



Munda Wanga

'A read on the Wild Side'

K4,000

Issue 10 - 2008

**Tales from the
Wildlife Sanctuary**

**Environmental Education
The life of our Trees**

**Conservation in
the Botanical Gardens**

Conserving for Today. Educating for Tomorrow



The focus of this edition of our magazine will be to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Munda Wanga Trust and to reflect on the successes we have achieved in the past and where we think we will be in the future. There is no doubt in my mind that there have been many achievements and if we just state the simple fact that we have had a total of nearly 420,000 visitors to Munda Wanga in the last ten years. Of these, 62.5 % have been children, many of which have never seen an animal in the wild. As our main ethos is environmental education we can be justifiably proud of these numbers but when you think that the population of Lusaka alone is meant to be over two and a half million you will see that there is still a lot of ground to cover. We also have the problem that although our service to the less privileged is tantamount, we still have to generate sufficient funds to cover our expenses and so be able to take the Trust forward. So we can't be satisfied with the past and must be aggressive for the future as unfortunately, even after all our efforts, we are still dependant on the generosity of the public, the donors and sympathetic local business houses to keep our doors open.

After ten years this is an unacceptable position to be in and management recently sat down to have a thorough analysis of our business and to see where we can improve our operation and be able to cover our day-to-day expenses whilst still involving the kind hearts of well wishers for our capital development. What came out of this were two simple facts. We don't have necessary amounts of animals and plants to sustain the interest of the public and our entertainment facilities were not up to scratch for providing the 'Great Family Day Out' concept. In other words we have concentrated too much on our educational and sanctuary function to the detriment of the overall profitability. This will have to change if we are to be viable, especially as all around us we can see the effects of a global financial meltdown that is bound to have an effect on our fundraising over the coming months.

So in the near future and when funds permit, you should be seeing an increase in the numbers and varieties of animals and plants stocked including I hope some exotics that are temperature tolerant to our climate. It has previously been against our policy to stock exotics but on reflection; why shouldn't the Zambian public and children be able to see a small sample of the wonderful and various creatures and plants with which nature has endowed this planet?

As we say goodbye to the first ten years we are confident that during the next decade you will see a huge improvement in our services to the public and I hope that we can rely on the support of all our benefactors whether they be major donors or just the general public, to make Munda Wanga into the facility that Zambia deserves.

Bill Thomas
Director, Munda Wanga Trust

NEWS in brief



The Munda Wanga Trust celebrates its 10th anniversary this December 2008. It has often been said that we have come a long way, what needs to be added is that we also still have a long way to go. There are several exciting things lined up for the future. We are working on our accreditation with the African Zoo Association (PAZAAB) and we are finalizing a partnership with a zoo in The Netherlands. There are also structural changes that the visitor will perhaps not immediately see in their monthly visit but there are several new happenings that will be noticed immediately. Read on:



We often get the question 'why don't you bring in more animals?' The simple answer is that we are working hard to get more animals, but unfortunately it is not an easy task. Contacting zoos and sanctuaries around the world, financing the trip, ensuring all CITES (Convention on international Trade in Endangered Species) and veterinary permits are in order and finally making sure that the enclosures are secure and well maintained. You would not want to be visiting the Sanctuary to all of a sudden be eye to eye with a tiger, without the security of the diamond mesh in between, would you? We are however making progress and soon the sanctuary will be livened up with new sounds, howling, purring, hissing and many other sounds. We will keep you informed when new arrivals are due so that you can be the first to visit them in their new home.



In the last 6 months the Munda Wanga Wildlife Sanctuary has received several new animals. Some are more unusual than others and the arrival of the jackals was quite extraordinary. You can read more about it in the update 'From the Wildlife Park'. The continuous in flow of spotted eagle owl and barn owl chicks seems to recur every year. People who consider these birds to be evil omens or witches in disguise empty some nests. Munda Wanga receives the chicks, feeds them and when they are strong and fully fledged they are released back in to the wild. This will only be done after the Zambian Ornithological Society has given each bird is ringed which is a simple process of placing a numbered tag round the leg so if they are caught again it will be clear where they came from and will provide information on dispersal, age and home range of the birds.



