

# THE ZAMBEZI SOCIETY

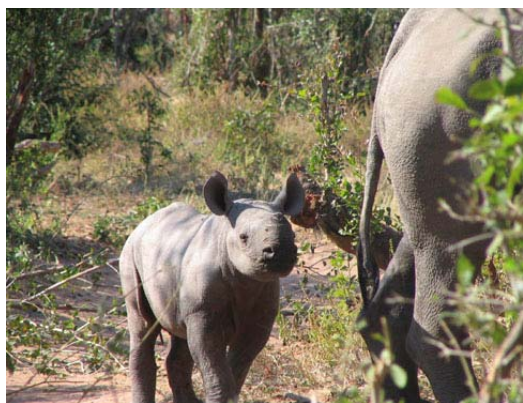
<http://www.zamsoc.org>

## BULLETIN

MAY/JUNE 2007

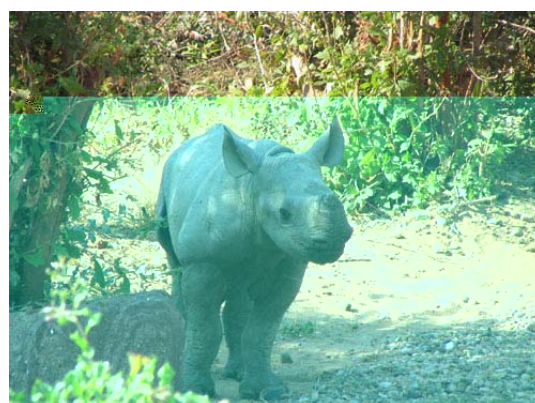
### MATUSADONA – NEW BLACK RHINO CALVES

The Zambezi Society Field Officer in the Matusadona National Park Black Rhino Intensive Protection Zone reports that two of the black rhinos previously hand-reared and released into the wild have given birth to calves this season. Madonna has had her second calf (named CHISI, in recognition of 20 years of fund-raising for rhino conservation by the staff and girls of Chisipite Junior School in Harare); and Mvura has had her first. The Zambezi Society has asked the girls of Chisipite Junior to name Mvura's new calf.



#### Mvura's new calf:

(awaiting a  
name from the  
girls of  
Chisipite Junior  
School, Harare)  
*(Photo courtesy of  
Jenny Nobes,  
Rhino Island  
Safaris).*



### MATUSADONA RHINO WATERHOLE COUNT – 11<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> August 2007

As part of The Zambezi Society's 25<sup>th</sup> year celebrations, the Society is offering its members and their friends a unique wilderness and wildlife opportunity. The Society has been asked by the Parks and Wildlife Authority to assist them with an extremely important conservation task: to estimate the black rhino population in the mountains of the Matusadona National Park Intensive Protection Zone.

We are organising an intensive, and carefully-focused waterhole count in the Zambezi escarpment mountains above the Matusadona floodplain during the week 11<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> August 2007.

We have mapped 35 water points which need monitoring for a minimum of 3-4 days. Although it will be of interest to monitor all wildlife coming to drink, we are looking specifically for signs of black rhino – sightings, spoor, middens etc.

We are currently creating teams of 3-4 people who:

- can get themselves into the Matusadona in a 4 x 4
- can provide all fuel and food etc.
- can be completely self-sufficient
- can camp in the bush for at least four days or more
- are prepared to hike in rugged terrain (in some cases waterholes may be far from tracks)
- can recognise black rhino signs when they see them
- have a sense of adventure and an understanding of the wild

Each team will need to be accompanied by an armed Professional Hunter (who can be one of the team) or a National Parks Scout (who will be seconded to each team)

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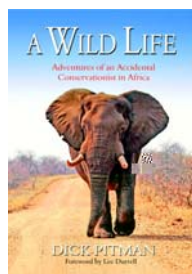
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We need all the help we can get, and so does the black rhino population. Please pass this information on to anyone you know who may be interested in this amazing opportunity.... We KNOW that there are some very adventurous people out there who care about our endangered species and the future of our wildlife heritage – please involve them.

To help us with the planning for this major event, please register your interest NOW. We will get back to you immediately with more information. E-mail us at: [zambezi@mweb.co.zw](mailto:zambezi@mweb.co.zw)

## A WILD LIFE BY DICK PITMAN



Dick Pitman, founder-Chairman and Director of The Zambezi Society until December 2006 has written a light-hearted account of his 25 years in conservation in the southern African region. Published in the UK by Summersdale Publishers, *A WILD LIFE* is available in paperback from [www.amazon.co.uk](http://www.amazon.co.uk) (there is a link on our website homepage at [www.zamsoc.org](http://www.zamsoc.org)), from booksellers in the UK, Europe, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand and through the Zambezi Society's Harare offices in Zimbabwe. It will also be published in Italy in September 2007 and by Lyons Press in the USA in 2008. Dr Lee Durrell, widow of Gerald, who has written a foreword to the book, says this of *A WILD LIFE*: "Ranges from hilariously funny to profoundly moving.... No simple string of anecdotes from a wildlife enthusiast, but the unfolding of a grander story told with wit and affection".

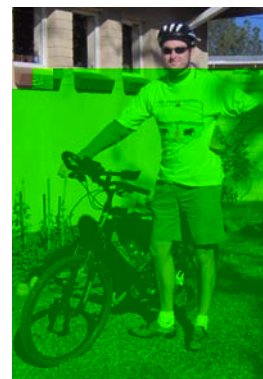
## 2006 AGM

A delayed 2006 Annual General Meeting of the Zambezi Society was held in Harare, Zimbabwe on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2007. Members agreed to the following nominations for office-bearers for the coming year: Chairman: Ant Williams; Vice-Chairman: Dick Pitman; Treasurer: Mark Hyde; Secretary: Sue Brighton; Member: Glyn Jermyn; Member: Drummond Densham; Director (*ex officio*): Duncan Purchase.

