

# Kasanka Trust Ltd.

## Report on the first half of 2011



*Kasanka school pupils during the bicycle race*

25 years after it granted a licence to the late David Lloyd and his friend Gary Williams to manage the Kasanka National Park, the **Zambian Wildlife Authority (ZAWA)** has now signed a **Memorandum of Understanding** with the Kasanka Trust to also take the nearby **Lavushi Manda National Park** under its wing. We are now busy recruiting for key staff (project manager and a community relations coordinator to begin with) and have commenced the procurement of essential equipment.

In May, Kasanka was the venue for a weekend in memory of our founder, David Lloyd. His ashes were scattered in the park, followed by a memorial service at Pontoon. Tadge Wixted and Christopher Bevan-Hill

gave the eulogy to a large turnout of friends and colleagues, who were there to honour and celebrate David's life and considerable achievements. David's legacy to us is the Kasanka Trust and his memory lives on in all the good work we continue to do here.

Did you know it is the Year of the Bat? Wouldn't it be great if you took the winning picture in Kasanka for the bat photography competition? For more information go to [www.yearofthebat.org](http://www.yearofthebat.org)

The inaugural Kasanka Bicycle Challenge in May was a great success. The race attracted riders from as far afield as Lusaka and the Copperbelt - 22 competitors in total! The winners were Ryan Ellis; his prize a wonderful holiday kindly donated by Robin Pope Safaris, and Greward Chalwe, who won a bicycle donated by Zambike. Greward works in the Kasanka Conservation Centre.



*David's service*





*Some of the bicycle race contestants*

For more information, please see our website and the attachment. As well as expressing our gratitude to all those who took part, we also extend a very big thank you to our sponsors and our legion of helpers and supporters who all worked so hard to ensure that the logistics went so smoothly. Special thanks must go to Joyce Benadie for blazing and marking the route – all 52km of it. Next year’s race is on 25 May 2012. Come and join us. It’s great fun.

A significant milestone for the Trust was the final agreement of the ZAWA General Management Plan for the Kafinda Game Management Area. The Kasanka Trust has facilitated and funded the process for the last few years, culminating recently in an official signing ceremony. The document was signed by Chief Chitambo IV, the ZAWA board, the Minister for Tourism, local community leaders and the Trust. This agreement is absolutely crucial in our ongoing conservation efforts in the area as it clearly defines and delineates a buffer zone around Kasanka Park. Just as importantly, it also establishes a protected wildlife corridor between Kasanka and Lavushi Manda



*The official signing by Chief Chitambo IV*

plus adjacent protected areas.

## Wildlife

The team was very surprised, when at the beginning of the year, a Shoebill was seen from the veranda of Wasa lodge. Since then, up to three birds at any one time have been seen, mainly along the Kasanka River, upstream of Kabwe. The question is, will they start breeding?! Let’s hope so.



*Shoebill*

Five new bird species were added to the park’s list: Red-necked Falcon, Striped Crake, Black-chinned Quail finch, African Quail finch and the Blue-spotted wood dove. This brings the total to an amazing 457 species!

The other Kasanka lists continue to grow as well. Added to the mammal list were an Angolan Free-tailed Bat and a Large-eared Slit-faced Bat, which brings the total number of mammals recorded in the park to no less than 110 species. An update of the reptile list suggests a minimum of



47 species present in the park. *Angolan Free-tailed Bat*

Sable, Hartebeest and Buffalo are being regularly observed on Chikufwe plain and the surroundings and three Roan Antelope were seen at Wasa II. Sitatunga numbers seem to have increased even more of late, with at least 100 individuals recorded between Pontoon and Kabwe in recent weeks.

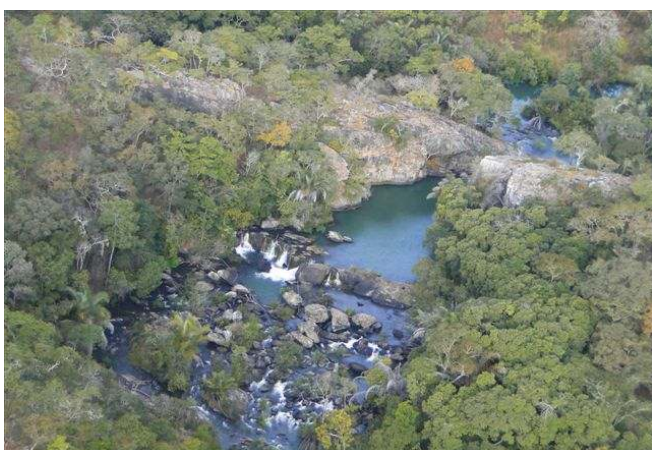


As has become a regular occurrence at this time of the year, the elephants have again visited many of the fields closest to the park. This makes the chilli fencing project run by the Community team all the more important! The Dutch 1% Club, in conjunction with Kasanka Trust Netherlands, raises funds for this particular project. See [www.1procentclub.nl/projects/chili](http://www.1procentclub.nl/projects/chili). The ellies have also made their presence known at Pontoon No.1 campsite by completely destroying our toilet and shower block. Fortunately, guests were not present at the time. Why do they do this? Because they can, that's why.

**Lavushi Manda National Park**



News from Lavushi Manda is the spectacular observation of a male Eland near the central hill. The species has become very rare in Zambia and was thought to have completely disappeared from the area. Frank flew over Lavushi Manda and enjoyed the stunning views as can be seen on his pictures.



