

MADZIMBAHWE

The complete Zimbabwean story chronicler

EXPLORER

**Bridal Veil Falls,
Tessa's Pool
cyclone makeover**

CHIRINDA
a hidden gem

**MUCHONGOSI:
NDU PRIDE**

**CYCLONE IDAI DISASTER
EXPLAINED**

contents



4 Leader Page

5 Tourism Heroes

CTA to the rescue

6 Editor's Travel Guide

9 Feature

Chimanimani Mountains beckon

12 Lodgings

Frog & Fern Cottages' Rustic Comfort

14 Restaurant

Heaven Mountain Lodge's Saturday pizza night tradition

15 Resort

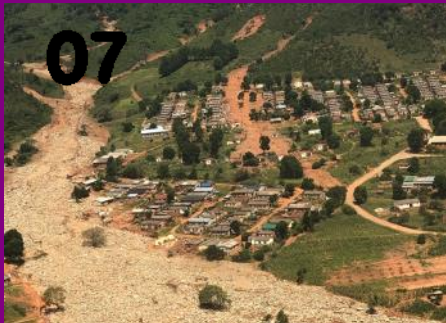
Chirinda, a hidden gem

16 Resort

Bridal Veil Falls, Tessa's Pool cyclone makeover

18 Plant Life

Chimanimani's pre-historic plant
Aloe howmanni—the cliff hanger!



