fair' price.

As a paleman living in Zambia, I have often been misdiagnosed with Tourist Syndrome. But I am quick to dispel any doubts about my pedigree by exhibiting unnecessary stinginess and a permanent scowl upon my face. Like most palemans, I cannot distinguish between genuine kindness and the hustler's mirth, and so I treat everyone the same: as a potential enemy (of course, my people have a long and distinguished history of such a psychological disposition).

Instead, I use my mystic powers as a paleman, with knowledge of the odd, unflattering, Nyanja word, to good effect: as a keen observer of the human race, an analyst of the human soul, and a doctor of proclivities. From these lofty heights, I have come across a few strains of Tourist Syndrome in Zambia. It is important to understand the various strains and their symptoms before we brainstorm any solutions:

The Preacher: Is either trying to convert the heathens or sleep with them. Doing both presents some moral and logistical problems, but he finds a loophole, via a local wife. The Preacher is often surprised when the heathens know more scripture than he does. He's also secretly a tad racist.

The Financier: Has a job at some international monetary organisation with an acronym as inane as her job title. Can't actually tell you what she does in plain English or sophisticated English, because she doesn't know, either. Pops in and out of troubled countries as quickly as she pops champagne to sovereign debt defaults. A strong supporter of austerity, even though her paycheque would suggest otherwise. Addicted to offering unwarranted views on the Middle East and cocaine.

The Hotelier: Doesn't actually leave the car or the hotel. Arrives in Zambia in a full safari outfit, which is about 90% leopard print. She is dropped directly at the hotel, flown to a lodge whose name she quickly forgets, and is mostly drunk on G&Ts, "the drink of the colonials", when times were much simpler. Tries to pat a wild lion and asks for a full refund when refused.

The Pan-Africanist: Has never been to Africa, but wants to unite it. On arrival, he is disappointed by the lack of spontaneous dance in the streets. Is baffled to hear that most people want to leave Africa. Beautiful, luscious Africa? Never. Falls in love with a girl and stays as long as his visa allows. Promises to return to take her away, just a quick trip home, you see, family emergency, you see. He is never seen again.

The Permanent Expat: Not an immigrant, God no—that is for poor people. But has emigrated from some country where it is rather pricey to hire a maid and gardener and to live in a lavish house. Hops from one African, Latin American or Asian country to the next, in search of a crisis to fix. Earns a pretty penny, too.

The Fugitive: His transnational criminal activity is matched only by his transnational sex drive. Has mines and affairs in multiple countries. Can either be found in a dingy motel on the way to the airport, or in a government office. Is wanted by Interpol and the fathers of pregnant girls.

The Humour-column Writer: Exceedingly cynical and should not be trusted. Wonders why he is paid to mock people he secretly envies. Showers at most once a week. Bums cigarettes off people because he's too cheap to buy a pack. Can't speak as much Nyanja as he claims to.

These are but a few of the most virulent strains of Tourist Syndrome currently plaguing Zambia and its surrounding countries. Caution is advised. Approach with care. As conscientious souls, we should pity them.

ABOUT SEBASTIAN

Sebastian loves travelling and exploring new and exciting places! His favourite things to do on holiday include scrolling on Instagram, posting on Instagram, and gaping at the funny-looking natives.

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RESTORING SIGHT, RESTORING LIVES: CATARACT AWARENESS MONTH (MAY/JUNE)



VISION CARE OPTICIANS & EYE HOSPITAL

Every year, millions of people across the world experience gradual vision loss—not from rare diseases, but from a common, treatable condition known as cataract. As we observe Cataract Awareness Month in May and June, it is both timely and necessary to reflect on the importance of early detection, access to care, and the life-changing impact of treatment.

Understanding Cataracts: The Silent Cause of Blindness

A cataract occurs when the natural lens of the eye becomes cloudy, leading to blurred or dim vision. It is most associated with aging, but can also result from diabetes, prolonged exposure to ultraviolet light, eye injuries, or prolonged use of certain medications.

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Recognizing the Signs Early

Warning signs include blurred or cloudy vision, difficulty seeing at night, sensitivity to light and glare, fading or yellowing of colors, and frequent changes in eyeglass prescription. Early diagnosis is critical, and regular eye examinations are essential.

Treatment: A Simple Procedure with Life-Changing Results

Modern cataract surgery is one of the safest and most effective medical procedures available today. It involves removing the cloudy lens and replacing it with a clear artificial lens, restoring vision almost immediately.

Special Awareness Month Offer and Call to Action

In line with Cataract Awareness Month, clients are encouraged to take advantage of free computerized comprehensive eye examinations available at all Vision Care optical stores across our branch network. In addition, patients will receive a 20% discount on eye examinations conducted at our hospital.

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INSIDE

82. LUSAKA BY LUSAKANS • 90. LIVINGSTONE • 98. WOMAN ON FIRE • 114. LOWER ZAMBEZI



76

THE OKAVANGO DELTA

The Okavango Delta offers immersive wildlife encounters, where elephants, predators, and antelope move through flooded plains and channels, creating close, shifting sightings shaped by water.



AND THEN THERE WAS WATER

THE OKAVANGO DELTA

The Okavango Delta defies expectation; a river that never meets the sea, instead spilling into desert and sustaining a self-contained world shaped by water, time, and movement. Here, flood arrives at the height of the dry season, drawing wildlife into a shifting mosaic of channels, islands, and floodplains. Elephants wade through reeds, predators follow ancient routes, and life gathers where water lingers. Its isolation, low-density tourism model, and ever-changing landscapes create an experience that feels both deeply intimate and endlessly renewed, where no two visits are ever the same.

Words and images by Rachel Rebibo



The Okavango Delta is one of the world's only inland deltas, where water never reaches the sea but instead disappears into the Kalahari sands each year.



Botswana's Okavango has no delta in the conventional sense—no coast, no estuary, no sea. Instead, the river fans out across roughly 15,000 square kilometres of semi-arid scrub and sand, filling channels, lagoons and floodplains, then slowly disappearing, evaporating and soaking into the earth. The Delta is a system that exists entirely to consume itself, and it does this with extraordinary results.

The rain that makes it possible falls in Angola, more precisely in the Bié Plateau and the central highlands. From there, it travels south and east through the Cubango and Cuito rivers, crosses into Namibia's Zambezi Strip, and enters Botswana as the Okavango River. This journey takes months, and by the time the water spreads out into the Kalahari sands, Angola's wet season has long since finished. The Delta is an oasis surrounded by dry land, but with no outlet.

Flooding in this region peaks between July and August, which is technically Botswana's dry season, and this inversion of water arriving at the driest moment of the year is exactly what gives the Delta its ecological importance. As surrounding landscapes contract and dry out, the Delta's waterways expand and fill. Elephants travel long distances across the Kalahari to reach these waters, and buffalo herds consolidate along its edges. Predators follow. The result is a concentration effect, where species that would otherwise be spread across a much larger area are clustered by the reliable presence of water and food in a landscape that otherwise offers neither.

Beyond its unusual ecosystem, spectacular wildlife sightings paired with near solitude are what truly set the Delta apart. Elephant populations in the northern Botswana ecosystem are among the largest remaining in Africa; they swim across channels and meander through reeds. African painted dogs, one of the continent's most endangered carnivores, have strongholds here, making it one of the best places on earth to see them. Lions roam the sands and grasslands, while leopards dangle their limbs from sausage trees. The Delta is also home to over four hundred recorded bird species and one of Africa's largest cheetah

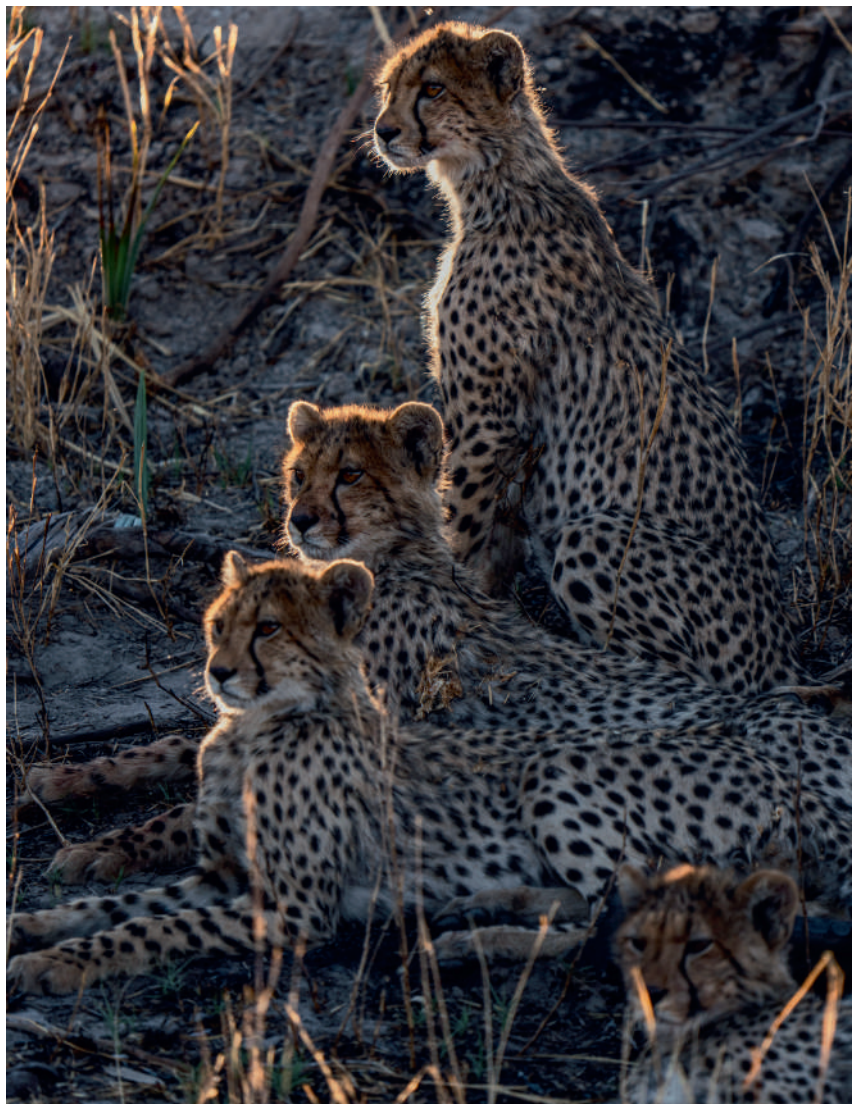
The Delta supports one of Africa's largest elephant populations, with herds swimming between islands and moving seasonally across its waterways and floodplains.

populations. And all of this with very few people.

Much of the rest of the Delta operates through private concessions, which have shaped Botswana's safari industry into something distinctly exclusive—and expensive—compared to most other destinations on the continent. Concession agreements typically cap the number of beds, restrict vehicle access to licensed operators, and require management plans that account for environmental impacts. The result is an unusually low-density tourism model in areas that could otherwise sustain far more visitors. The camps are small, and the areas they cover are large. Exclusive traversing rights in many concessions mean that vehicles from one camp following one wild dog pack across one floodplain are, functionally, the entire human presence in that landscape at that moment.

Moremi Game Reserve sits in the centre of this unique ecosystem and has for decades been the ecological anchor of the Delta. It was gazetted in 1963, largely through the efforts of the local BaTswana community. Moremi protects a broad sweep of the Delta's core habitats: mopane woodland, acacia forest, reed marsh, open floodplain, deep channel, and permanent lagoon. It holds strong populations of lions, leopards, elephants, wild dogs, cheetahs, and buffalo, and supports one of the most productive general safari circuits on the continent. Many visitors encounter it first from Chief's Island, the large landmass at the centre of the reserve, where the density of game in the dry season can be extraordinary.

The eastern edge of the Delta, where Khwai Community Concession borders Moremi, has become one of the most closely watched safari areas in Botswana. Wildlife does not recognise boundaries, and the game viewing in





Khwai consistently ranks among the best in the country, particularly for predators. Beyond wildlife, Khwai's importance also lies in its structure. The concession is managed for the benefit of Khwai Village, and tourism revenue feeds directly into the community. It represents a serious attempt to give local people a genuine stake in what happens to the land around them. For visitors, it also means access to a landscape where night drives, guided walks and off-road tracking are all possible, activities that public reserve rules often prohibit.