Recently, the fundraising team's efforts have been successful and a fund has been granted by the IUCN – the Netherlands to rebuild the last old style enclosure at Munda Wanga. With this funding, a new set of flight aviaries will be build, where birds that are rehabilitating from their injuries or just becoming fully fledged can live until they will be released. The enclosures will also be used for birds that cannot be released back into the wild and that will be staying at the wildlife sanctuary for the rest of their lives. They will be ambassadors for their species, giving visitors to Munda Wanga the chance to see those birds that one would normally just see soaring high in the sky as indistinct black dots.

The construction will continue during the rainy season and will hopefully be ready by the end of February 2009. We will keep you informed and will let you know when the inhabitants of these beautiful new aviaries will move in.



Other funds that have been granted to Munda Wanga was a fund from the German Embassy to support the interior of our small Auditorium, where classes can enjoy lessons on environmental issues, climate change, wildlife, flora identification and much more. Another Embassy that funded a small grant is the Royal Netherlands Embassy; they supported 50 groups of 50 children to come and visit the Botanical Gardens, the Wildlife Sanctuary and most importantly the Environmental Education Centre. The 50 groups were selected from different community schools in Lusaka, providing a chance for the less privileged to see the wildlife for which their country is so famous internationally. On top of the entry fee which was half funded by the Embassy and half by Munda Wanga itself as part of our social responsibility, the visiting students transport was paid for by the Embassy as well as a lunch in the Botanical Gardens.

This fund is a continuous fund and if you as an individual or company would like to donate towards it, we will be able to invite more community school groups to come and visit Munda Wanga. This way you support the community to learn more about the environment and to become more responsible with their surroundings and at the same time you support Munda Wanga with more visitors.



FROM THE WILDLIFE PARK

As one can expect there are a lot of stories that can be told about the daily happenings in the wildlife park and sanctuary at The Munda Wanga Trust. From the tireless efforts of the keepers to keep the enclosures clean and tidy, all the trips into town and to friendly farms to collect vegetables, fruits or meat donations, to the dealing with the public, picking up trash and answering the often investigative questions from curious visitors. We shall just keep it to some of the highlights of the last few months.

The Lunga Luswishi Wildlife Protection Programme has marked its sixth year of operation (2002-2008). On the 22nd October 2008, 29 Vervet monkeys that had been together at Munda Wanga (during a process known as bonding) for just slightly over 3 months. After this period, they embarked on a trip of a lifetime, as it would result in their eventual release and re-integration into the wild in conjunction with the Born Free Foundation. The release site, as in previous years, still remains the Lunga Luswishi GMA. ZAWA recently proposed the Busenga plains as a probable future release site.

Munda Wanga continues to receive approximately 30-40 vervet monkeys per year that have been confiscated or were found orphaned in the bush. This in flow of new monkeys keeps the primate section of Munda Wanga busy. We would like to thank ZAWA and all our co-operating partners who have ensured that these releases continue to be a success!

Long ride to the sanctuary for Jackal puppies”
We are always pleased when new animals arrive at the sanctuary, but not every journey to Munda Wanga is easy.

In the beginning of October 2008, Munda Wanga Trust received a letter from ZAWA offices in Mansa requesting for us to collect 2 Jackal puppies from their office. The entire management felt a buzz of excitement on that Thursday afternoon. With meagre resources at our disposal, the head of the Wildlife Park and Sanctuary, Cris Ntitema, was tasked with the responsibility of collecting and transporting the puppies safely to Munda Wanga.

Upon Cris's arrival in Mansa, the Ag Area Warden (Luapula Area Management Unit) Mr. Gryton Kasamu took him to the office where the Jackals were being kept. The 2 Jackal puppies were received from a farmer residing in Kazembe's area. He apparently gained custody of them after people killed their mother and captured the puppies in an attempt to sell them. The farmer decided to confiscate the Jackal puppies after their captors threatened to kill them if they were not given money. It was after this altercation that the farmer proceeded to the ZAWA offices in Mansa. ZAWA then contacted Munda Wanga.

Cris was assisted in obtaining the necessary paper work. That afternoon, although having everything in order, Cris had a hectic time at the bus station when 3 Lusaka bound coaches refused to have him board because of his so called "unusual cargo". One of the drivers suggested that Cris place the puppies in the luggage hold with the bags and the exhaust fumes. Fortunately, lady luck did not elude them as the 4th coach that he approached allowed Cris and the puppies to enter. They all arrived safely in Lusaka on Saturday morning.