Copies of the draft minutes of the meeting are available to any members who wish to see them (send us an e-mail request). The meeting was followed by an informal discussion about plans, events and activities to celebrate the Society's 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2007.

## CYCLE RACE FUND-RAISER

On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July, the Director participated in Zimbabwe's *Tour de Falcon* cycle race from Bulawayo to Falcon College in Esigodini, a distance of 56km. He set himself a personal target of finishing the race in under two hours (last year he did it in two hours twenty minutes), and saw an opportunity to use his participation in the event to raise funds for the Society as well. It was a spectacular day: the sun was in full shine and the wind was nowhere to be seen. Setting off at 8:00am and with the added advantage of teaming up with three other riders all of whom shared the task of creating a slip stream, Duncan managed to finish the race in one hour and forty seven minutes, completely shattering his previous time! Many thanks to those who sponsored his ride. If you would like to make a post-event donation as a mark of encouragement, and to support our conservation activities, please do.



## THANK YOU

The Zambezi Society would like to express grateful thanks to the following for recent generous donations:

**Ken Wachs** of Curriculum Safari Earth, USA, for donation of funds towards our wilderness programme. **SAVE Australia** for providing fuel for the Zambezi Society's Matusadona black rhino monitoring project, and funding to help preparations for the Matusadona rhino waterhole watch. **Grass Valley Trust** for donation of the rent for our Bulawayo office.

## 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES:

### a) AGM and seminar/field trip – Oct/Nov 2007

The Zambezi Society would like to hold a seminar/field trip for Zambezi Basin members at a suitable venue later in the year. Two locations have been suggested: Doma Safari Lodge in the Doma Safari Area which lies in the Zambezi escarpment mountains, and RIFA camp on the Zambezi near Chirundu. More information to follow at a later date.

### b) Visual presentation by Dick Pitman

Founder Zambezi Society Chairman and former Director, Dick Pitman, will be giving a visual presentation about the Zambezi wilderness and wildlife to mark our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Date and venue to be announced.

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## REVIEW OF CARNIVORE DATA IN THE ZAMBEZI BASIN



Photo © Dick Pitman

With funding from Fauna and Flora International and the Ruth Smart Foundation, the Zambezi Society has recently completed a review of the protected areas within the Zambezi Basin to determine the large scale distribution of carnivores within them. The project also gauged the level of human/carnivore conflict both within the parks themselves and their surrounding areas. Although we concentrated on a core set of carnivores for very specific reasons (endangered, lack of information, key species, etc), including wild dog/painted hunting dog, cheetah, lion, spotted hyaena, aardwolf, serval, leopard, bushy tailed mongoose, Meller's mongoose and spotted necked otter, we did in fact include all the carnivore species that occur in the basin area. The final report will

provide a very good reference document for anyone studying carnivores in the basin, and will act as a starting point for further investigations and research. The report will be very useful to policy makers as it highlights important areas of conservation with respect to carnivore species, suggesting areas where cross border management might be required to assist with conservation activities and when there is a need to mitigate human-carnivore conflict.

## DIRECTOR TO VISIT UK

The Director, Duncan Purchase, will be visiting the UK in September this year. Part of the trip will be to raise and increase the profile of The Zambezi Society and the challenges that we face in conservation in the Zambezi Basin. He will meet with existing partners and donors to strengthen relationships and discuss future projects. Fundraising opportunities are also being explored. During the second part of his trip, he will attend an international Felid Conservation Conference in Oxford organized by WildCRU and Panthera. The Zambezi Society will be profiled at the conference by way of a Poster presentation detailing the long-term cheetah research that the Society has supported in the Matusadona National Park and through a Paper presentation on the recently completed Basin Atlas Carnivore Review (above). The Paper will be presented by the Project leader of this review, Dr. Gianetta Purchase

## UK & INTERNATIONAL MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE:

We apologise to all our UK and International members for the long delay in advising you about new banking arrangements for subscription renewals, donations and other payments. We are delighted to tell you that this has finally been sorted and we will very shortly be e-mailing you separately with new banking details, including new Standing Order /Direct Debit advice forms. In the meantime, can we please remind all UK and International Members who had previous Standing Order/Direct Debit arrangements with their banks to the former ZAMBEZI SOCIETY UK account to CANCEL these, as this account is no longer operational. Once again, we apologise most profusely for the inconvenience, and thank you for your patience.

## VISIT OUR ONLINE SHOP!

Please take time to visit The Zambezi Society's online shop which offers a small range of gifts and souvenirs on a Zambezi theme. Go to <http://www.zamsoc.org/html/shop.html> and use your international Credit Card to order from a range of T-shirts, mugs, mousepads or caps printed with a choice of exclusive Zambezi Society and wildlife designs. This is a great way to give money to a worthwhile conservation cause, and receive a gift or memento in return. We hope to expand the colour range and variety of products over time, depending on the amount of support we receive. So please – tell all your friends, relatives and colleagues about it and encourage them to visit our website and support our efforts!



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

*PLEASE NOTE: This Bulletin is also available in a TEXT ONLY version with minimal file size to reduce download time. If you would prefer to receive a TEXT ONLY version, please let us know by e-mail.*