The Delta's remoteness makes access integral to its model. Most camps require a light aircraft transfer from Maun, and costs across the system sit at the higher end of the African safari spectrum. While Khwai is technically accessible by vehicle, the drive from Maun is not for the novice. The trade-off is real: what the expense buys is space, exclusivity and a calibre of wildlife experience that high-density destinations simply cannot replicate. It also provides access to an ecosystem that functions, at least in parts, with something close to ecological integrity, in the form of large predator populations, wide-ranging herds, and seasonal movement patterns that respond to flood and drought rather than fences and management zones.

The Delta evolves yearly with water levels; visiting it once, therefore, hardly means you have seen it. The flood level varies year to year depending on Angolan rainfall. A high-water year transforms normally dry concessions into boat-access-only landscapes. A low year opens ground that would otherwise be unreachable on foot. Different seasons bring different concentrations, behaviours, and logistical realities. Photographers who know the system return repeatedly, working specific areas at specific times for specific subjects. That depth of possibility and the sense that the same place can keep producing new experiences are part of what gives the Okavango its reputation as a destination worth more than one visit.

Hundreds of bird species inhabit the Okavango Delta, making it one of the continent's richest birding destinations, especially during seasonal floods.

PROFLIGHT
ZAMBIA



*The Okavango Delta, Botswana

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THE PLACE IN BETWEEN

LUSAKA BY LUSAKANS

Words by Sebastian Moronell, images by Kelvin
Mbewe and Kondwani Phiri for Nkwazi Magazine







KABWATA CULTURAL VILLAGE WAS ESTABLISHED AS A SPACE FOR LOCAL ARTISANS TO PRESERVE AND SHOWCASE TRADITIONAL ZAMBIAN CRAFTS WITHIN THE CITY.

Just before I enter Marlin, there is a glass door. From the angle I approach it, I can see the insides of the restaurant—all glittery with lights and laughter and waiters running around or looking on. The trappings of a nostalgic dream. As I draw closer to the entrance, almost reaching the landing, I look at the glass door once more. I see myself in a flash; yes, that is me now, but also a part of me from the past that seems to linger, like a memory. That memory stuck between places: half-me, half this-place.

Marlin was one of the first restaurants my family visited when we arrived in Zambia, just after the 2008 financial crisis (a disconnected event, I think). In any given city, a good steakhouse acts like a magnet, around which an allure revolves. Perhaps it is the matter-of-fact attitude toward its food, reflected in a menu that has remained unchanged for 20 years. Or its unpretentious, offhand attitude towards change. Marlin maintains its indoor smoking area, the advertisements for cheap cigarettes



lining the walls, and the ornate pressed ceilings. The owner still comes in every evening to monitor the kitchen. Naturally, there are cosmetic changes: the waiters no longer wear waistcoats, and the wall-hung partitions have been removed. Nowadays, they serve two wine brands instead of one.

Marlin is located in the Lusaka Club, a sports club not too far down the road from The Lusaka Golf Club. Both have eschewed the trappings of an elegant façade and instead have this kind of mean look. Squat, sneering. This stands in contrast to the stated aims behind the planning of Lusaka, which was purposefully built as a 'Garden City': the new capital of Northern Rhodesia was meant to live up to the colonial ideal of a well-ordered, green city. But the garden city has no public parks, and the closest thing to public greenery is the large trees lining some of the older streets and the traffic roundabouts that host either a national monument from a forgotten war or garish, absurd advertisements, such as a chicken.



Instead, to find something resembling a public park, one must travel to the outskirts of the city. Chaminuka is one such place.

Chaminuka was built in 1978 as the private estate of Andrew Sardanis, and occupies around 10,000 acres north-east of Lusaka. At its centre is a large building surrounded by lodging, overlooking a lake where animals lazily graze. Its proximity to the city makes it a popular destination for tourists, offering a taste of the promised Africa: walking with cheetahs and elephants, game viewing on short safari drives, and a curio shop. But my interests lie elsewhere, namely, its art collection.

Chaminuka holds a large collection of artworks and artefacts from Zambia and the region. You walk through its hallways as you would a home, admiring in part the books, the snooker table, and the little figurines with elongated limbs in a glass cabinet. A woman gives birth. QR codes provide a basic description of the artwork, which totals over 850 pieces. We are

guided through the exhibition by the densities of light and dark reflecting on the brick walls on an overcast day. As a collection, the pieces are impressive. The names of Zambia's most famous artists begin to feel familiar.

There are a few well-worn institutions in Lusaka where one can view art, one of them being the state's flagship gallery, The Henry Tayali Gallery, located in the Showgrounds. The exhibition I visited at the gallery was titled 'Izwi', which translates to 'voice' in Lungu. The exhibition, as the curatorial statement explains, is in celebration of International Women's Day, and so the 'voice' is a woman's voice, the voice of womanhood. The exhibition aims to centre the perspectives of women in the art world.

The art exhibited is of varying quality. Some are clearly amateurish, and others deserve their place in the art gallery. The best are the two large-format paintings by the artist Mwamba Chikwemba. The mixed-media pieces portray full-body portraits of women that imply

**THE CATHEDRAL OF
THE HOLY CROSS
WAS COMPLETED
IN THE 1960S AND
REMAINS ONE
OF THE CITY'S
MOST PROMINENT
ANGLICAN
LANDMARKS.**



THE HENRY TAYALI GALLERY, LOCATED IN THE SHOWGROUNDS, REMAINS ONE OF LUSAKA'S KEY PUBLIC SPACES FOR VIEWING CONTEMPORARY ART.

womanhood is a bricolage of motherhood, sisterhood, and individuality, among other things. The two pieces remind me of Wangechi Mutu's art, although Chikwemba's are more figurative and less surreal. The majority of the art centres on figurative paintings of women, and I wonder whether this is deliberate or not.

I have always disliked the main exhibition space. It always felt empty to me. I prefer the messy area in the small courtyard on the opposite side of the entrance. Around one corner, and then another, I see discarded objects. This is the place of discarded objects, where artworks by men are hung in the semi-circular alcoves lining the walls. Here, the range of artwork is broader. Immediately on the left, there is a painting of a grotesque woman singing the national anthem. I enjoy its sense of humour and its ironic placement.

Galleries separate art from craft, but I don't think this distinction is true or should hold as true. Kabwata Cultural Village traffics in

the latter: craft, or not-art. I try to avoid the Cultural Village, in part because I disagree with the idea that 'culture' can be found in a make-believe village within sight of apartment blocks, and in part because I often feel harassed by the vendors. However, I suspend my concerns for the time being and enter the village gate. The dirt path is lined with thatched huts, in which craftsmen and craftswomen sell their wares. They call to us from the dark recesses of the huts, stepping out as they see our pale skin. But we ignore them momentarily, and instead turn our attention to the sounds at the end of the path. A performance must be taking place. Drums and singing and the shuffling and thumping sound of feet on earth.

I am holding a packet with a Hungarian and chips. I got it at New Kwacha Take Away in town, which is one of the oldest take-away stores in the city, first opening its doors to the public soon after independence. I find a seat to eat in the amphitheatre, a set of concrete benches surrounding a concrete stage covered



with dirt. Everything feels dilapidated. We are watching a troupe of dancers, most of them adolescent girls with *chitenge* wrapped around their waists. The men are mostly older—save for a group of three young boys—who are either drumming or leading the performance. They stop for a few minutes to discuss the next dance. I open my packet and eat the Hungarian sausage and chips.

The chips are soggy—it has been about 30 minutes since I ordered them from the little hole-in-the-wall on Freedom Way. I break off a piece of the Hungarian, its pink flesh turning grey in the scalding sun. It has the texture of rubber. Sodium pulses through my veins. A little artery is clogged. An errant piece of hardness is in my mouth, and I spit it out. I begin to use the mashed chips like a piece of *nshima* and the Hungarian like a piece of relish.

The performers begin another dance. I watch this one and the next, and they are captivating. The movements are not perfectly

choreographed, but they express an energy and willingness that is difficult to fake. I later find out that they are performing Ngoni dances in honour of the recent Ncwala ceremony. I soften my initially hard attitude towards the place; perhaps there is something here about the connection between cultures that the village creates. And I am more forgiving of the artists who ask me to buy their artefacts. There is no doubt that these are elegant in their own way. I just don't need anything at the moment, I apologise to them truthfully.

The rhythm of African life is often contrasted with the stiffness of the West. Wondering whether this was true, I attended Sunday Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross during the month of Lent. It is a hallowed period marked by sombre ceremonies. I have been to the Cathedral often, to marvel at its architecture, which watches over the government buildings from its privileged position on Cathedral Hill. This part of town is all very neat, very deliberate. The union of the colonial state and

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religion, sanctified by the Queen Mother, who laid the foundation stone in 1958, is a brash, imposing example of African Modernism, a gift—whether in good faith or not—from the British to the newly independent nation.

The procession comes down the nave, singing. The high vaulted ceilings hold the solemn tone in their concrete ribbing. The stained glass strangely illuminates the grey sky outside. We seem small in comparison to the building, no doubt a spatial analogy to God, whose presence should overawe and overwhelm us. The priest has a sing-song voice and is practised—that much I can tell from his service. I sing the hymns from my hymn book proudly.

Afterwards, Mr Thompson, who has been sitting near me, greets me. He casually wonders what I am doing here, and I fumble with my thoughts because it is not clear that I know. Passing through? Yes. At some point, we are interrupted by a tramp, who wears a tattered suit, comically long tie and extravagant pocket

CHAMINUKA, ESTABLISHED IN 1978, SPANS AROUND 10,000 ACRES AND HOUSES MORE THAN 850 ARTWORKS AND ARTEFACTS FROM ZAMBIA AND THE REGION.

handkerchief in the truest manner of a Beckett play. Mr Thompson told me I must come back for the early Easter Mass. Five o'clock in the morning. Then, he says, you go into the cathedral in darkness. As the service takes its course, you witness the genesis of the world again: it is quiet, the birds chirp as the sun dawns, and you end it all with tea and hot cross buns.



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LIVINGSTONE, REVISITED

JOURNEYS THROUGH PAST AND PRESENT



Words by Jolezya Adeyemo, images by Chona Mweemba and courtesy of Bushtracks





Livingstone itself was once Northern Rhodesia's capital, and today its mix of colonial-era structures and tourism infrastructure continues to shape visitors' experience of the region.

I hadn't planned to come here. Limpo's Pub & Grill wasn't part of my Livingstone itinerary. However, that's where I found myself as my first day in Zambia's tourist capital was winding down. Maybe it was the fact that I hadn't been back in over ten years that made me more open to going off script, or maybe it was Ackim's persuasive nature.

My day had begun as planned. I landed at the airport during late morning and headed to David Livingstone Safari Lodge & Spa. As we drove into Mosi-oa-Tunya National Park, Ackim, my taxi driver, asked about my plans. I gave him the rundown: the falls (of course), sundowners at Royal Livingstone, a river cruise, museum visits, dinner on the Royal Livingstone Express. He told me sundowners at the Royal Livingstone Hotel were a good idea, but that I should also grab a drink at a local spot. He also said a visit to Mukuni Village, beyond the curio market, was a must. He offered to accompany me to both.

The verdant grounds of the David Livingstone were perfectly manicured, opening out towards the Zambezi,

which runs alongside the lodge. At the reception, staff welcomed guests with soft marimba music and a drink.

Lunch at the David Livingstone brought me closer to the river, with a sense of calm I hadn't felt in ages. A few kilometres away, the Zambezi moved steadily toward the Batoka Gorge, where it plunges over the edge to form Victoria Falls. Lingered over a late lunch, I feasted on succulent T-bone steak and sipped slowly on a peach mojito mocktail, with the distant smoky mist of the falls visible. Locally, the falls are known as *Mosi-oa-Tunya* and *Shungu Namutitima*, both of which roughly translate as "the smoke that thunders."