The puppies can now be seen playing in an enclosure at the Small Mammal Zone. They may be chasing a lizard or cricket that unexpectedly strayed into their path. The puppies are still a bit skittish, but are quickly getting used to their new home. Their Bemba names are Luongo (bring closer) and Mambilima (happy). These names are so appropriate because we are indeed "happy" that they've been brought "closer" to us in order to care for them.



New developments are great to work on and even more exciting to bring to the attention of the general public.

A new petting zoo and "Care for Me Centre" has been on the Munda Wanga Trust agenda for a long time. Luckily some money was raised during the Run for Wildlife this year. Construction of the site will commence soon. This bigger, more interactive petting zoo will be located adjacent to the Education Centre. Currently this enclosure is serving as a temporary home for our 4 Camels, but soon will be transformed into a fully fledged "mini" Zoo. The essence of this project will be to exhibit an array of farm animals (cows, pigs etc) that the everyday city dweller may not have the privilege of seeing anywhere else. As with the current petting zoo, the new area will also become an animal "Care for Me Centre", where proper care of domestic animals will be taught. Munda Wanga Trust has thus recognized the importance of offering such an experience, and has boldly decided to provide a large amount of space for this project. Apart from participating in the educational component of the interactive zoo, children will have an opportunity to go on donkey rides, amongst other activities that will be on offer.

THE HOW TO CARE FOR ME CENTRE

- Provide me with food and water.
- Provide me with a comfortable shelter.
- Take me to the vet when I'm unwell.
- Provide me with space and company
- I have feelings too .
- Protect me from fear and violence.



FROM THE BOTANICAL GARDENS

Plants are essential for life on earth. They provide us with oxygen, food, clothing, shelter, medicines and fuel. While most of our needs are provided for by domestic crops, there are thousands of wild species upon which people's livelihoods still depend. Yet despite our reliance on plants, hundreds of thousands of plant species are threatened worldwide with genetic impoverishment and extinction.

The reason for this is complex, but there is no doubt that the primary cause is human behaviour. Habitat destruction, pollution, introduction of alien species and population growth are a few examples.

Trees and the forests they make up are vitally important in climate change debate. Living forests are natural carbon sinkers; they absorb the carbon dioxide and store it as biomass and in the soil, and they can regulate temperature and maintain the water cycle. Unfortunately the survival of many tree species in the wild is threatened by rapid habitat loss, the spread of invasive species, and over exploitation of both the

forests and individual tree species. These threats are combined in different orders of magnitude in different geographical locations, with varying impact on species and the people who depend on them. The Global Climate Change adds to the range of threats faced by these species.

Around 10 percent of all world plant species are currently threatened with extinction, and over 1,000 species are considered to be critically Endangered (subject to the most severe degree of threat) using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. Some of these species are already reduced to 50 individual plants living in the wild. Conservation here at Munda Wanga Botanical garden is an urgent priority as an insurance policy.



The world isn't the way it used to be!!!

Global warming, uncertainty, unsustainability, insecurities, dense interdependence, globalization, complexity, ecosystem degradation, inequity, population pressures, over consumption, stresses, peak oil.

To halt this loss and to secure the future of all these species, we need to review our relationship with nature. We must integrate the values inherent in sustainable development into all aspects of learning in order to encourage changes in behaviour that allow for a more sustainable and just society for all. This involves learning the values, behaviour and lifestyles required for a sustainable future and for positive societal transformation. Therefore, we invite you to join us in nature studies which aim at achieving sustainability, appreciation and the conservation of the world's flora.

You and I need to embrace and nurture plants because they are part of our dairy lives, without them, we cannot live here on earth.

If you would like to join a guided educational tour in the Munda Wanga Botanical Gardens, contact Innocent Kabinda on mundawanga.gardens@iconnect.zm.

You can always book educational tours at Munda Wanga, just give us a call: 021 1278 614. We hope to see you soon in the gardens!