07

Cyclone Idai disaster explained

Haroni-Rusitu forests birding hotspots



19



24



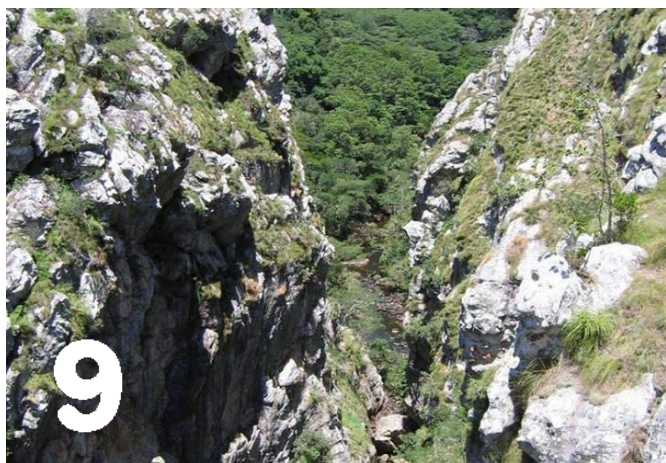
18



25



5



9



27

19 Bird Life

Haroni-Rusitu forests birding hotspots

20 Animal Life

Cave Squeaker– went missing for decades

24 Art

Dee Schafer's fine art

25 Our Heritage

Muchongoyo: Ndaou pride

26 Recipe

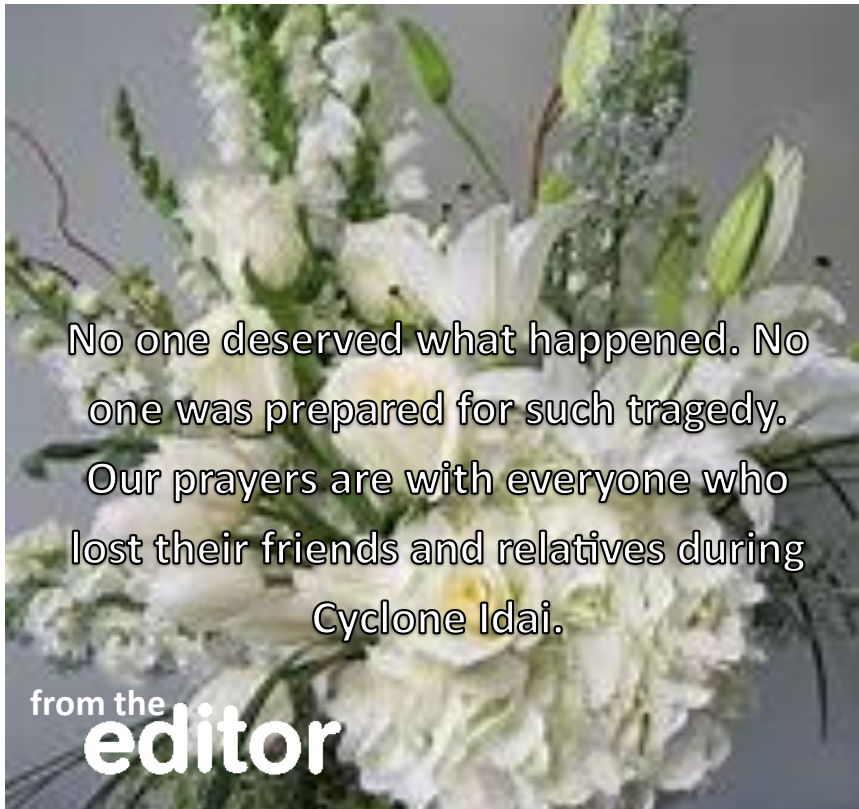
Basic Homemade Bread

27 Culture

Sekuru Ndunge was not evil–son

28 Animal Welfare

Cyclone Idai worsened animals' plight



No one deserved what happened. No one was prepared for such tragedy. Our prayers are with everyone who lost their friends and relatives during Cyclone Idai.

from the
editor

Welcome to the fifth installation of



IF RWANDA had Hotel Rwanda to offer refuge to citizens who were being persecuted during one of the ugliest episodes of its history then Zimbabwe should equally value its hospitality industry for having been there for the people when Cyclone Idai ravaged the Eastern Highlands.

Local hoteliers' unsolicited help in the face of the worst natural disaster in the southern hemisphere was a demonstration of their true, loving and caring nature.

The violent storm that damped record rains which triggered massive landslides and floods that razed entire settlements killing over 400, destroying millions of dollars' worth of infrastructure and over 15 000 livestock—washing away the livelihoods of those who survived, revealed what value these investors have in a community.

It demonstrated that they are not only hospitable for profit. Their generosity is inherent – an indelible part of who they are.

It was a demonstration of the love and care that this great country has been celebrated for.

Chimanimani hotel owner and proprietor Mandla Mataure opened the door to the traumatized and rain-soaked locals who had lost everything in deadly mudslides

that killed tens of their neighbours and left hundreds injured.

Doug Van De Ruit and Tempe, who own Chimanimani Farm House, housed two South African tourists who had been caught up in the area and helped bring in the first helicopter that gave insight into the extent of the damage and was central to the overall emergency search, rescue and relief efforts.

The upmarket but rustic Frog and Fern Cottages suspended all business and continue to only house volunteers working on relief efforts. Others too gave everything to the effort.

As Chimanimani Tourist Association, they are on the frontline of relief efforts as they rebuild homes, careers and lives particularly in the worst affected parts of the region.

In this light, we are running a special edition to help them back on their feet by showing the world what great treasure this region is. By coming to explore the region and enjoy their hospitality, you will be giving a hand. Its unique wildlife, pristine forests, iconic landscape and wonderful riverine attractions survived the storm.

Happy reading!

Norma



Chimanimani Mountains

About us

MaDzimbahwe Explorer is a tourism portal with informative, upbeat and inspirational articles about Zimbabwe not only for the benefit of foreign nature lovers, thrill seekers and travellers but locals as well.

We hope to not tell this beautiful, gracious, upwardly mobile southern African country's story not through known stereotypes of stagnation and regression but through more objective lenses.

We seek to share the country's tourist attraction sites – both popular and less publicized, review its accommodation and meetings, conferencing and event facilities as well as profile its eating houses.