I reluctantly peeled myself away from the magnetic pull of the water and headed to the Royal Livingstone Hotel for sundowners on its riverside deck, and a different view of the smoke from Mosi-oa-Tunya once again. Zebras grazed across the grounds, unbothered by guests seeking Instagram moments. With a gin and tonic in hand, I watched the Zambezi stretch out beneath a muted sunset, grey clouds softening the light. The rain



Mukuni Village, over 700 years old, predates Livingstone town and remains a living cultural centre of the Toka-Leya people, blending tradition with tourism-based livelihoods.



eventually forced me under shelter, and it was there, drying off in Royal's lobby, that I decided to call Ackim rather than head back to my lodge for an early night.

Not long after, I was at Limpo's, Ackim's suggestion for a popular local hangout. It was dimly lit, and a few people hovered around pool tables while a television flickered overhead. Being a Monday and with the downpour outside, it was less busy than usual. Zambian classics blasted through the speakers; the nostalgic sounds of artists like Nalu, Daddy Zemus, Kanji, JK and Exile.

Ackim joined me and we each ordered an ice-cold Mosi. Originally from Lusaka, Ackim had lived in Livingstone for five years. He spoke about the opportunities in the city, driven by tourism and cross-border movement. We talked about local politics, business, and human-wildlife conflict. Elephants had arrived early this year, thrilling but disruptive. We ended the night at Serengeti restaurant over a shared meat platter, making plans for Mukuni Village the next morning.

Ackim picked me up early and introduced me to Etiken, my navigator for the day. Born in the village, he had lived there his whole life. We met under an acacia tree near Chief Mukuni's compound, a place where David Livingstone once waited in 1855, surprising residents who had never seen a white man. Today, it remains a



place to welcome visitors and a meeting place for village residents like the ones I saw playing *mancala*, a traditional strategy board game played across much of Africa.

Mukuni Village, home to the Toka-Leya people, is over 700 years old. Walking through it, Etiken explained the structure of huts, how to tell if one belonged to a married couple or a single person, and pointed out newer brick homes built by those who received support from family members working outside the village. Tourism is a major source of income, but farming remains important for many, though it is at risk from elephants drawn to local fruits.

We sampled *ingi* fruit at a family home, and while visitors are welcome, it still almost felt like an invasion of privacy. Etiken showed us how mongongo oil is extracted and used for both cooking and cosmetics. We were given *musale*, a type of sugarcane I enjoyed countless times as a child.

At the crafts workshop, which was more of a thatched shelter than an industrial warehouse, I spoke to Isaac, who had been carving various items for 17 years, a skill passed down from his father and now to his children. He even teaches tourists, should they have time for a longer visit. Nearby, young high school graduates performed traditional dances,

The arrival of the railway in the early 1900s transformed Livingstone into a bustling frontier town, accelerating settlement, commerce, and administrative importance.





Many of Livingstone's older buildings reflect British colonial design, with wide verandas and administrative layouts that still shape the town's character.

generating income in areas where few formal opportunities exist.

The conversation drifted to tradition and modern life. Etiken spoke about embracing both, referencing his own birth, assisted by a traditional attendant, as an example of how the "old ways" still work. At the curio market, a sign read "Bitcoin accepted here", a reminder of how much had changed since my last visit to the village.

Back in town, we went to Cafe Zambezi. In the courtyard, under a large mango tree, I ordered crocodile spare ribs. The ribs arrived piled high, coated in sweet chilli and masala sauce. Sticky, slightly spicy, and unlike anything else I had eaten on the trip, in the best possible way. Ackim had to leave for work. He shook my hand, told me to come back soon, and was gone before I had finished saying goodbye, absorbed back into the city the way people who truly belong somewhere always are. I sat alone with the last of the ribs and realised that the best guides are never really guides at all. They are just people who love where they live.

Later, I returned to my lodge for a sunset cruise on the Lady Livingstone. It was calm, almost meditative. From the upper deck, we spotted bushbucks, impalas, hippos, giraffes and more. Captain Webster shared stories, including the significance of Siloka Island as the burial site of the first Chief Mukuni. Snacks



flowed steadily, from multiple savoury bites to homemade ice cream and fruit.

That night, I kept dinner at the David Livingstone simple, opting for a smoked salmon salad with sorghum, cucumber, cherry tomatoes and pickled onions. Fresh, balanced, a little 'nutty' from the sorghum (an ingredient I rarely get to eat) and satisfying.

The next morning, my taxi driver apologised for being "late", explaining that he had found elephants on the road and had to wait for them to cross. I arrived at Mosi-oa-Tunya just before 06:45 and found myself among the first visitors

there. The path wound through dense greenery, the air thickening before the sound even announced itself. Then the mist found me, not gradually, but all at once, the way memory does. The roar was constant, indifferent, magnificent. Standing at the edge of the gorge, I understood why people run out of words here. Familiar, and yet entirely new. Ten years is long enough for a place to become itself again.

At the Knife Edge Bridge, I hesitated, then crossed. Two Canadian tourists, Paula and Scott, suggested that if I was nervous, I could cross with them, and I took them up on their offer. Within seconds, I was soaked. The view appeared

and disappeared through the spray. My raincoat only shielded my top half, barely. I thought back to Etiken, who told me he also runs tours of the falls, showing people the shrines and teaching about the falls' cultural significance.

Now changed and dry, I headed to the Railway Museum, located at the former Zambezi Sawmills locomotive shed. The sawmills' operation, active from the 1920s to the late 20th century, ran its own railway moving timber across the region. Now, early 1900s steam trains sit on display, once used to transport both goods and people.

I stepped into a first-class, whites-only coach I would not have been allowed to enter before 1964. Burgundy leather seats, spacious cabins, even beds. It was a stark contrast to the lower classes, which I could only imagine travelling in. On the same grounds, the Gateway Jewish Museum traces the contributions of Jewish settlers to Livingstone's development.

Having worked up an appetite, I headed back to the lodge, arriving just in time for the last call for breakfast service. Eggs, veggie pancakes, fruit and pastries, all enjoyed overlooking the river, a view I never get enough of. The rest of the morning was slower, spent napping, walking the grounds and resting by the pool.

For my third and final day at the lodge, I lunched on grilled whole Zambezi bream, tender and perfectly charred, served with a refreshing salad and golden fries. Simple, local, and comforting, it was one of my favourite meals on this trip.



After losing its capital status, Livingstone reinvented itself and gradually became Zambia's tourism capital due to its proximity to Victoria Falls.

The Railway Museum, however, would not be my last train experience. That evening, I boarded the Royal Livingstone Express. With polished wood and brass finishes, it felt like stepping into another era. As we moved toward the Victoria Falls Bridge, our captain, Tulani, spoke about Cecil Rhodes's unfinished Cape to Cairo vision and how these tracks formed part of it, while not shying away from the fact that it was the product of an era

when he would not have been allowed on the train because of his colour.

At the bridge, on the border between Zambia and Zimbabwe, rain fell lightly as dancers performed along the walkway. Persistent vendors sold curios, assuring us that they had a wide stock and accepted many currencies. I stepped onto the bridge, looking out over the gorge, the Zambezi cutting through the dramatic landscape below.

Dinner followed our return to Zambia. A thoughtful menu, locally rooted and elegantly presented, was paired with a wide selection of wines and spirits. The gentle motion of the train, the view of the river below, and the quiet conversation of fellow passengers made the evening feel both intimate and grand, a perfect close to the journey.

As the train slowly rocked us back into the city, I thought of Ackim, of Etiken, of the family who handed me *musale* as if it were the most natural thing in the world. Livingstone is not a destination you finish. It is a conversation you keep returning to, each time with something new to say. I already know what I'll order at Cafe Zambezi. I already know I'll call Ackim from the airport. Next time, I'll leave the itinerary at home.





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Words by Jolezuya Adeyemo, images by Chona Mweemba for Nkwazi Magazine and courtesy of Conservation South Luangwa

WOMAN ON FIRE

ON THE FRONTLINE OF CONSERVATION

In Mfuwe, where wilderness presses closely against daily life, Maureen Mulenga stands at the fragile intersection of people and wildlife. Her work unfolds in moments of urgency, responding to injury, loss, and fear, yet it is grounded in decades of quiet resilience. From an interrupted childhood to the frontlines of conservation, her journey reflects both personal resolve and a broader national challenge. As human-wildlife conflict intensifies, Maureen's role becomes emblematic of a shifting landscape, where survival, coexistence, and dignity must be negotiated daily, often in the most sobering circumstances.



MAUREEN PLAYS A KEY ROLE IN DATA COLLECTION, CONTRIBUTING TO CONFLICT MAPPING, HOTSPOT IDENTIFICATION, AND INTERNAL REPORTING THAT HELPS GUIDE CSL AND DNPW'S STRATEGIC RESPONSE.



When Maureen Mulenga receives a call from her commander, it often signals danger: someone's life, home or livelihood is at risk.

Maureen lives in Mfuwe in the Luangwa Valley. This small town is known for its natural beauty and wildlife. The bucolic paradise is also the gateway to the famed South Luangwa National Park. But beyond the undeniable beauty lies an ugly reality: when wildlife and communities share space, it can result in injuries, property damage, and even death.

Human-wildlife conflict has been on the rise in Zambia in recent years, exacerbated by increased settlement and farming in wildlife areas, to the point that barely a week passes without reports of clashes. Wildlife rangers and scouts are integral to formulating and implementing solutions to this challenge. This

includes scouts such as Maureen Mulenga, who has served her community for more than two decades.

As a member of Conservation South Luangwa's (CSL) Human-Wildlife Conflict Rapid Response Unit (RRU), a joint initiative between Conservation South Luangwa and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), since 2023, Maureen has been responsible for responding swiftly to incidents. She and her team transport people injured in wild animal confrontations to the nearest medical response centre. When a wildlife attack results in a fatality, her team ensures the body is handled with dignity and transported to a mortuary. It is sobering work.

The unit, the first of its kind in Zambia, was established to provide rapid, round-the-clock support to communities living alongside wildlife and to raise awareness of how to coexist with animals.

Born in 1984 in Kasama, Maureen never imagined herself as a woman working in conservation, nor as a scout. Her parents divorced when she was four years old, and her mother returned to her hometown of Mfuwe, taking Maureen with her. While she had never considered conservation, since childhood, Maureen had always wanted to play a role in improving her community and had dreamed of becoming a police officer. However, Maureen's dream came crashing down in Grade 9 when she was forced to leave school due to a lack of funds. Fighting the urge to give up, she explored other options until a chance encounter led to an opportunity to become a scout. The initial three-month training was physically and mentally arduous, but she



IN 2025, MAUREEN WAS AWARDED FIRST RUNNER-UP IN THE AFRICA CONSERVATION AWARDS AS BEST FIELD RANGER.

had made up her mind to serve her community and never considered giving up. Her resilience paid off, and she began as a scout with the Kakumbi Community Resource Board in 2005 before joining CSL in 2013.

Working in conservation gave Maureen a sense of purpose. Poaching was rampant, and the unregulated sale of bushmeat was going unchecked. Maureen saw an opportunity to give back and create win-win situations in which both humans and wildlife could thrive side by side.

A key part of her job in resource protection was spending no fewer than 10 days at a time patrolling the field on foot. The conditions in the field are harsh, and movement is often limited during the rainy season, when streams and rivers swell. Simple activities such as cooking a meal become difficult, which can lead to long stretches of living off dry rations and water. Maureen says this is one of the many realities of life in the field. During the dry season, water becomes scarce, leading to days without basic amenities such as bathing or washing gear. Over her career, Maureen has spent more than 4,000 days on patrol, reflecting her endurance and long-standing commitment to conserving one of Zambia's most important ecosystems.

Despite the challenges, her work alongside her team remains rewarding. She built a strong reputation for resilience during 16 years on anti-poaching foot patrols, including time as Second-in-Command (2IC). She recalls that one of the most rewarding parts of her early work was making arrests and taking poachers out of the bush.

Maureen is known for her ability to respond rapidly to calls and for her optimism. Her colleagues describe her as someone who does not dwell on the challenges that come with her role. This has earned her respect from colleagues and the community. Her steadiness has led to leadership roles and the trust of the people she serves. She is known among her team as calm under pressure, solutions-oriented, and deeply committed to both wildlife protection and community wellbeing. Her ability to defuse tense situations has become one of her most valued strengths.