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FROM THE EDUCATION CENTRE

What if trees could talk? The question meanders through the leaves while we sit by an old tree on a hot October day. This old tree cannot move on its own volition like an animal, it can only remain, and exist as part of one place. Its roots run into the earth and firmly hold the ground together. As we humans move about the land, the trees of our world anchor one area of the shifting soils for the duration of their lifespan. Through rains and droughts, fires and urbanization, they must only survive, and remain to softly speak their stories. Sometimes, if we stop next to an old tree and listen, we can hear its words riding on the slow breeze.

Deep in the Botanical Garden at Munda Wanga Trust, a giant Floss Silk tree, otherwise known as “The Big Tree” looms above the open green grass. It is such a dominating presence that its shadow is called “The Big Tree Area” of the garden. This Floss Silk tree is almost 60 years old, dating back to when Munda Wanga was founded by Ralph Sander in 1950. Over many long decades, The Big Tree has quietly watched over the gardens, and the thousands of people who have relaxed in its shade. Its heavy branches and reaching roots talk to us, and share its life story.

60 years may seem like a long time to stay in one place. But this is barely a fraction

of how long the oldest tree has been part of the Earth. It is the oldest known non-clonal organism in the world. In 1957, a tree now known as “Methuselah”, in the White Mountains of California, was sampled by scientists Schulman and Harlan. This Great Bristlecone Pine was determined to be 4,789 years old! Nowadays, after using advanced carbon dating techniques, we know the Methuselah Tree has been breathing Carbon Dioxide for 4,839 years. That is 1,767,444.75 days. What if the Methuselah Tree could talk? What stories would it tell us?

You might ask, “What does non-clonal mean?” There are certain types of trees which can re-grow out of the same root structure after being cut down. You can see

many tree clones in Zambia. Often, after the November rains begin falling, fresh green seedlings eagerly sprout from tree stumps of the same species. We sometimes see them along fence lines in the village, or in burned fields along the roadside. The deep green youthful trunks contrast the old, brown, tired stumps.

The oldest living organism in the world is a tree clone. It is a relatively new tree trunk growing from very, very old roots. The roots and trunk are a Norway Spruce named Old Tjikko. This tree clone has been re-growing from the same root system in the soil of Sweden for 9,550 years.



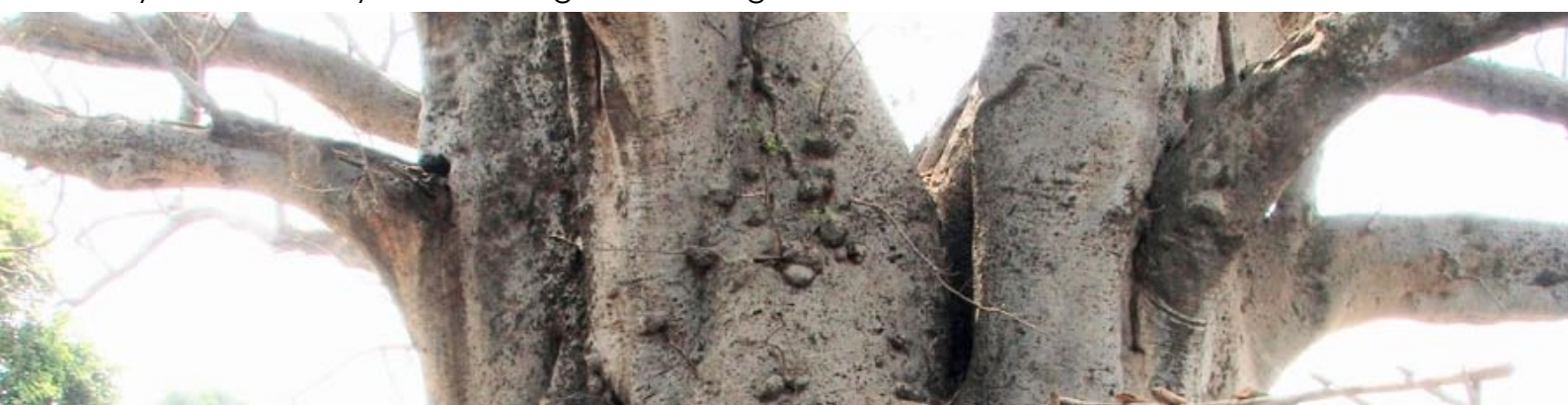
Here in Africa, where the weather can be harsh and the soils are often unforgiving, there are very old roots still holding the Earth in place. Most of us are familiar with the Baobab Tree, with its distinct color and shape, and tremendous relative trunk width. In the Botanical Gardens at Munda Wanga, in the shadow of The Big Tree, there is a young Baobab growing slowly and very quietly among the visiting children and teachers. This tree is now 8 years old, and is much smaller than most tree species of its age. The 8 year old children who pass by the tree began their lives during the same year. But this little Baobab, if cared for, will outlive any child of today. After its neighbor, The Big

