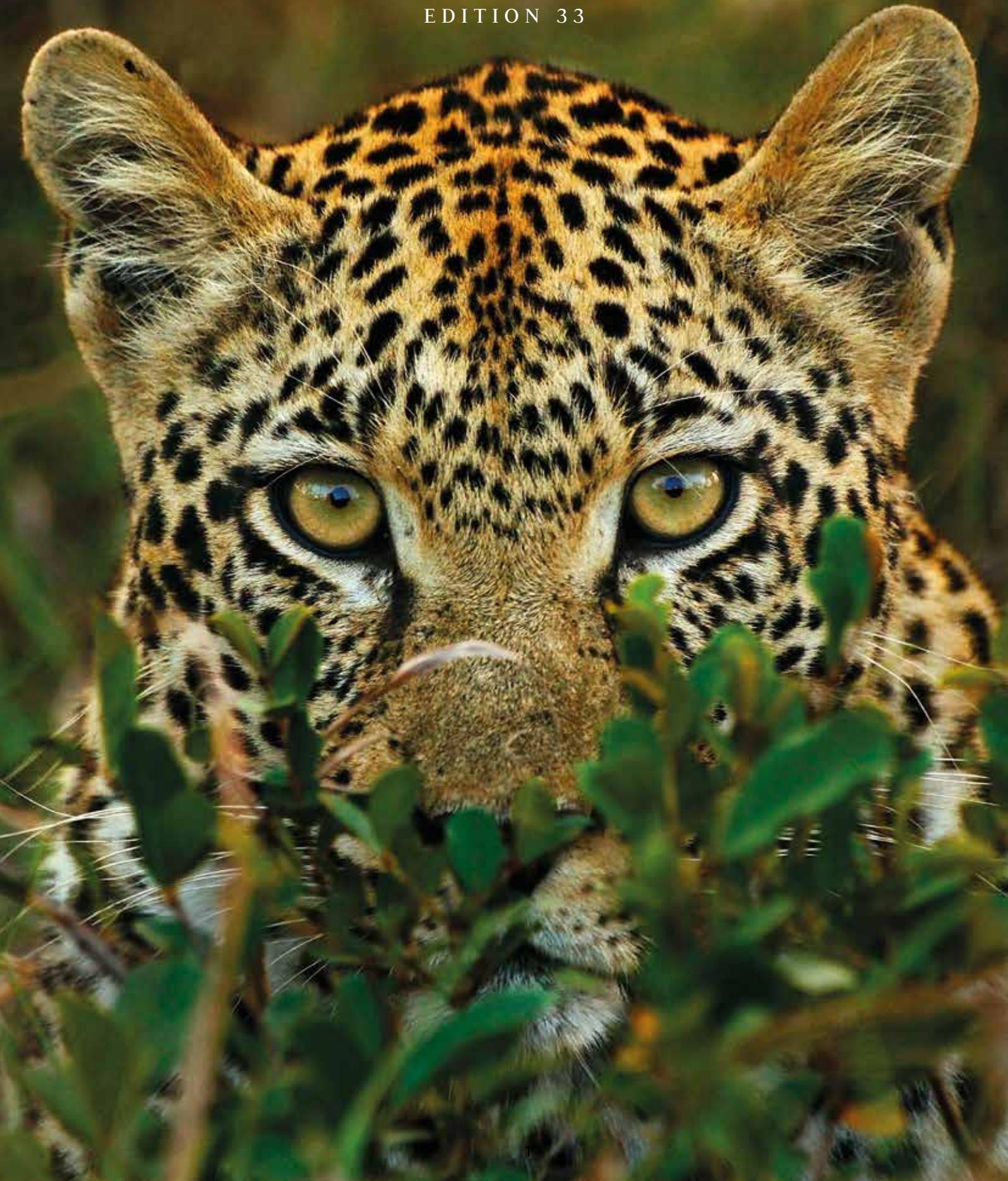


SAFARI

EDITION 33





ZAMBIA LEADS THE WAY FOR SUSTAINABLE TOURISM INTO 2018

2017 was the year of ‘world first’s’ for Zambia as two of its highly praised National Parks claimed prestigious titles regarding sustainability.