THE HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT RAPID RESPONSE UNIT CARRIED OUT 554 OPERATIONS COVERING 47,060 KM, USING 2 DEDICATED VEHICLES AND 3 ROTATING TEAMS, PROVIDING 24/7 RESPONSE.

When transitioning to the Human-Wildlife Conflict RRU in 2023, the same year the unit was expanded to include women, Maureen decided to shift from law enforcement to more direct community engagement within the RRU. Human-wildlife conflict is immediate and deeply personal, with people's lives and property at risk. While community engagement has gone a long way, misunderstandings still occur. Tempers flare, and scouts can face threats from both animals and the communities they serve.

Since the unit's formation, its work has contributed to significant results: elephant conflict killings by authorities dropped by 50 per cent in 2023, and by mid-2025, no elephants had been killed in response to conflict since December 2024. Human fatalities linked to wildlife encounters also declined by 75 per cent in 2024. Much of her work takes place

at night, often responding to incidents involving elephants. In low visibility, encounters can be unpredictable, requiring constant alertness and trust in her training and team.

A recent incident illustrates this. Maureen and her team arrived on the scene where a child had been attacked by a crocodile after entering crocodile-inhabited waters. Regrettably, the child was already dead by the time the RRU arrived. Understandably, tensions were high, and some community members believed the response team was somehow to blame. Some individuals attempted to attack the team, but they were prevented only by their chief's intervention, as he explained that the team was there to help and educate. In another incident, a lion killed a community member's cow, sparking anger and demands for retaliation. Maureen stepped in to calm tensions while guiding a response that protected both the community and wildlife conservation efforts.

Moments like these require courage and diplomacy, and Maureen is well placed to handle them. With decades of anti-poaching work, a strong understanding of wildlife, and as a member of the community herself, she's able to empathise with people and understand the challenges of living alongside wildlife in rural areas.

While some communities have embraced the RRU's message and are learning to live safely alongside wildlife, progress is slower in areas where people remain



resistant, but the work continues nonetheless.

But long before community resistance, Maureen faced opposition from family, friends and community members who did not support her decision to become a scout, fearing for her safety and future prospects. Some of their concerns were valid; she could face retaliation if she worked to curb unregulated bushmeat consumption. She was also warned that she could be killed or even bewitched, mishandle her rifle and endanger herself and those around her. She was told that, with a job in conservation, she would become an aggressive woman who could never get married or have children. Maureen ignored these warnings and has proven them wrong. She's now a wife and mother to three children, all of whom she and her husband are putting through school. While Maureen was forced to leave school after Grade 9, this is not a concern for her own children.

Spending long stretches away from home, she has developed systems to ensure her family and responsibilities run smoothly when she is away. She also relies on friends and credits her husband with being a supportive and active parent.

Today, she remains resilient and strong, keeping pace with younger recruits and mentoring many who want to follow in her path. In places like Mfuwe, wildlife and humans have no choice but to coexist. Therefore, finding ways to live peacefully alongside one another is essential, and Maureen has worked towards this throughout her 20-year career.

When asked what she wants her legacy to be, she says she simply wants to be remembered as someone who helped communities understand the importance of wildlife and how to coexist with it.





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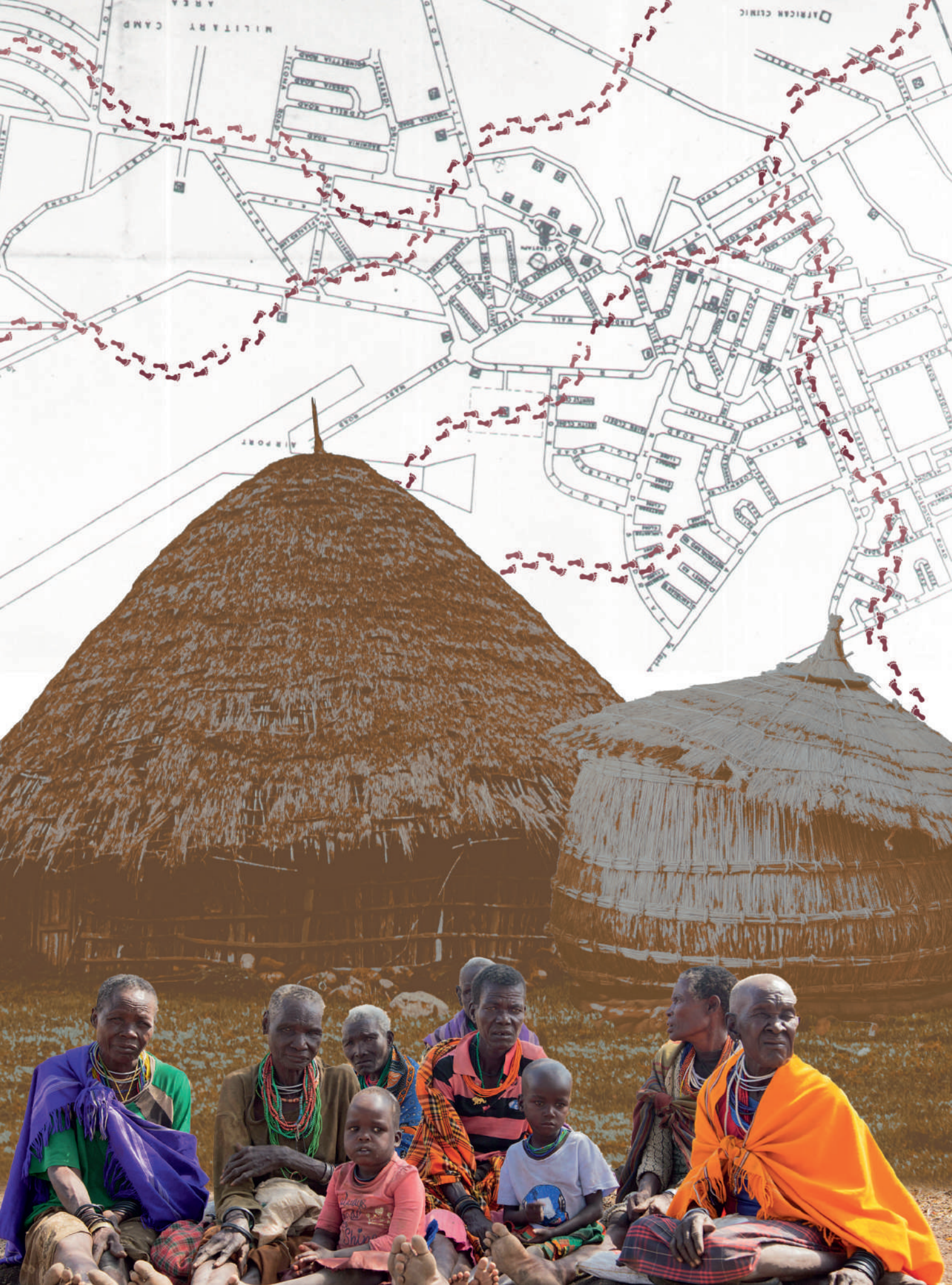
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Stroke Ten, Stroke One

THE GEOGRAPHY OF BELONGING

In Zambia, identity is both personal and geographic, traced through systems like the NRC that quietly maps origin and belonging. Beneath this lies a deeper history of movement; migration, kinship, and exchange that predates colonial borders. Traditions, languages, and cultural rhythms reveal a continent shaped not by fixed lines, but by continuity and adaptation. As modern boundaries attempt to contain fluid identities, the past lingers, reminding us that African identity has always been expansive, interconnected, and in motion.

Words by Mukandi Siame, illustrations by Macdonald Moyo

"Wait, your number is different from mine."

"Really? What's yours?"

"I am a stroke ten. Stroke one."

"Oh yeah. I am a sixteen stroke one."

This is our code of citizenship.

In Zambia, the National Registration Card (NRC) does more than identify; it locates. The first set of numbers is personal, but the second set marks our district of origin. My friend and I shared a desk in high school, ate in the same dining hall and walked the same streets. But when he turned sixteen, his father took him to a district office in Kabwe to register, and when my turn came, my

mother took me to Lusaka. We have the same card with a stiff green-grey photograph, but our origins are not the same.

Lusaka myopia closes off the mind to other realities. Realities where full lives exist outside the path set out by the capital city. As a child, I thought all trains ran at 17 hours, just because I always heard the *choo-choo* after school.

My parents were /46/1 and /61/1. Two districts. Two geographies. Two genealogies colliding in a pre-Internet Zambia with no algorithms to engineer romance. They met at the office in Lusaka. How did a /46 meet a /61 and find enough in common to build a family?

The answer begins with the original.

000001/11/1 - The First Stroke

The very first National Registration Card was issued to Kenneth Kaunda in 1965. Northern Rhodesia was no more. Zambia was coming into form, and 11 marked Lusaka District. The final 1 marked nationality and the bureaucratic poetry of unity: One Zambia, One Nation.

Under Kaunda's philosophy of Humanism, unity was not just a slogan but a policy. National Youth Service programs of the 70s sent young people across provinces. Civil duty, multilingual education, and inter-tribal relations reflected the unity and industry in our coat of arms. The NRC, for all its unifying ambition, also revealed something deeper: our history was interwoven. The first architects of this region were not colonial cartographers. They were migratory communities.

"African societies were dynamic and capable of change, innovation and adaptation long before their contact with Europe." Ogot, *Africa from the Sixteenth to the Eighteenth Century* (UNESCO General History of Africa, Vol. V, 1992)

The Bantu migrations are often described in school textbooks as an abstract, primitive push in search of land with no beauty or reason. However, historians such as Jan Vansina and Bethwell Allan Ogot have shown that Bantu migrations were not chaotic in nature. They were structured, technological, and socially sophisticated processes unfolding over centuries. Kuomboka, when the Lozi king moves from floodplains to higher ground, is a choreography born of ecological intelligence. Ncwala among the Ngoni marks harvest cycles and migration tied to collective survival. Yes, there was conquest, but there was also innovation, education and a rhythm with nature. Their movements show a deep understanding of terrain, distance, geographic precision, and an adaptation that ensured their crops and livestock remained productive enough to sustain generations.

When some people look at the map of Zambia, they see a butterfly, but I see two palms, open and inviting. Before she was known as a land of war-fleeing people, Zambia was magnetic and abundant with potential.

Beginning around 1000 BCE, Bantu-speaking communities gradually moved from West-Central Africa into the eastern and southern regions of the land. They carried iron-working technologies,

agricultural systems, livestock practices, and intricate kinship models. Their movement was not displacement, nor leisure; it was a kinetic philosophy.

In *African Religions and Philosophy* (1969), anthropologist John Mbiti explores travel and movement, and emphasises that in many African cosmologies, the community includes the living, the dead, and the unborn. Migration, then, was not rupture but continuity. A village did not vanish when it moved; it replicated itself.

Trace a line on the map from the Congo Basin through Zambia and into northern Namibia, and another from Zambia through Zimbabwe into Zululand, and you will find language echoes of this invisible trail. The linguist Malcolm Guthrie classified Bantu languages into zones not by modern borders but by structural kinship. Noun classes repeat. Grammatical rhythms mirror each other. Words for cattle, home, ancestor, and child resonate across geography.

Language is a fossil record of migration. But what if there is more?

The Second Stroke

"Umwana ushenda atasha ba nyina ukwipika" — Bemba Proverb.