**Waterfalls in Lavushi Manda National Park**

**Community**

Frederick and his Community Relations Team have been very active, with numerous projects on the go. Some key Community Liaison activities and results, in addition to the signing of the Management Plan, were:

*Seedlings in Fredericks garden*



- A drama tour through the chiefdom. Through their performances the actors aim to inform community members about topical sustainability issues.
- Tree planting of, among other species, 120 Mululu (Red Mahogany) at Chief Chitambo's palace, plus at Mulaushi. Fruit trees and vegetable plants are being grown in several villages and schools, and indigenous trees have been planted along several deforested stream banks in the area.
- The procurement and distribution of Barbel fingerlings for the fishpond project, to 10 different individuals, schools and co-operations.
- Human Resource training for newly elected Community Resource Board members.
- Business and marketing skills training for the chair persons of local co-operatives.
- A fire management workshop with the Chief and conservationists to harmonize the burning calendar.
- Food processing workshops to help people prolong the shelf life of produce, including a visit to Pieter Snyman's farm. Pieter is Kasanka's neighbouring farmer who is experimenting with organic farming.

Open Africa, the organisation developing a new tourism route in the North of Zambia, organised a guiding skills training at Kasanka Conservation Centre. Many community members attended and enjoyed it very much.



The Kasanka School is going well. Forty children enrolled for 2011. The children provided entertainment during the Bicycle race; singing and dancing for the contestants. They have also helped to collect wild tree seeds around the Conservation Centre, for community members to plant as seedlings. The two Kasanka school teachers went on a *New Breakthrough to Literacy* course in April, funded by Kathelijne Children Funds.



*Hippo's sunbathing at Wasa*

A total of thirteen students are currently sponsored through Kasanka. Four of these students are newly appointed. We will meet them in August during the annual Nature Camp and discuss progress in school and write letters to their sponsors.

### **Researchers and volunteers**

Anna Weyher (Washington University, USA) returned to Kasanka at the beginning of January to resume her research on the fascinating Kinda Baboons. In the latest *Black Lechwe* magazine is an article about her work. You can also follow her progress via [www.kasankababoonproject.com](http://www.kasankababoonproject.com). She reported fascinating news last week, having observed males carrying and grooming their babies!

Another researcher, Vera Rduch (A. Koenig Museum, Germany) also returned to conclude the fieldwork for her PhD project on the ecology of the Puku.

Frank has started line transect counts for a systematic survey of the birds and mammals of Kasanka. So far 30% of transects have been undertaken with the remainder scheduled for completion by early next year.

Mary Fuller joined the community project at the end of April through the Peace Corps. She will be assisting in general activities for a year.

Another volunteer helping out at Kasanka is Bastiaan Boon. He has been in Kasanka since November. His main activities are the coordination of and study on the effects of the early burning. He also introduced Kasanka into the world of social media, on Facebook.

Ian Gatenby also joined us as a volunteer recently. Ian is a civil engineer by training, although he has spent the last 20 years practising as an environmental consultant in the UK where his passion for conservation and resource management has really developed. He is here to assist with infrastructure management, including the construction of the new viewing platform at Fibwe, plus a feasibility assessment for a bridge at Pontoon. In his spare time Ian also helps out at the Lodge!

### **Shoebill Camp**

The workshop team has been working hard on updating and improving the Land Rover which has been donated for use at Shoebill Camp.

Other news from the Bangweulu swamps is that Kasanka is partnering with African Parks/Bangweulu Wetlands Board, the Percy Fitz-Patrick Institute for African Ornithology and several others in a multiple-year research on conservation of Shoebills in the area. This will run in parallel with a study on fish and fisheries led by Rhodes University. Two supervisory visits have now been undertaken, staff put in place and field work started.

In June the Kasanka team organised a special weekend for members of the Zambian Ornithological Society (ZOS) to visit Wasa and Shoebill camp. The ZOS-members were rewarded with the Shoebill at the end of their stay, although one group had already seen a Shoebill in Kasanka, which is a very rare occurrence!



*Big mushroom*



## Interesting snippets



***Black-necked spitting cobra, Kasanka***

A recurring, big scale activity in the park is the so-called “early burning”. This is undertaken to lessen the risk of “late season” fires, which can be more harmful and damaging to the flora and fauna. This year it was sponsored by the Kasanka UK Trust and two teams have been working steadily for the last two months. They have paid special attention to the sensitive bat forest area, where a newly designed system of firebreaks has been implemented to facilitate forest expansion.

The official rainfall for the period from 10 November 2010 to 9 April 2011 was 1299mm. This is less than the previous year but above the average due to heavy showers at Wasa .

A team of Kasanka staff attended the Zambian International Tourism Expo held at the Mulungushi ICC in Lusaka from 24-26 March 2011. We shared a booth with Open Africa, Mpika Tourism Association and The Barotse Route.

The French School of Lusaka organised a three-day artistic and scientific exhibition about the Kasanka

bats at Alliance Francaise. The enthusiastic presentation, given by the pupils themselves, has resulted in enquires from other (international) schools to visit Kasanka during the bat migration!

## Fundraising

We have had some very welcome news from the organizers of *Elephant Charge*. This is a well established 4x4 fundraising event for conservation in Zambia and we are delighted that they have identified our Kasanka scouts as one of the projects they will raise funds for! The event takes place on October 23. Please check out their website [www.elephantcharge.org](http://www.elephantcharge.org) and support it if you can.

To close on a more serious note...even after 25 years, the Kasanka Trust is still struggling for funds. Tourism revenue has decreased and fundraising is a difficult and time consuming activity. Donations to our conservation or community development work are therefore extremely welcome. Donations are tax deductible in Zambia, UK and Netherlands – please see our website.

***Pale-crowned Cisticola***



*Keep updated through Facebook (Kasanka Trust Zambia)*

***Tukesa monana nakambi,***

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