We hope to change Zimbabwe's tourism narrative from portraying its natural endowments as its most prized possession to its people as well. We will also do this by sharing its impressive and unique culture – both urban and traditional to include fashion and arts— visual and performance.



Chimanimani Hotel

Lets get
social



Lets stay in
touch

norma.tsopo@gmail.com

CTA to the rescue

NO ONE can prepare you for a loss. It comes like a swift wind. It was so too when the angel of death visited Chimanimani in the agency of tropical Cyclone Idai.

The violent storm possessed apocalyptic power – bringing a scale of death and destruction never before recorded in the country from a natural cause.

Cut off from the rest of the world, locals were left to themselves.

It was during this critical moment that Chimanimani Tourist Association (CTA) stepped in to save the situation.

The organisation that is currently being led by Jane High, Collen Sibanda, Timothy Mudhluvi, Tempe van de Ruit, Sandy Knight, Andy Woodruff and James Keegan with huge support from literally thousands who love Chimanimani organized the first coordinated response at a local level.

Tempe and her husband Doug van de Ruit who own Chimanimani Farm House facilitated the first relief helicopter that apart from being critical in establishing the extent of the damage and shaping rescue and relief efforts was also used to evacuate the first patients.

While Chimanimani Hotels appeared to take all the credit for opening up its doors to the public every single CTA member who owns accommodation also put up homeless people and volunteers at no cost.

It is therefore only fair that we applaud CTA, which has been in existence since 1994, in its entirety, and as the face of the local tourism industry as our heroes in the face of such adversity.

In fact, the iconic hotel was itself also made inaccessible with fallen trees of which CTA paid Matsetso youths to clear the way. They also provided firewood to warm up those who had sought refuge in it and for meals. CTA and its trainee Mountain Guides also provided transport, containers and water for the hotel during the crisis.

It was also CTA that ensured that kept Chimanimani in touch with the rest of the world as, after both Tel One and Econet networks went down after their generators ran out of fuel, it sourced, paid for and got them back up.



CTA chairperson Jane High

transform lives... It was brought into the sharpest focus by this Cyclone. Those Trainee Guides were the heroes....

“People like Praymore Mwarumba who dug people up with their own two hands, buried their nearest loved ones and still went up to carry food and help to those in need. They are CTA....they did this for CTA because the Tourism Industry has given them hope for their lives going forward,” High said.

CTA has continued to assist by facilitating assistance from rebuilding homes and all forms of aid from food, clothing to shelter.

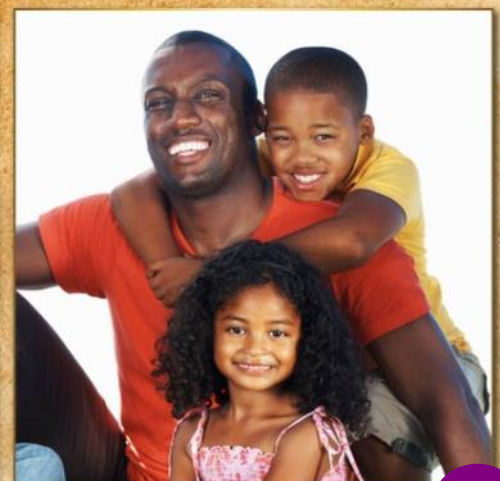
Without CTA – which shockingly has never really made it into speeches of senior government officials and politicians, things could really have been even worse.

FATHER'S DAY

Best of Zimbabwe
zimbabwe's premier resorts

TREAT DAD TO A BREAK AWAY WITH BEST OF ZIMBABWE VISIT WWW.BESTOFZIMBABWE.CO.ZW FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE 'BEST' OF ZIMBABWE.

FOR A MEMORABLE HOLIDAY, DAD DESERVES!



THE EDITOR'S TRAVEL GUIDE

CHIMANIMANI and Chipinge may have suffered an unimaginable humanitarian catastrophe when the category three tropical cyclone – Idai barreled through leaving over 400 people dead and destroying millions of dollars' worth of infrastructure.