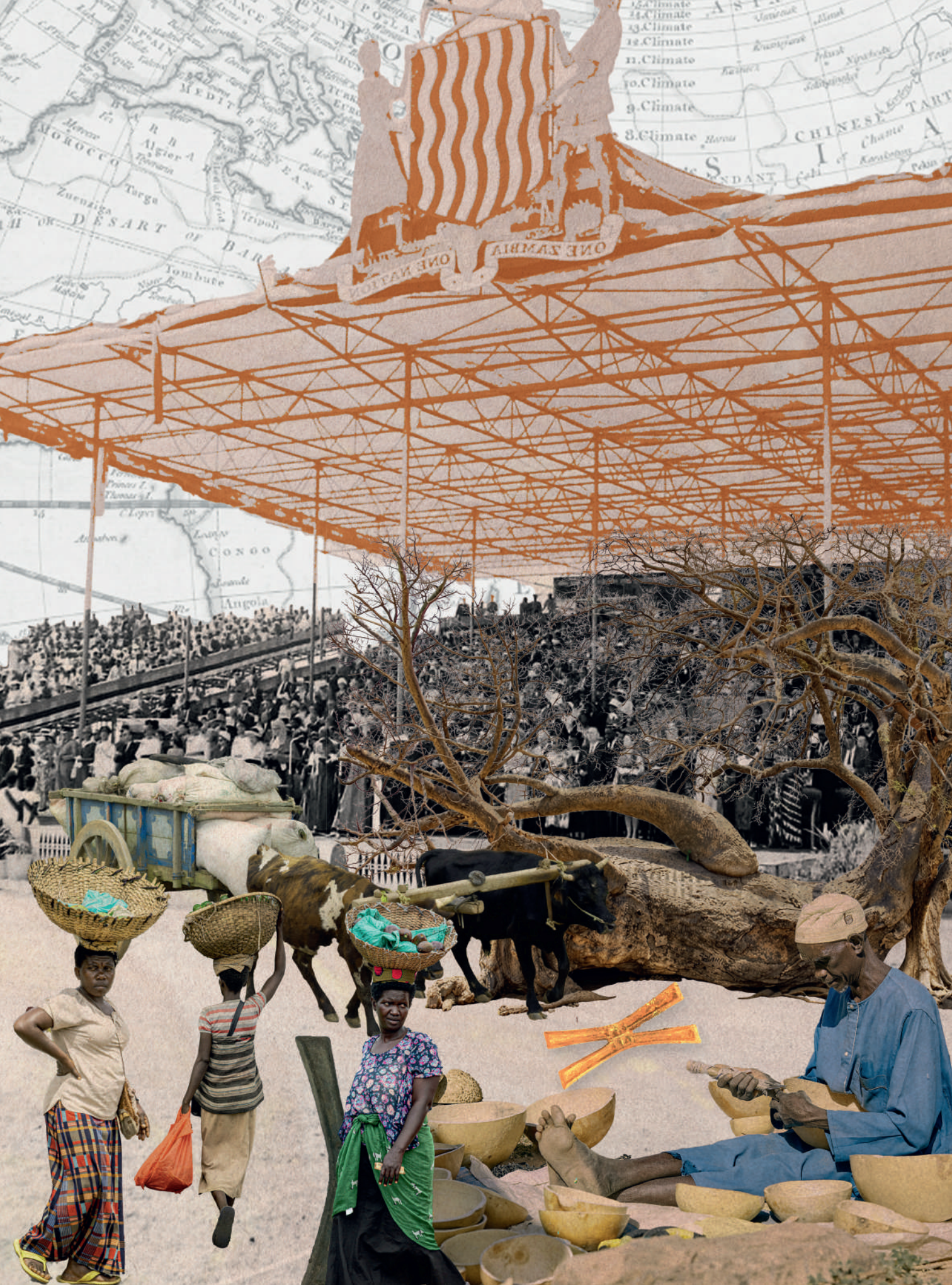
[Translation: A child that never travels thinks his mother is the best cook.]

The Berlin Conference of 1884 was held before Kenneth Kaunda took his first breath. Before the concept of Zambia, they divided the continent into shapes that suited their ambitions. They accounted for African mineral resources but not for Africa's songs, drinks, stories, hobbies, and kinship. Our fluid borders froze. African identity is fundamentally circulatory rather than territorial. Long before passports, kinship flowed with purpose across what are now borders.

The Scramble for Africa was only possible because the people of the continent were dehumanised and commodified. There is a hidden irony in the idea of the 'effective occupation' of Africa. Today, many Zambians have mixed origins. Our blood is a record of when Europe touched our continent. Our food and fashion show how Arabs brought us spices, and how the Dutch colonised Indonesia and converted *batik* into our *chitenge*. The maize from the Americas and the British bread and tea culture are now our staples.

Northern Zambia borders the Nyamwezi people of present-day Tanzania, an 18th-century community known for travelling by moonlight. These moon caravanners

Zambia's National Registration Card encodes geographic identity, with specific digits indicating a person's district and province of origin, linking identity directly to place.





are described as expert navigators and agriculturalists who moved with precision across East and Central Africa, evolving their language and skills as they adapted. They are a spotlight on African leadership before conquest, and Nyamwezi rulers like Mirambo contended with Arab-Swahili traders, German colonisers, and later British colonial rulers.

African communities like the Nyamwezi show a flair for movement that one could call tourism, diplomacy and exploration. Whatever it was, it was definitely beyond the tourism of safari brochures.

Modern-day Zambians are not known for travel. Aside from assumptions about our timid nature, the green Zambian passport cannot wander as freely as the navy-blue passport of England. African nations are frozen in contradictory geographical maps that do not reflect their identities. In the border towns, green NRC holders often speak a little French, a little Arabic, a little German, and a little Portuguese because language never forgets.

But time is not a healer; it is a judge.

The Last

As a /10/1, Lusaka is all I have ever known. I stomp around the city without Google Maps, I haggle no matter the price, and I feel everything but fear. As a child, travelling north to my paternal grandparents and south to my maternal grandmother, I felt only fear. Good behaviour on the holiday trip was compulsory. Our father forced us into leather jackets and never let us open the windows. We would arrive, so sweaty that our skin was smooth, but so relieved to be free on the loamy, well-swept soil of our grandparents' land. My grandparents could not speak English, but for us, they tried. Love is more effective than Duolingo. Ruth, my maternal grandmother, was 'properly' educated by the missionaries of the 1930s and went on endless rants about William Shakespeare. She saw me. Without the fog of discipline, grandparents have the generational advantage of seeing mischief as creativity, curiosity as intelligence, and hard-headedness as leadership. They also have a closer memory of our true origins and the gift of foresight. They know where we are going because they know where we are from.

Today, my grandparents and my father are all dead. I am happy to report that I travel with the windows down and I do not own a leather jacket. My car is one of the thousands cruising by. I feel where old colonial roads meet new dual

carriageways. Abercorn is now Mbala, Broken Hill is Kabwe, but some parts of Mansa still say Fort Rosebery, some parts of Chililabombwe still whisper Bancroft. Whenever I can, I stop to drink water out of a gourd and sit in the cool of a hut. I wonder if the opposite is true: are there any parts of Britain, Europe or the Arab world that still carry the scars of *The Scramble*?

Travel is true isolation. It forces us to decide what to carry and what to leave behind. Our ancestors knew this. I am a practical packer; I only carry what I need. In the long hours of travel, I find the luxury of spending time on small talk, movies, and books I never have the attention span for. This is the same luxury I imagine turned my ancestors into songwriters and storytellers. I read *Hamlet* to build my own conclusions. In the anonymity of being one in a crowd, I discover that I am only extroverted around my loved ones. I eat only once, I wear grey and fade into the background as I watch the world. To travel is to find the true self.

Outside of my beloved home, Lusaka, I find fear. Fear of not having enough, fear of getting scammed, fear of going the wrong direction. Google Maps stays open. I recite my details over and over in case I lose my papers. Presenting my paperwork simplifies me to /10/1. I am not what I do or who I have become; I am where I am from. Travel builds empathy for everyone who has migrated out of need, not want.

I am embarrassed that I have seen Dubai, yet I have not seen the source of the Zambezi. As war looms over our world, those are the facts that give rise to regret. The impermanence of our global identity makes every travel choice an important one. Some people have made homes of the places they were when COVID-19 struck. If the world ended, is this where I would want to be?

I am not ready for the end of the world. On paper, I am /10/1. Lusaka. One nation. But the roads I have travelled, the languages I have heard, and the migrations that carried my ancestors here suggest something else entirely. A number can mark where you began. It cannot contain where you are going.

There is so much of this world to see. But above it all, I want to do it because of what it will reveal about me. People are the places they have been, and right now, you can taste the Zambezi on my skin.

The NRC system was introduced in 1965, with the first card issued to Kenneth Kaunda, symbolising national unity through structured identification.

YOUR TIME. YOUR SEAT. YOUR AFRICA.

Komba Malukutilla is
building C-Suite Africa.
By Chelsea Chomba.

"I'll never forget what it feels like to be on the other side of a life changing door just waiting for it to burst open. I reflect on that feeling daily." That was Komba's response to the question, "Why?" Why Zambia, why young people and why now?

We sat down with Komba, armed with questions about his latest exploration; building what he refers to as "the future LinkedIn of Africa." A truly bold ambition, but we recognize that the best ideas do not result from ambition alone, but often also from necessity.



Komba Malukutilla
Founder, C-Suite Africa.
CEO, MTN Fintech Zambia

Komba agrees.

"We are living in a time where education has evolved to take up forms that it never did in the past. Although they still have their place, degrees and formal qualifications are hardly the only ticket for entry. Skills are now at the fingertips of some of the brightest young minds on the internet and people can now learn various levels of craftsmanship without ever stepping into a classroom. However, after all is said and done, what remains is the chance to prove that knowledge the way an exam would have. To be given the opportunity to prove oneself on the battlefield of the industrial world. I'm building C-Suite Africa to be the answer to just that. A platform that gives the highest potential in the country and eventually the continent a chance at a chance!"

Indeed, Africa is a thriving metropolis for some of the most colourful talent the world has ever seen. With the youngest population on the globe, it would not be a far cry from the truth to state that the continent currently incubates the young men and women set to be the world's biggest movers and shakers. Komba would know, considering how he has for a long time been recognized as one of Zambia's youngest and most vibrant CEOs.

"My journey has not been one without its struggles. I would never sit here and say that talent and hard work alone got me to the helm of the C-Suite. The truth is, I was chosen. Not only by who mattered, but also when it mattered. I was given the chance to lead and make decisions when those selecting could not be sure if I could. All that remained was for me to prove myself in that moment and thank goodness I did. So C-Suite is meant to be a convening of both worlds. Those that already sit at the table, and those that are next in line."

Truly, the question will always stand; where do Africa's next leaders go to become what they are meant to be? For years, the answer has been fragmented. Talent has existed. Vision has existed. Even opportunity, in moments, has existed. But the bridge and the intentional connection between emerging leaders and those already shaping industries has often been missing.

C-Suite Africa is set to be that bridge.



C-SUITE

THE NEXTGEN LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2026

Leadership, Its Price and Weight.

Komba currently serves as CEO of one of the country's fastest growing fintechs, MTN MoMo. He is not unfamiliar with leadership. As a corporate executive operating at the highest levels of business, he has seen firsthand what it takes to lead institutions and carry the responsibility of influence. Which is why he understands how one's proximity to power brings clarity and confidence. So, he is building the stage for it all to take place, beginning with a summit set to take place right at the beginning of Zambia's friendly winter.

"At the moment C-Suite Africa begins as a well curated summit. Carried over the course of three days, this summit is set to change how those that are aspiring and ambitious attend conferences."

A Summit, but Also A Launchpad

Granted, at first glance, the C-Suite Africa Summit 2026 is an event. A gathering of executives, founders, policymakers, and emerging leaders in one room. But to understand it only as an event is to miss the point entirely. It is a deliberate convergence. A carefully curated space where hierarchy will soften and allow for access and conversation. The structure of the summit itself reflects this intention.

It begins on the 22nd of May with an exclusive dinner. An intimate, and intentional gathering reserved for speakers, and key stakeholders. Co-hosted by one of Africa's most prestigious wineries, Quoin Rock, it is here, before the stage and the spotlight, that relationships will begin.



On the 23rd of May, the summit unfolds. It promises to be a layered experience filled with depth and keynotes that challenge the audience, along with panels that interrogate, forcing a moment of reflection. The agenda set is aimed at being focused on how the younger generation can recognize that their time is now, whilst the older generation take up the mantle and clear the path for them. Too often, knowledge remains locked within institutions, passed informally, or lost between generations. Experience sits at the top, while energy builds at the bottom, with very little structured

interaction between the two. The C-Suite Africa NextGen Summit is set to disrupt that pattern.

But it is not a one-sided exchange.

The established leaders in the room are equally transformed. They will be exposed to new ways of thinking, new models of innovation, and the raw, unfiltered ambition of a generation that refuses to wait. It is not mentorship in the traditional sense.