The unique status of “Sustainable Wildlife Park” was bestowed upon South Luangwa NP in November by Dr. Taleb Rifai - the Secretary General of the United Nations World Tourism Organisation UNWTO.

Zambia’s President Edward Lungu announced the award at the UNWTO International Conference on Sustainable Tourism in Lusaka stating that the momentous declaration will ensure that the national park remains a natural wildlife sanctuary, managed in a sustainable manner for generations to come.

South Luangwa National Park already has numerous examples of socially responsible development, but the announcement means more support to the sector and the park itself.

One of these developments is Project Luangwa, a charity set up by Robin Pope Safaris, Kafunta Safaris, Flat Dogs, Shentons Safaris and Croc Valley Camp. Project Luangwa enables the building of schools, sponsorship of children, running of girls clubs, teaching women skills that earn them a living and much more. In the last 7 years since Project Luangwa was set up, Flatdogs alone has generated around \$400,000 of funding for these projects that give a significant benefit to the communities. Kafunta Safaris are adding to their initial support generously this year as an extra \$20 per night will be donated to the fund for guests staying 5 nights or more

between April 1st and May 15th.

Many camps and lodges support Conservation South Luangwa, (CSL) through the Luangwa Conservation and Community Fund including Kafunta Safaris. Flatdogs donate funds that pay the Community Resource Boards to employ forest guards to monitor behaviour in the fragile environments they work in to protect the habitats they rely on. Derek Shenton from Shentons Safaris has been on the board of CSL since inception 20 years ago and have worked with them and privately funded patrols since inception as well as raising funds through their conservation levy and client donations.

President Lungu also highlighted that tourism in Zambia is a critical tool for sustainable development :

“ This is why tourism has been designated among the top three economic sectors to drive the national economic diversification programme. We will be increasing investment in the tourism industry ”



Why I go back to Konkamoya

Serial safari-er and ex Engineer 'John Tynan' used to manage the Elephant Orphanage in southern Kafue in 2007 and has visited Kafue every year since staying at Konkamoya Lodge. He talks about his invaluable experience at the orphanage and why Kafue keeps surprising him.

How did you get involved in the elephant orphanage?

I was asked by Melanie Shepherd (CO of the David Shepherd Wildlife Foundation) in 2007 to volunteer to manage a new orphanage for baby elephants in Kafue NP. The Phoenix Project was named after our first elephant who was raised in Mundawanga Conservancy (Lusaka). She was 6 years old when we transferred her to her new home in Kafue. I was surprised at her size having been told that she was a baby. I could just reach her shoulder on my tiptoes plus she weighed two tons.

Sum up your experience managing the orphanage.

The journey went without a hitch. It would take many pages to explain how difficult things were during the initial weeks. During the months that I was managing we took on a further three babies Chamalandu, Chadoba, and Zama. The whole thing was an amazing experience that I will never forget.

What made you go back to the Kafue?

One of my duties at the orphanage was regular visit to the ZAWA village of Ngoma 25km from camp to collect drinking water. The wildlife was in abundance but unfortunately I never had much time to enjoy it. So I just had to return. So from 2008 I have returned to Kafue each year staying at Konkamoya Lodge.

What makes you go back to Konkamoya Lodge every year?

It has a location that's second to none - on the shores of Lake Itchi Techi. Its tented accommodation overlooking the lake is extremely comfortable and hearing distinctive sounds of the wildlife throughout the night is just enchanting.

As you can imagine I have become great friends with Andrea and Laura and all of the staff. I love the food and the company.



Describe your most memorable experience at Konkamoya.

Over my visits I have seen most of the wildlife. Aardvark, aardwolf and pangolin. elephants mating in the lake, wild dogs in front of a backdrop of 100 elephants, serval, leopards and cheetah. Possibly the best sighting was a pride of nine lions bringing down a male buffalo by the lake.

I hope to visit many more times. Konkamoya has to be my home in Zambia.