The landscape was torn up, with this mountainous region revealing yawning wounds of red soils where landslides occurred and water tables burst into new springs – some temporal and others still flowing two months later.

The winds were monstrous and the rains apocalyptic.

Accustomed to rains of between 1,000 and 2,000mm annually the locals couldn't imagine they could be undone by excessive rain. The region took delivery of over 400 mm in under 24 hours at the back of over 200mm the previous day in a terrain that was already soaked in days of incessant rains.

And the earth gave in! The catastrophic effects are well documented. The psychological scars will not heal as easily as the underway rehabilitation efforts.

Although once completely cut off from the rest of the country, it is now accessible again.

As *MaDzimbahwe Explorer* we would like to encourage you to come and see the result of this violent storm – albeit with

Chimanimani & Chipinge

anything you can carry to support those who survived his horror.

Yes, the cyclone took lives but it did not take away its priced scenery – just scared some, and gave a makeover to others!

Birchenough Bridge, designed by Ralph Freeman who also did the Sydney Harbour Bridge, still spans Save River in all its grandeur; Nyanyadzi Hot Springs are still bubbling at boiling point; Matsororo Bridge, on Mvumvumu River as you begin the climb into the escarpment, is still accessible; and, Skyline –

that cliff-hugging meandering road that is way more impressive than Christmas Pass and Boterekwa still offers its magically scenic access to Chimanimani.

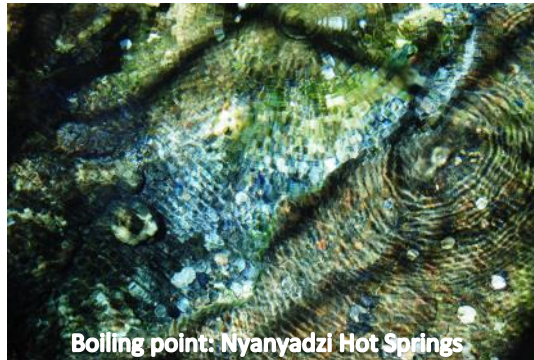
Here, endemic plants, butterflies, reptiles and amphibians await your discovery, and near endemic birds still offer their spell-binding songs to all in the village or in its enchanting

montane and lowland forests to include in Haroni and Rusitu as well as further down in Chirinda.

Its riverine beauties – the bridal veil shaped water fall, the fall into Tessa's pool, the bubbling springs up the mountain and the numerous falls and natural pools survived the storm.

And the jagged mountain still stands with its challenge for hiking trails, rock climbing and mountain hiking.

The people, despite going through hell, are still infectiously loving and caring.



Picture: @VisitZimbabwe

Cyclone Idai disaster explained

by NORMA TSOPO

JUST about everything was out of place. And nature crudely reaped revenge on a people completely oblivious of the sum effects of its ways of life.

The powerful tropical cyclone raced through a barren flat terrain being sucked inland by deforestation's associated elevated temperatures; a fire scotched barren mountainous ridge that had absolutely no capacity to absorb and withstand record rains; poor settlement patterns – on steep slopes, under dangerous cliffs, atop underground rivers, on river confluences and in valleys; and, a populace in complete lull of ignorance of what a truly monster storm was capable off, all combined to doom Chimanimani and Chipinge.

It was a hotchpotch of factors that would leave over 400 people dead, over 16,000 homeless, millions of dollars in infrastructural loss and over 15,000 livestock making it as much a natural disaster as it was a man-made catastrophe.

A tour of this region immediately after the violent storm left

many in disbelief that rainfall alone could have achieved the level of damage that occurred.

Retired Chief Air Marshal Perrence Shiri aptly described it as resembling a war zone in which heavy artillery had been exchanged.

Entire settlements had even disappeared – Tafara suburb near Ngangu, Peacock business centre and Cooper growth point, as hundreds were swept away by angry streams and rivers, while many others were crushed to death in a mangle of rubble after massive landslides.