Tree, has long fallen down, the Baobab will most likely continue to reach into the Earth and towards the nighttime stars. Some of the huge Baobab trees you see in Zambia are over 3,000 years old. Imagine this little 8 year old seedling, in the middle of Munda Wanga's Botanical Garden, could live to see the year 5000 or even beyond! Imagine, one day, the tales it could tell about Zambia, long ago, and the thousands of children who walked and ran past its trunk, and the way it survived the centuries, and millenniums.

The Munda Wanga Education Department values how much the trees can teach through history and imagination. As our visitors gaze at the old trees in Munda Wanga, they can imagine a world past, solidified into the bark and branches. As our guests are taught to care for a seedling, they can imagine, decades from now, the same tree as tall and wise, looking over the land, providing shade and beauty, and sustaining our environment.

At Munda Wanga Trust, we believe that human beings have a responsibility to the trees of the world. We must protect them, and preserve their stories. From California, to Sweden, to Zambia, there are roots which have been gripping the soil for thousands of years, and roots which are young and just reaching in to the Earth. These roots, young and old, are solid, indefatigable foundations of trees which can teach us biological lessons, and anecdotes about persevering against all odds. They long to tell us stories about a world of the past, and the potential for a green and healthy future world. All we must do is stop, and listen.

References: <http://leapbeat.blogspot.com/2008/05/old-tjikko-worlds-oldest-tree.html> <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/methuselah/>



Lusaka Animal Welfare Society

Lusaka Animal Welfare Society was formed in 1993 in response to pressure from the community to provide refuge for ill-treated and stray animals. It is ran by a full-time kennel manager, 2 kennel assistants and a committed committee of volunteers.

The main objects of the Society are to engage in and promote animal welfare activities and to aid in the prevention of cruelty to animals in and around Lusaka, and to re-home unwanted dogs and cats into permanent new homes. We do not euthanize.

In 1993 LAWS took over a dilapidated kennel and cattery block set in a third of an acre within the city centre. The kennels were repaired and a portable office installed for storage of food etc.



To date over 1000 dogs, cats, puppies and kittens have been re-homed by LAWS.

The kennels are open 7 days a week, and prospective adopters are encouraged to call in anytime to see what we have available. We ask for a donation for adopting a dog or cat in order to meet some of the expenses incurred when vaccinating and neutering the animal.

If you would like to know more, sponsor or help in some way, please call Sue Chalmers, 0966 777188 who will be happy to tell you more.



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Voice: Harsh hissing and screeching sounds.

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ZMK 55,000 per person. Including a braai, entry fee and a soft drink. Free access to the Wildlife Park, Botanical Gardens and Recreational Village.

Call us for further details. Your Staff will Love You!

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Nature **FUNFACTS**



The cheetah is the only cat in the world that can't retract its claws.

Camels have three eyelids to protect themselves from blowing sand.

Peregrine Falcons are the fastest animals in the world. They are believed to achieve speeds approaching 200km/h (124mph).

The fingerprints of koala bears are virtually indistinguishable from those of humans, so much so that they could be confused at a crime scene.

Bats always turn left when they exit a cave.

Research indicates that mosquitoes are attracted to people who have recently eaten bananas.

Certain frogs can be frozen solid then thawed, and continue living.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

A dragonfly has a life span of 24 hours.

A gold fish's memory span is three seconds.

Flamingos can only eat with their heads upside down.

Do you want to learn more fun facts about animals, book a tour at Munda Wanga. They can tell you all kinds of cool stuff about animals.

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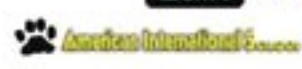


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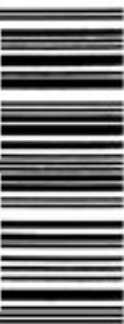
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