Konkamoya Lodge is situated on the shores of Lake Itchi Techi in southern Kafue NP. For more information, rates and images please visit www.kamilisafaris.com

EVERYDAY DINING THAT'S NOT SO EVERYDAY

Edging away from a 'traditional' safari menu, these camps and lodges across Zambia all offer something unique.



FLATDOGS CAMP - EAT A LA CARTE IN LUANGWA

Stepping away from the traditional safari mealtime setting, Flatdogs camp philosophy takes into consideration the hospitality needs of several different types of traveller. With no set meals or meal times, guests can order what they'd like to eat and when they'd like to eat it. Their extensive bistro-style menu is created using locally-grown and raised produce and include a variety of different food and cuisine options, good for families with young children. Dishes include a simple steak baguette lunch, tasty grilled haloumi starter and fiery Asian pork meatballs.

KONKAMOYA LODGE – LOCAL INGREDIENTS, ITALIAN TWIST

The Italian owner-run lodge situated in prime game viewing area in Kafue offers a unique authentic Italian infused cuisine that's remembered long after you leave the lodge. For those wanting a change from 'traditional' safari food yet still sourced locally, Konkamoya offers just that- from a chilled gazpacho to a hearty crayfish linguine, freshly caught from the Kafue River. They often offer traditional Zambian dishes such as Nshima and often take requests. Nibbles throughout the day consist of various Italian breads and pastries fresh from their infamous underground oven, which simply bakes using coal, a corrugated metal sheet and the blazing Zambian heat.



ANYONE FOR SAUSAGE AND MASH?

Sausage Tree Camp and Potato Bush Camp appear to go hand in hand when it comes to food. The camps offer an African Inspired fusion menu, changing from season to season, including vegetarian options. They both offer exciting dining experiences. A 'Water Lunch' lets guests dine on a sandbank in the middle of the Zambezi River – in which a buffet selection is provided with dessert. 'Bush Dinners' are operational on request meaning guests can dine in the middle of the National Park where a buffet dinner selection of salads and roast vegetables are provided as well as a choice of meat cooked on an open flame barbecue.

THE RIVER CLUB'S KOSHER KITCHEN

History being a core element to the lodge, Zambia's small Jewish community is a personal passion for Peter Jones, owner of The River Club. He decided the club would offer an opportunity for observant guests to visit the Zambezi River and magnificent Victoria Falls. Their 'Kosher Lite' kitchen has been set up to follow the laws of Kashrut. The River Clubs own chef works on the dishes in a separate kitchen and guests are invited to view the set-up or to visit during meal preparation times. Their dedicated or 'strict' kosher kitchen enables guests to invite their own kosher chef to accompany them on their trip and use the specialised kitchen.



First timers in...

KAFUE NP & LIVINGSTONE

Kamageo's Marketing Exec, Izzie Ludbrook and PR Exec, Bex Knight ventured into Kafue National Park and Livingstone on their first trip to Zambia.

Kafue National Park's obvious key attraction is its exclusivity combined with really rewarding game viewing. As this was our first time in Zambia, you may have expected that we'd head for South Luangwa, but as we explored Kafue, it truly felt like we had it to ourselves and there's no better introduction to 'authentic Zambia' than that!

One of the last true wilderness areas in Africa, Kafue is the oldest and largest of Zambia's national parks covering an area larger than Wales. It means vast areas of the park remain unexplored and hold a wealth of wildlife thanks to its huge size and varied habitat, making it a truly special experience.

The park is easily accessed from both Lusaka and Livingstone with a 2-4 hour drive although there is an option to fly. Accommodation varies from remote tented campsites to luxurious safari lodges complete. Whatever the budgets and taste, Kafue can accommodate.



we both looked at one another as the camp quite literally appeared from nowhere.

The Busanga Plains alone is roughly 720km², an area larger than Singapore, and you essentially have it all to yourself. And there's no better view than by hot-air balloon. The plains are vast, dotted with thick foliage allowing the pilot to rise and descend at any time granting a stunning 360 view of the surrounding area, as well as flitting inches above trees and skimming the remaining pools of water. The only vehicle we spotted below was the ground crew heading to meet us with a bottle of champagne and hot breakfast.