Ngangu high density in Chimanimani

The strikingly scenic mountainous region whose fertile soils and high rainfall had been a key attraction to its residents had suddenly become a death trap.

It left the communities in utter shock and confusion spurring many theories some of which are so odd and outlandish that only heavily traumatized minds could even consider believing them.

The following factors as identified by experts explain the disaster:

Deforestation in cyclone's path and the interior



SINCE the last damaging storm of 2001, there has been expansive deforestation in the interior of Mozambique and Zimbabwe, compounded by the failure in these areas to adapt climate mitigating agricultural practices such as agroforestry. The lack of tree cover causes an immediate increase in temperature (this contributes along with the release of the carbon stored in the timber and soils to the global phenomenon) increases in temperature mean changes in air pressure, with the consequence that the cyclone is effectively sucked into the interior at an accelerated velocity. So, the cyclone brings higher winds and more water further into the interior.

– Allan Schwarz, Mezimbite Forest Centre Founder

Building above underground rivers, on waterways



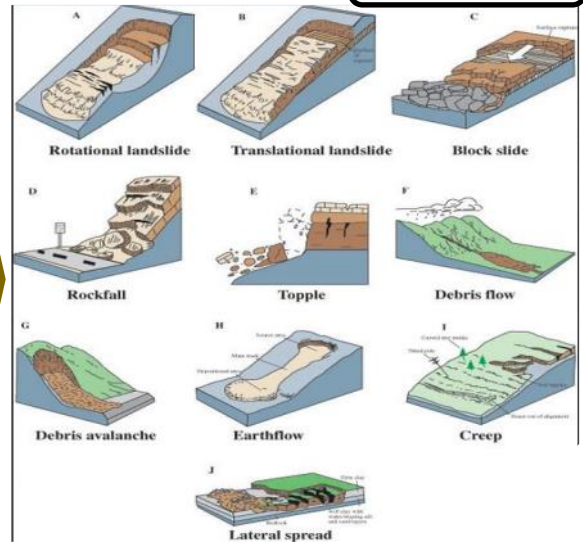
TAFARA suburb in Chimanimani was sitting atop an underground river that burst open in the torrential rains. There were over 20 houses that were all washed away.

Sections of Ngangu high density suburbs in Chimanimani that were along waterways were completely destroyed

Destabilisation of mountain bases

It is more about the stability at the bottom of the slopes than at the top of them. So, if human activities undermine the stability at the bottom... (removal of indigenous vegetation, removal of rocks etc.) then on the occasion of very heavy rain one can expect the weight of sodden earth, at the bottom of slopes, to slide down into the lowest point (often the river bed) thus beginning a cascade of land slips above the first one...bottom up instead of from top down...hence all the rocks as well. Then the flowing water scoured those rocks and the soils all ended up in Mozambique.

– Mike Gratwick, engineer



Record rainfall dumped in short space of time

There was a lot of rainfall. Some stations around Chimanimani like Chisengu had well over 600 mm and in Chimanimani there is a station that recorded over 400 mm in 24 hours and being mountainous area mudslides are possible.

– Tichaona Zinyemba, Meteorological Services Department

Deforestation



SOMEONE has to answer to the deforestation which has caused the death and destruction in Chimanimani and Chipinge, and in our own area, we, the collective we, failed to mobilise our resources to stop deforestation and we are witnessing the dire results.

– Samir Shasha, proprietor Leopard Rock Hotel

Industrial activities

THE already heavily silted rivers could not contain large volumes



of water coming with more debris from poorly sited sawmills which also blocked bridges causing rivers to burst banks.

– Philip Tom, Provincial Manager Forestry Commission.