It is mutual ignition.

And then, almost symbolically, it ends not with a closing, but with a continuation.

A golf day on the 24th. A slower, quieter space where the conversations deepen, and connections move on with more intention. These three days will be Zambia's introduction to the C-Suite ecosystem.

An African LinkedIn, Reimagined

Beyond the summit, the vision stretches further. C-Suite Africa is meant to evolve into something far more enduring; a platform that connects.

"Its certainly meant to outgrow me. I'm hardly the center of it. It's going to be a living, breathing network designed to connect Africa's youth to leaders across industries, geographies, and generations. I envision it to be an active ecosystem for opportunity and continue to build it as such." Komba pointed out.

In many ways, C-Suite Africa is set to be like what LinkedIn represents globally except grounded in African context, African realities, and African ambition.

The Room That Was Built

There is a line Komba often returns to:

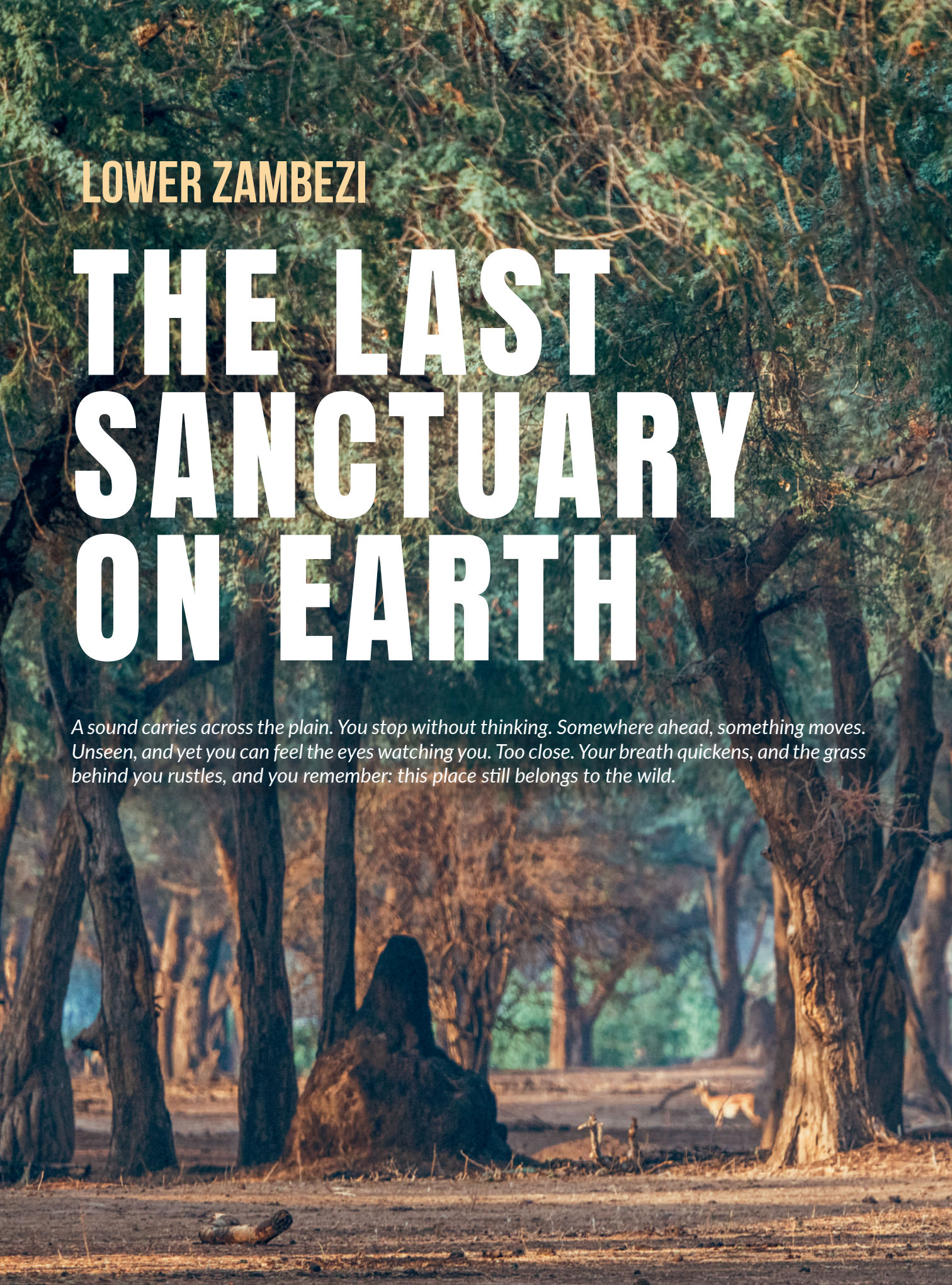
"We built the room."

It is both a declaration and an invitation. Because for years, many have stood outside rooms, waiting to be invited in and hoping to be seen and heard as they try to find entry. This reality can grind away at a young spirit and kill ambition, C-Suite Africa as it grows into a well established platform will grow to remove that uncertainty. It will empower those looking to be filled with power, and relieve those with an overspill of knowledge to share.

"Africa's future will not be built by those watching from the sidelines. No great civilization ever was. Progress and development is built, especially in this day and age, by those that dare to connect. Not only to receive, but also to give. That is what I am building C-Suite Africa to be. More than just a summit, or an app, but as a beginning. The beginning of a brighter future for one deserving of one."

Perhaps, as Komba puts it, that is what this is really about. Not just a summit. Not just a platform, but a moment.

A moment where Africa stops asking for permission to lead and simply begins to lead. Zambia, Africa, this is Komba's official invitation to you. After all, this is your time, your seat, your Africa.

A full-page background image of a savanna landscape. In the foreground, there's a dark, textured ground with a small, dark, rounded object (possibly a rock or a small animal) lying on it. Several large, mature trees with thick, gnarled trunks and dense green foliage are scattered across the scene. In the mid-ground, a small, light-colored animal, possibly a gazelle or a similar savanna creature, is visible running or standing among the trees. The lighting suggests a warm, golden hour, with long shadows and a soft glow filtering through the leaves.

LOWER ZAMBEZI

THE LAST SANCTUARY ON EARTH

A sound carries across the plain. You stop without thinking. Somewhere ahead, something moves. Unseen, and yet you can feel the eyes watching you. Too close. Your breath quickens, and the grass behind you rustles, and you remember: this place still belongs to the wild.



Words and images by Rachel Rebibo



Lower Zambezi National Park spans 4,000 square kilometres and was once a private reserve, which helped preserve its wilderness and left it quieter than many better-known safari destinations.

A lion's roar echoes through the forest, reverberating in my chest. It's close—too close. I'm squatting behind a termite mound answering nature's call when I hear it. I look around, searching, and then my eyes fall on Blackie's head, his shaggy mane cresting the top of a tuft of adrenaline grass. He is less than six metres away from me.

I whisper a curse under my breath. We scanned the area fully before I got out of the vehicle, but he's lounging in a dry riverbed and is very easy to miss. He bellows again, loud and deep, waiting for his brother to answer.





I realise he hasn't seen me yet; I'm equidistant between him and the vehicle, but he's looking for Blondie, who still hasn't replied.

I get up slowly, very slowly, and begin backing away from him towards the vehicle. He's calling over and over, stopping occasionally to pant, and I can see drool dripping off his canines. I hear another call to my left and freeze: Blondie has answered, and he's coming closer. I keep backing up, jumping into the vehicle just as Blackie stands and looks right at me. Blondie emerges from the thicket, and they greet each other with head bumps.

I ended up in Lower Zambezi serendipitously. My first visit to the Zambezi Valley was actually in 2020 at the height of the pandemic. I found myself completely alone with a skeleton crew at a camp in Mana Pools National Park, Zimbabwe. The backdrop of the towering escarpment across the

Unlike most trees, winterthorn sheds leaves during the rainy season and grows them in the dry season, offering rare green forage when surrounding vegetation is sparse.

river on the Zambian side, paired with light pooling in the Blue Forest, made for a truly exceptional photographic setting. At the time, I thought it was the most breathtakingly wild place I had ever seen. One year later, I was invited to visit the Zambian side of the Valley—Lower Zambezi National Park. I had never heard of it; Zambia would be new territory.

After a 30-minute flight over the Zambezi River, we landed at Jeki Airstrip. It was red dirt with a small hut, inside which sat a scout from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW). It was October, and hot as hell, 38 degrees Celsius at 8:30 am. I saw a herd of elephants walking single file across the

plains, red dust kicking up from their feet. As we made our way through the forest, I noticed right away that it was much denser than Mana Pools, shafts of light streaming through the gaps in the canopy, elephants meandering slowly to pick up fallen pods from the winterthorn trees. Waterbuck and kudu were scattered throughout, peering back at me. It was then and there that I fell deeply in love with this place.

I spent one week in Lower Zambezi on that trip. Just six months later, I left my home in Paris, moved to Zambia, and took a job in the park.

The majority of my photographic work in Lower Zambezi tells the story of the winterthorn forests of Kulefu, a region on the far eastern end of the park named for the Kulefu Channel. Kulefu, “The Far Away Place,” is home to a verdant landscape of trees, flowing channels, and the Chakwenga plains, where game density is exceptionally high.

It is a complex ecosystem with shifting dynamics, and it is here that Lower Zambezi’s most dramatic stories unfolded before my lens. It is the area I have always been most drawn to, where light cascades through twisting branches, tufts of suicide grass create

The Lower Zambezi allows canoe safaris, where travellers drift silently past elephants and hippos, experiencing wildlife at water level rather than from traditional vehicles.







The Lower Zambezi shares an unfenced boundary with Mana Pools across the river, allowing animals to move freely between Zambia and Zimbabwe within a seamless transboundary ecosystem.

clusters for cover, and elephant trunks reach to the treetops in search of pods.

It is here in Kulefu that the evolving stories of a cast of leopards, a pride of lions and a pack of painted dogs continue to this day. As I write this in 2025, the Kulefu Pride is thriving for the first time in almost six years. Mai and her daughters have separated and spread out. Big Tom and Handsome seem to tolerate yet avoid each other in a small territory.

The Jeki pack grew to 46, split into two and hunted buffalo all the while. Cubs have been born, debuted to the world, played, tumbled and died...sometimes without explanation. 2024's drought brought unexpected changes to the area: the once-flowing channels, ever-present through the height of the dry season, lost their last drops of water, transforming into barren mud pits. Long Pool's water-hyacinth-covered surface, which had welcomed hippos, birds and elephants year after year, dried up in its entirety. Just now, the water has begun to flow again, but it

will take several years of plentiful rain for it to fill to its former glory.

Throughout these changes, I have had the privilege of photographing many individual animals over the past four-plus years, watching them change and grow. It's very difficult for me to describe in words what makes Lower Zambezi so special. I hope that my photographs will somewhat do it justice; however, nothing compares to watching the sun pierce through the forest, washing everything in a golden-orange glow.

We are warned not to anthropomorphise wild animals, not to project our feelings onto them, and rightly so. While they do not share the human characteristics we often search for, they do very much think, feel and have personalities. They respond to pressure, absence, abundance and loss in ways that become legible only over time. Their stories are far more captivating than any adventure penned by human hands.

*Adapted from **Finding the Light: Exploring the Enchanted Forests of Lower Zambezi National Park, Zambia**, by Lusaka-based photographer Rachel Rebibo.*

Despite its richness, Lower Zambezi remains relatively uncrowded, with no paved roads and limited access, preserving a slower, more intimate safari rhythm rarely found elsewhere today.



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126. FLIGHT SCHEDULE • 128. NEWS • 134. STAFF PICKS • 136. FLEET • 138. FAQ



128

NEWS

Proflight Zambia's transition to cashless payments is more than a service upgrade; it is a step towards a faster, safer, and more efficient travel experience.