ILA SAFARI LODGE & SPECIAL ANTI-POACHING UNIT

Having over-nighted at the delightful new Ila Safari Lodge (which is run by Green Safaris who offer a totally carbon-neutral experience, aided by electric game-drive vehicles!), we headed to the headquarters of SAPU (Special Anti-Poaching Unit) in Kafue to meet with Clive Dickinson, their Senior Technical Adviser.

SAPU is an intelligence led law enforcement unit providing rapid response capability in and around the Kafue National Park and neighbouring GMA's, tackling poachers, dealers and traffickers. SAPU is supported by the Kafue Conservation Department with the primary objective of eliminating poaching hotspots within the Park, as well as disrupting illegal wildlife trade routes. From the outset, it was clear how passionate Clive is about Zambia's wildlife. He moved



SHUMBA CAMP

The Busanga Plains were our first stop with the rolling plains playing host to lion, cheetah, zebra, lechwe and abundant birdlife. The flat grassland plains are dotted with wild date palms, sausage trees and fig trees. There are numerous prides of lion, whilst it's Zambia's best areas for cheetah and for wild dogs.

Wilderness Safaris' Shumba Camp truly is a wilderness property; when Isaac, our guide shouted, "We're here!"



to Kafue to teach about the impact poaching, not only the devastating effect it has on wildlife, but also on tourism. The work they do is tough, but it is having an impact; in one month SAPU recovered 9 firearms, 68 snares, over 350kg of bush meat and arrested 15 suspects, protecting the invaluable wildlife and environment of the Kafue National Park.

KAINGU SAFARI LODGE

KaingU is situated in the Namwala Game Management Area on a spectacular and remote stretch of the Kafue River. Parking up at a small bay area and speed boating through the granite rocks on the boarder of the central and southern province of Kafue felt like something out of Jurassic Park and I half expected to see a Pterodactyl land in front of me at any moment. The middle sector of the Kafue is a water haven with huge granite rocks that felt as though we had been transported back to prehistoric ages as we canoed down the waters. As it was October, the waters were fairly still, so it was a really relaxing row, allowing us to stop and take pictures of the bird life and hippos as we floated nearby.

Here, the Kafue River is a myriad of channels and islands lends itself to a fantastic range of river-based activities including sunset boat safaris, fishing, birding and river trails. That evening we decided we wanted to continue our active day with a walk. KaingU is ideal for this as large granite boulders can be found all around the lodge, which makes for a great nature walk before a sun downer. Mpamba Rock is one of the famed rocks in the Namwala GMA and we had a 360° of nothing but nature whilst we watched the glorious Zambian sunset.

The following morning, Lynda and Rick (KaingU's owners) included a boarding school visit, where the lodge is a sponsor. The girls here had so much enthusiasm for their school and the opportunity to learn. It was a pleasure to witness their



sparky and warm-hearted nature and it was clear they were extremely excited and grateful for our visit.

KONKAMOYA LODGE

Set on the shores of Lake Itchi Tech, it's here in the southern sector of Kafue that the terrain flattens out with views of open plains as far as the eye can see - the lodge clearly sat in prime game viewing territory. Upon arrival at lunchtime, we were greeted by Italian owners - Laura and Andrea - who appeared to be accompanied by a small troop of resident mongoose. We were soon tempted by a beautiful guispacho lunch with various breads. The Italian influence is evident in the excellent cuisine. Game driving here we were stopped in our tracks by an unbelievable amount of elephant traffic including a herd of around 40 females plus their youngsters, stampeding just a few metres in front of our vehicle.

Each game-drive proved that this part of the park is extremely game rich. During our two-night stay, we easily spotted 25+ different mammal species. The guides were quick to find less-seen animals such as a lone tortoise, an agile genet and a poised pearl-spotted owlet.

Once back at our extremely spacious and comfortable tents I settled down to the echoing sounds of the African bush.