



Wild News

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Contributions for these news pages will be welcomed by the editor
P O Box HG 996, Highlands.

Was the consultancy report worth it?

ALTHOUGH questions have been raised over the adequacy and some contents in the Antony Read report by most branches, the National Council has said it will accept the report "as in the whole it will help us".

At its meeting recently, the National Council, chaired by president Bryn Evans accepted the report which had 12 recommendations.

However, the NC members categorically refused to adopt one of the 12 recommendations that said the WSZ should establish area and provincial committees saying this would unnecessarily increase the expenses.

The other 11 recommendations including one on the need for a "complete re-structuring and re-organisation programme (of the WSZ) commencing in January" were accepted, some though with amendments.

Almost all the branches queried the part in the report that said the consultants interviewed "members from all parts of the country" and where possible "members of the public from all walks of life".

The branches, particularly Matabeleland, Makonde, Manicaland, Lowveld and Midlands said "we never saw any consultant".

They also criticised the report for citing the problems but not giving detailed directions as to how the society goes about solving them.

"It was mainly scratching on the surface and we wonder if it is worth it," said one National Council member from the Lowveld Natural History branch.

The Wildlife Society of Zimbabwe paid \$25 000 for the independent look at its affairs after past president Mike Hitschmann made some racism allegations.

Manicaland branch said the consultants did not adhere to its contract of assessing present educational and environmental programmes implemented by the WSZ with the view of reporting on their efficacy.

"No research was done by the Consultants on the Cecil Kop project or any other project in Manicaland. We question whether any in depth research was carried out in other branches, judging by some comments made in the report. For example on page 25, comments made on Bushbeat indicate that the consultants have not known the background of the project. Have the consultants ever heard about the "We Care" manual? And page 34 says 'it is suggested that the time was now right for the WSZ to develop its own existing wildlife and environmental sanctuaries on a commercial basis where it is permitted' - well, this is already opening!" said Manicaland branch chairperson, Beatrice Hitschmann.

New Editor appointed

THE Wildlife Society of Zimbabwe has appointed a new Editor for the magazine, Zimbabwe Wildlife.

Stephen Mavuto Karindawaro, with a wide journalism experience has taken over from Clive Wilson who was the magazine's editor for the past three years.

The editor invites specialist articles, first hand experience stories on wildlife and environmental issues and many other articles of interest to members. Your letters should also roll in.

All correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, Zimbabwe Wildlife, P O Box HG 996, Highlands.

Rhino population increases

BLACK rhino population has increased from 120 in 1992 to 320 this year, thanks to a successful conservation programme involving National Parks and the private game farms or conservancies.

Rhino have been increasing at the rate of ten percent each year.

The rhinos were placed in Intensive Protection Zones, run and managed by National Parks, while the majority in private game parks are under 24-hour armed guard protection.

Rhino, particularly the white rhino numbering 100 in the country, are under threat of extinction.

Society now bringing in \$60 000 per month

PRESIDENT of the Wildlife Society of Zimbabwe, Bryn Evans, announced recently that Stanley Chigwida had agreed to assist with the treasurer's duties.

Stanley will assist with the view of taking over as national treasurer giving long-serving incumbent, Des Lawler, the much needed rest.

The good news is that the society is now bringing in its targeted figure of \$60 000 every month.

This should place to a rest fears among branches, particularly Matabeleland Branch, that the society was now in a bad shape financially and could not afford to employ a new chief executive.

The mail order business was doing well and should post a profit. However, there was a need to explore other income-generating projects.

Peter Kunjuku resigns

THE chief executive officer of the Wildlife Society of Zimbabwe, Peter Kunjuku, has resigned.

Peter leaves at the end of January to join a confederation of employers in Zimbabwe, as the executive director.

The president of the WSZ, Bryn Evans said since Peter will be based in Harare, he had offered to assist here and there the new chief executive officer.

"We will all miss Peter, who has done a lot for the society in terms of fund raising and improving the relations with necessary Government departments like National Parks," Bryn said.

The post will be advertised and a new chief executive should start work soon.

Peter said he had no hard feelings and was in fact disappointed that he was leaving at a time when he had planned many changes.

"One has to move on," he said. We wish you well in your new calling, Peter.

Ian Cormack takes over as CEO

THE Wildlife Society of Zimbabwe has pleasure in announcing that following the resignation of the present CEO, Dr Ian Cormack, has been appointed Interim Chief Executive Officer for three months, starting February 1, 1997.

Ian Cormack was born in South Africa, but spent his early life in Tanzania. His primary interests have centred on the social and economic development of East and Central Africa, in which field he has accumulated 40 years practical experience.

To augment his field experience, Dr Cormack studied social sciences and development issues at the London School of Economics and Political Science, Sir George Williams and McGill Universities in Montreal, and the University of Port Elizabeth.

Having been educated at Mutare High School, he returned to the country in 1960, and worked for the City Council of Bulawayo, and then the Ministry of Local Government. He was a founder member of the Zimbabwe Institute of Public Administration and Management, heading the Division of Development Planning and Management at his retirement. He presently undertakes consultancy work in the fields of Social and Economic Development.

A member of the Wildlife Society and the Mountain Club of Zimbabwe, Dr Cormack also has a broad understanding of the environmental and ecological problems confronting the country, and of the need to conserve our national heritage for both present and future generations.

The new CEO looks forward to your support and constructive comment on wild-life issues.