LUSAKA - JOHANNESBURG

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
020	08:15	10:15	●	●			●	●	●
024	11:00	13:00	●		●	●	●	●	●

NDOLA - JOHANNESBURG (VIA LUSAKA)

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
311/020	06:30	10:15	●	●			●	●	●
303/024	09:10	13:00	●		●	●	●	●	●

LUSAKA - CAPE TOWN (NO MON/WED FLIGHTS 02MAY-13JUN)

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
050	07:15	11:40	●		●			●	

LIVINGSTONE - CAPE TOWN (NO MON/WED FLIGHTS 02MAY-13JUN)

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
050	08:40	11:40	●		●			●	

LUSAKA - LIVINGSTONE

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
700 (MAY)	06:55	08:05		●					
700 (JUN)	06:55	08:05		●			●		
074	09:10	10:20		●		●		●	
704	10:35	11:45	●		●	●	●	●	●
708 (MAY)	16:35	17:45		●		●	●	●	●
708 (JUN)	16:35	17:45	●	●	●	●		●	●

LUSAKA - SOLWEZI

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
930	06:30	07:25		●	●		●		
910	06:40	07:50							●
910	06:50	07:45	●			●		●	
946	15:20	17:05		●	●	●	●		
918	15:45	16:55						●	
918	16:05	17:00	●						●

LUSAKA - KALUMBILA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
930	06:30	08:15		●	●		●		
950	06:30	07:45	●			●		●	
946	15:20	16:15		●	●	●	●		
956	15:40	16:55	●						●

JOHANNESBURG - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
023	12:00	14:00	●	●			●	●	●
025	14:00	16:00	●		●	●	●	●	●

JOHANNESBURG - NDOLA (VIA LUSAKA)

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
025/308	14:00	18:10	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

CAPE TOWN - LUSAKA (NO MON/WED FLIGHTS 02MAY-13JUN)

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
051	12:35	16:50	●		●			●	

CAPE TOWN - LIVINGSTONE (NO MON/WED FLIGHTS 02MAY-13JUN)

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
051	12:35	15:25	●		●			●	

LIVINGSTONE - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
701 (MAY)	08:40	09:50		●					
701 (JUN)	12:20	13:30		●			●		
705	12:20	13:30	●		●	●	●	●	●
075	14:15	15:25		●		●		●	
709 (MAY)	18:20	19:30		●		●	●	●	●
709 (JUN)	18:20	19:30	●	●	●	●		●	●

SOLWEZI - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
901	06:25	07:20					●		
930	07:50	09:35		●	●		●		
911	08:15	09:10	●		●			●	
911	08:25	09:35							●
946	17:30	18:25		●	●	●	●		
919	17:30	18:25	●					●	●

KALUMBILA - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
930	08:40	09:35		●	●		●		
951	08:15	09:10	●			●	●	●	
946	16:40	18:25		●	●	●	●		
957	17:30	18:45	●						●

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LUSAKA - NDOLA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
310	05:15	06:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
302	07:50	08:35	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
334	10:15	11:00		●	●	●		●	
304	11:30	12:15	●				●		
304	12:20	13:05							●
306	14:00	14:45	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
308	17:30	18:10	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

LUSAKA - MFUWE

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
800 (MAY)	06:55	08:05						●	
800 (JUN)	06:55	08:05	●				●		
804 (MAY)	10:35	11:45	●	●				●	●
804 (JUN)	10:35	11:45		●	●	●	●	●	●
808 (MAY)	16:35	17:45		●	●	●	●	●	●

LUSAKA - KASAMA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
440	07:55	09:30							●
444	10:45	12:20		●		●			

LUSAKA - MANSA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
402	07:50	09:05	●				●		
334	10:15	12:05		●	●	●		●	

NDOLA - MANSA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
334	11:25	12:05		●	●	●		●	

LUSAKA - WINDHOEK

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
062	08:30	11:35		●			●		●

LIVINGSTONE - WINDHOEK

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
062	09:55	11:35		●			●		●

LUSAKA - MAUN

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
074	09:10	12:00		●		●		●	

LIVINGSTONE - MAUN

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
074	11:05	12:00		●		●		●	

NDOLA - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
311	06:30	07:15	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
303	09:10	09:55	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
305	12:45	13:30	●				●		
305	13:40	14:25							●
335	13:45	14:30		●	●	●		●	
307	15:15	16:00	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
309	18:40	19:20	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

MFUWE - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
801 (MAY)	08:40	09:50					●		
801 (JUN)	08:40	09:50	●				●		
805 (MAY)	12:20	13:30	●	●				●	●
805 (JUN)	12:20	13:30		●	●	●	●	●	●
809 (MAY)	18:20	19:30		●	●	●	●	●	●
809 (JUN)	18:20	19:30	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

KASAMA - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
441	10:05	11:40							●
445	12:50	14:25		●		●			

MANSA - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
403	09:40	10:55	●				●		
335	12:40	14:30		●	●	●		●	

MANSA - NDOLA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
335	12:40	13:20		●	●	●		●	

WINDHOEK - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
063	12:20	15:20		●			●		●

WINDHOEK - LIVINGSTONE

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
063	12:20	13:55		●			●		●

MAUN - LUSAKA

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
075	12:35	15:25		●		●		●	

MAUN - LIVINGSTONE

#	DEP	ARR	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
075	12:35	13:30		●		●		●	

*Please check our website, www.flyzambia.com, for updated departure days and times.

Enhancing Efficiency, Security, and Passenger Convenience

PROFLIGHT ZAMBIA GOES CASHLESS



As Zambia advances towards a modern, digitally enabled economy, businesses across key sectors are rethinking how they deliver services, improve efficiency, and build trust with consumers. In aviation, where safety, precision, and time are paramount, digital transformation is no longer optional; it is essential.

Proflight Zambia's rollout of cashless payments, introduced in November 2025, represents more than a service upgrade. It reflects a deliberate move towards safer, faster, and more efficient transactions, while supporting Zambia's broader transition to a cashless economy.

Proflight Zambia's Director of Flight Operations, Captain Josias Walubita, highlights both customer and operational benefits of digital payments: "Going cashless strengthens the airline's operations, enhances service excellence, and maintains a secure operating environment. At the same time, our customers enjoy greater convenience when paying for flights and services, with Proflight Zambia accepting card payments, as well as mobile money platforms, bank deposits, and other approved digital options."

The initiative also highlights the airline's role in supporting Zambia's evolving financial ecosystem. As digital payments

become increasingly embedded in everyday life, from mobile money to card-based transactions, aviation must keep pace with customer expectations and regional standards.

"This move to cashless payments complements a wider strategy centred on innovation, service excellence, and governance. It sits alongside ongoing network expansion, industry recognition, and adherence to globally recognised aviation standards," added Captain Walubita.

By enabling passengers to pay for services using digital methods, the airline streamlines operations, enhances security, reduces fraud risks, and delivers a faster, more seamless experience. The initiative also aligns with the Bank of Zambia's policy to promote a cashless economy, as well as international best practices in the aviation and travel industry.

The result is a smoother journey for passengers, with quicker service delivery and reduced administrative complexity. In an industry built on connectivity, Proflight Zambia's cashless transition demonstrates how aviation can act as a catalyst for economic modernisation, linking people, markets, and ideas through efficient, secure, and future-ready systems.

----- Operated by ProCharter



SADC's New Three-City Business and Tourism Corridor

LUSAKA-LIVINGSTONE-WINDHOEK SERVICE LAUNCHED



Proflight Zambia has officially launched its new Lusaka–Livingstone–Windhoek service, establishing a vital three-city corridor to enhance regional connectivity, economic integration, and tourism in Southern Africa.

The new route directly links Zambia and Namibia while offering seamless same-day connections across Lusaka, Livingstone, and Windhoek, creating a three-city corridor that supports business, tourism, and investment.

Over the years, Southern Africa has emphasised the importance of sustainable and integrated air transport. At the recent Airlines Association of Southern Africa (AASA) Annual General Assembly, aviation leaders highlighted the need for stronger connectivity, operational excellence, and collaboration between airlines, regulators, and governments.

Present at the launch, the guest of honour and Minister of Transport and Logistics, Hon. Frank Museba Tayali, stated: “You all know that it has been a long aspiration of our government to make Zambia a transport and logistics hub. Certainly, in the aviation sector, our country is well positioned within the region, enabling us to serve as a connectivity hub. And so, to see this day come to light when the private sector, through Proflight Zambia, is taking that step, the quantum leap to make it possible to achieve regional connectivity. I think that is something that sits well with the Zambian government's aspiration.”

Deputy Minister of International Relations and Trade, Hon. Jannely Matundu, added, “This outstanding achievement lies not only in the launch of exciting new routes, but also in strengthened

regional integration, economic competitiveness, and aviation productivity between Namibia and Zambia and the broader Southern African region. With this new and necessary service, we enhance air connectivity between member countries and key tourism and business destinations. Today's routes reflect a collective commitment to the African Continental Free Trade Area's objective, particularly in reducing logistical barriers and strengthening regional supply chains. For Namibia, this connection deepens our strategic ties with Zambia.”

The Lusaka–Windhoek and Livingstone–Windhoek services are more than just flights; they create a vital link between two vibrant economies. Namibia remains a strategic partner, and these routes strengthen trade, business, and cultural linkages while reducing travel time for entrepreneurs, investors, and tourists.

“We're really pleased that Proflight Zambia could take that challenge to fly to Windhoek. I really want to assure you that we are going to support this flight. We are going to make sure that we market it in Namibia as well for it to become successful,” added Namibian Ambassador to Zambia, Goms Menette.

Flights on the new service operate three times weekly—Tuesdays, Fridays, and Sundays. Departures from Lusaka are at 08:30 and from Livingstone at 09:55, arriving in Windhoek at 11:35. The return journey departs Windhoek at 12:20, landing in Livingstone at 13:55 and reaching Lusaka at 15:20. While the Livingstone–Windhoek leg is direct, the Lusaka–Windhoek route includes a 30-minute stop in Livingstone, during which passengers remain

on board and are served refreshments, including locally roasted Kasama coffee.

Operated on a 50-seat CRJ-200 jet, the schedule facilitates seamless same-day connections into Proflight Zambia's broader network, including Ndola in the Copperbelt, and links with 12 interline partners operating from Kenneth Kaunda International Airport.

"This corridor reflects Proflight Zambia's commitment to strategic, integrated aviation. By coordinating schedules, stopovers, and interline connections, we're making it easier for companies, MICE delegates, and tourists to travel efficiently across Southern Africa. It's about reliability, convenience, and building a network that truly supports regional growth," said Proflight Zambia Regional Manager Southern Africa, Mr Robert Gurr.

Safety and operational excellence remain at the heart of Proflight Zambia's operations. As the only IOSA-registered airline in Zambia and an IATA member, every flight meets internationally recognised safety and operational standards, giving passengers confidence and peace of mind while travelling across the region.

The three-city service opens doors for combined Zambia-Namibia tourism circuits, enabling travellers to experience iconic destinations such as Victoria Falls, the Lower Zambezi and South Luangwa National Parks, Etosha National Park, the Namib Desert, and the Skeleton Coast. Economically, the route facilitates trade, investment, and professional exchange, while reinforcing Lusaka's role as a strategic Southern African business hub.

"This is as it should be. I think that it is a step in the right direction. We all know that Proflight Zambia is flying into Cape

Town. Now we are getting into Windhoek. It is slowly creating the picture that ultimately, we shall achieve that regional connectivity that is extremely important in order to help our people. Zambians must step out and see the tourism in Namibia. Namibians ought to come and appreciate Zambia's tourism. And it is steps such as this that will enable this to become possible," added Hon. Tayali.

Proflight Zambia looks forward to seeing this route thrive as a vital link for travellers, businesses, and partners across the region.



Proflight Zambia Celebrates Partnerships and Industry Growth

TRAVEL AGENTS TAKE CENTRE STAGE



Proflight Zambia hosted top travel agents to celebrate their partnerships and discuss the future of aviation in Zambia and the region.

Travel agents from Lusaka and Ndola were recently engaged by Proflight Zambia for a structured product presentation, networking session, and awards ceremony recognising top-performing partners. The gatherings also served as a celebratory occasion following the successful launch of Proflight Zambia's Windhoek route, a milestone that strengthens regional connectivity between Zambia and Namibia.

For Proflight Zambia, the engagement events held in Lusaka and the Copperbelt were an opportunity to reaffirm the airline's long-standing relationship with the travel partners who play a crucial role in connecting travellers to destinations across Zambia and the region.

Speaking during the event in Lusaka, Proflight Zambia's Director of Flight Operations, Captain Josias Walubita, emphasised the central role of travel agents in the growth of the aviation sector. "Zambia's aviation industry has evolved significantly over the years, and travel agents have been instrumental in that journey," said Captain Walubita. "They are far more than distribution partners. They are trusted advisors to travellers, ambassadors for destinations, and an essential part of delivering a seamless passenger experience."

Captain Walubita noted that Proflight Zambia's operations are anchored on four core pillars: safety, reliability, efficiency, and friendly service. These principles also guide the regional airline's relationship with the travel sector and stakeholders.

"Operational excellence is not achieved by the airline alone," he added. "It is the result of strong partnerships across the entire travel ecosystem. Our travel agents help ensure passengers receive accurate information, personalised support, and a smooth journey from booking to arrival."

This year's event recognised the travel agents who have played a leading role in supporting Proflight Zambia's growth. Certificates were awarded to 25 travel agents in recognition of their outstanding performance, reflecting the collective contribution of partners across the country.

For the travel agents, the recognition highlighted a long-standing partnership with the airline and confidence in its continued expansion.

"Proflight Zambia has grown remarkably over the years, both in its route network and in the reliability and quality of service it offers travellers," said one of the attending agents. "As travel agents, we have seen firsthand how the airline continues to strengthen connectivity within Zambia and across the region. That growth makes it easier for us to confidently recommend Proflight Zambia to our clients."

With increasing regional connectivity and a growing focus on domestic travel, airlines and travel agents alike are playing a vital role in shaping the country's tourism and business mobility landscape.

As the aviation sector continues to evolve, one message from the engagement remained clear: while aircraft may carry passengers through the skies, it is the partnerships on the ground between airlines and travel agents that help make those journeys possible.



*Namib Desert

WELCOME TO NAMIBIA

Tuesday | Friday | Sunday

Lusaka - Windhoek* : 08:30 - 11:35

Livingstone - Windhoek : 09:55 - 11:35

Windhoek - Livingstone : 12:20 - 13:55

Windhoek - Lusaka* : 12:20 - 15:20

*The Lusaka - Windhoek route will include a brief 30 minute stopover in Livingstone, during which passengers will remain on board

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Bio

Name: Christabel Siulanda

Position: Senior Cabin

Crew/Evaluator

Years Served: 17 years

Hours in the Sky: 8,462

Favourite Drink: A

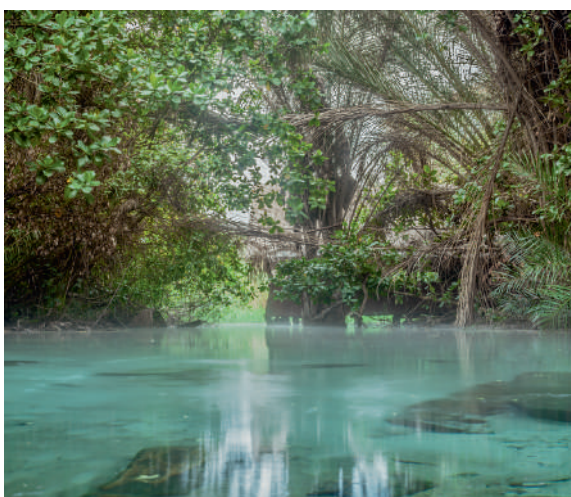
refreshing glass of
lemonade.

PARADISE FOUND AT KAPISHYA HOT SPRINGS

Just an hour-and-a-half flight from Lusaka, you will land at Kasama Airport, in the capital of Zambia's Northern Province. From here, an exhilarating three-hour drive via Mpika will lead you deep into Muchinga Province, near Shiwa Ng'andu, Zambia's famous 'English manor house' established in 1914 by Sir Stewart Gore-Browne. The drive itself is part of the experience; the landscape opens up gradually, the air changes, and you start to feel the city falling away behind you.

Thirty minutes further, you will discover paradise at Kapishya Hot Springs. A place of pure magic, with warm, crystal-clear waters in a peaceful forest setting, it holds a dear place in my heart as I spent many unforgettable moments swimming there with my children. There is something about slipping into naturally heated water surrounded by trees and birdsong that makes everything slow down in the best possible way. No timetable, no noise, just nature and the people I love.

For me, the best memories are made far from the noise of everyday city life, and Kapishya Hot Springs is truly one of Zambia's incredible hidden gems. I went there to relax, but it became so much more than that. You can stay at the lodge, enjoy the hot springs, visit nearby caves, hike or go birdwatching. There is always something to do, but honestly, doing nothing at all is just as rewarding. I would go back tomorrow if I could. If you have never been, put it on your list. Some places have a way of staying with you long after you leave, and Kapishya is one of them.



Did You Know?
The Kapishya Hot Springs maintain a constant warm temperature year-round, forming crystal-clear pools.



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PROFLIGHT ZAMBIA FLEET

BOMBARDIER CRJ-200



FLEET	LENGTH	WING SPAN	HEIGHT	FUEL CAPACITY	MAX ALTITUDE	SPEED	MAX PASSENGERS
5	26.77m	21.21m	20ft	6400kg	41000ft	682km/h	50

BOMBARDIER CRJ-100 PARCEL FREIGHTER



FLEET	LENGTH	WING SPAN	HEIGHT	FUEL CAPACITY	MAX ALTITUDE	SPEED	MAX CARGO
1	26.77m	21.21m	20ft	6400kg	41000ft	682km/h	6804kg

JETSTREAM 4100



FLEET	LENGTH	WING SPAN	HEIGHT	FUEL CAPACITY	MAX ALTITUDE	SPEED	MAX PASSENGERS
5	19.25m	18.29m	5.75ft	2600kg	25000ft	550km/h	29

TRAVEL TIPS

FLYING COMFORTABLE

- Before you fly, get a good night's sleep. Rest and some light exercise will help you cope on your journey.
- Wear loose, comfortable clothing and shoes that are not too restrictive.
- Eat a light, well-balanced meal before you travel and opt for a smaller helping than normal on the plane.

SAFETY

- A Proflight Zambia safety demonstration is always made before take off. A safety pamphlet is also provided at your seat. Please familiarise yourself with its important information and note the nearest emergency exit.

SMOKING

- Smoking on board is strictly prohibited. This includes any artificial device or e-cigarettes.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- Please ensure that all electronic devices are turned off before taxiing and take off as they may interfere with the safe operation of the aircraft. These include cellphones, laptops, remote controlled games.

BAGGAGE ALLOWANCE

- In addition to the carry on luggage allowance provided herein, each passenger may carry without additional charge, the following carry on items the weight of which shall not exceed 5kg. The carry on items are permitted for use during the flight and when retained in the passengers' custody as listed here below:
- A lady handbag, pocket book or purse, which is appropriate to normal traveling dress and is not being used as a container for the transportation of articles, which would otherwise be regarded as baggage.
- Laptop.
- An overcoat, wrap or blanket.
- A small camera and/or a pair of binoculars.
- Reading material.
- Infant's food for consumption in flight.
- Infant's carrying basket.



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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BAGGAGE POLICY

We offer a complimentary 30kg checked allowance on our international flights for adults/children and 10kg for infants. On our domestic flights, our complimentary checked allowance is 23kg across all fare types. In addition, you are allowed one piece of 5kg carry-on baggage.

Excess checked baggage over your complimentary amount is charged at \$5/kg out of Zambia and Botswana or R60/kg out of South Africa and Namibia or K60/kg domestic within Zambia. Excess baggage can also be pre-purchased on our website at a discounted rate per 15kg excess bundle. The bundle is \$40/bundle out of Zambia and Botswana or R600/bundle out of South Africa and Namibia or K600/bundle domestic within Zambia.

Take note due to airport safety rules, no one piece of baggage can weigh more than 30 kg. All excess baggage is subject to space available on the aircraft and is non-refundable. Total weight limit only, no restriction on the number of pieces.

Toy guns or blunt objects such as tennis racquet or hockey stick are not permitted in carry-on baggage. Toy guns must be declared for carriage in checked baggage and you must check-in at least two hours prior to flight else the toy gun will not be permitted.

The following items are not permitted in checked or carry-on baggage, they must be sent as cargo: hoverboard, television set, microwave, computer and computer parts, car parts, stoves of any kind.

CHECK-IN COUNTER LOCATIONS

Our check-in counters are located as follows:

- Lusaka and Livingstone international flights: Terminal 2
- Lusaka and Livingstone domestic flights: Terminal 1
- All other domestic flights: Main terminal
- Joburg: Terminal B, check airport monitors
- Cape Town, Maun, Windhoek: Main terminal, check airport monitors

Airport ticket sales in Joburg are located at The Proflight Zambia office at back wall of terminal B, in Cape Town are located at check-in counter.

UNACCOMPANIED MINORS

We happily accept unaccompanied minors (5 years to 11 years) on the flight. There is no extra charge for unaccompanied minors and they still receive our 25% children discount. Please note we are limited to a certain number of unaccompanied minors per flight so book early.

INTERLINE PARTNERS

- Air Tanzania
- Cemair
- Emirates
- Ethiopian Airlines
- Fly Safair
- Hahn Air
- Kenya Airways
- Qatar Airways
- Rwandair
- South African Airways
- Turkish Airlines
- Uganda Airlines

TRANSFER IN JOBURG DETAILS

(Connecting to an international flight out of Joburg)

- Advise the Proflight Zambia check-in agent of your final destination and show necessary tickets.
- If you are on Emirates, Qatar or Cemair out of Joburg, you will receive your onward boarding card at time of first check-in with Proflight Zambia and your baggage will be tagged through to final destination.
- If you are on another airline out of Joburg, your baggage will be tagged as final destination.
- Upon arriving into Joburg airport from bus, do not enter South Africa through immigration, turn left before immigration queues.
- Follow the signs for International Transfers and go to the transfer check-in desk of your next airline.
- From your next airline, collect your onward boarding pass and receive new baggage tags (your baggage will be re-tagged for you by the next airline transfer check-in agent).

CARGO CONTACTS

- **International Cargo**
Tel: +260 977 511690 or +260 964 900449
zegandlexport@zegaltd.co.zm | import@zegaltd.co.zm
- **Domestic Cargo**
Tel: +260 772 686395
cargo@proflight-zambia.com
- **Johannesburg**
Tel: +27 11 230 4600
Email: mohalen@bidaircargo.co.za | dentont@bidaircargo.co.za
- **Cape Town**
Tel: +27 21 935 6138
Email: charlenek@bidaircargo.co.za

PROHIBITED GOODS

Banned, restricted and dangerous goods are articles or substances that are capable of posing a risk to health, safety, property or the environment.

If you wish to travel with any such goods or material, please be aware of the restrictions or steps you may have to take if wishing to travel on a Proflight Zambia service.

To ensure the safety of the aircraft and those on board, checked in or hand baggage must not contain articles or substances that could pose a danger during flights these include:

COMPRESSED GASES

deeply refrigerated
flammable non-flammable)
such as butane, oxygen
propane and aqualung
cylinders.

FLAMMABLE LIQUIDS & SOLIDS

such as lighter and heater
fuels, paint. All safety
matches and fire lighters.

CORROSIVES

such as acids, alkali wet
cell batteries and apparatus
containing mercury.



MEDICAL AND TOILET ARTICLES MAY
BE CARRIED IN CONTAINERS OF 100ML
MAXIMUM. POWER BANKS MUST BE
CARRIED ON THE PERSON AND NOT IN
CHECKED LUGGAGE.

EXPLOSIVES

such as fireworks, flares
munitions, Ammunitions and
pistol caps.

BRIEFCASES / ATTACHE CASES

installed with alarm devices.



OXIDISING MATERIALS & ORGANIC PEROXIDES

such as bleaches and fibre
glass repair kits.

POISONS

such as insecticides, weed
killers, arsenic & cyanides.



TOXIC SUBSTANCES

such as bleaching powder
and peroxide.

RADIO ACTIVE MATERIALS



INFECTIOUS SUBSTANCES

such as bacteria and live
virus materials.

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ANY OF THESE ITEMS,
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