Settlements in valleys and on river confluences

PEACOCK Business Centre, on the confluence of Nyahode and Nyamarirwi rivers was completely swept out with the biggest catastrophe at Dzingire Growth Point – popularly known as Cooper, at the base of Rusitu valley. Here, three major rivers met and razed it– Rusitu, Nyahode and Chipita rivers which were draining areas that were hardest hit by Cyclone Idai rains from Chimanimani town, Charter, Gwendingwe and Mutsvangwa all laden with debris. Rusitu River was backed out by an angry Haroni River which was draining Chimanimani Mountains at their confluence in Vhimba



which forced a violent swirl in Cooper, only a few hundred metres upstream, that saw trees being uprooted, buildings smashed and the entire growth point literally being swept away together with over 60 vehicles and over three hundred people.

Wanton veld fires



FIRE was a major part of why our mudslides were so bad even where there is intact Msasa woodland. This mountain (above Ngangu) is torched two three times a year and the thick grass undergrowth that you would usually find in a Msasa forest that protects the soil from direct rainfall, limit run off and hold the soil firmly together is all gone.

– Jane High, environmentalist

Poor agricultural practices

IN AS much as the disaster was an act of nature, human activities may have exacerbated the extent of damage seen at some places on the ground. The Chimanimani area being mountainous on its own is a fragile ecosystem. It cannot withstand pressure of intensive crop cultivation which involves complete removal of vegetation. This weakens the soils already on steep terrains. These are shallow soils sitting on basalt rock and can easily give in to intensive rains such as the one received in Chimanimani during the cyclone period...the presence of trees could naturally probably have minimised damages in some of the affected areas.



– Philip Tom

Chimanimani Mountains beckon

by NGONI SHUMBA

CHIMANIMANI – a narrow passage, is a name derived from a narrow pass through which Musapa River flows (see picture) in the unique quartzite mountain range that bears its name along the eastern highlands on the Zimbabwe-Mozambique border.

The mountain is a treasure trove of enchanting forests, mystic caves, towering mountain peaks, beautiful falls, breath-taking gorges, a tapestry of rivers and streams adding to a heart-stopping stunning scenery that includes a mythical bubbling spring among others.

Its vegetation cover is equally diverse and is classified as a montane forest-grassland mosaic eco-region. These hold over 1,000 plant species of which at least 73 plants are found nowhere else in the world.

Botanist Chris Chapano says this rich plant concentration carries a third of Zimbabwe's 224 endemic plants. He describes Chimanimani as "a centre for high plant endemism."

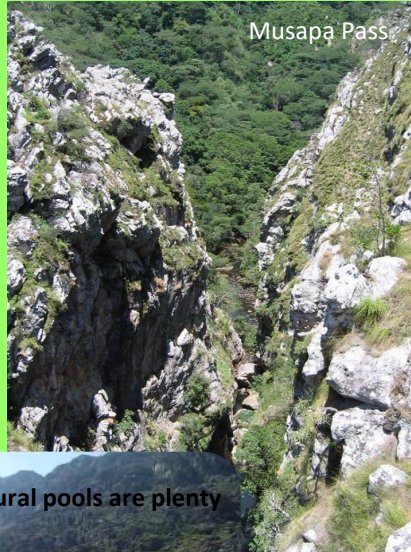
Add to this over 160 bird species – many near endemic, 49 fish species, 35 amphibian species, of which two – *bufo vertebralis grindleyi* and *an-throleptis troglodytes*, are endemic and 60 reptile species to make these spectacular mountains a gift like no other.

Celebrated tour-guide Collen Sibanda strongly believes there is no region that can match these mountains anywhere else in the country due to the diversity of its features and the wide range of the life forms it sustains.

"It has everything from falls, gorges, caves, endemic plants, rare birds, the list is endless. The only surprise is why it's not doing as much as all other regions in the country," Sibanda said.

He feels that it is a complete summary of everything Zimbabwe has to offer – all in one big concentration.

The absence of the more abrasive members of the big five – lions, cape buffalo, elephants and rhinoceros fit perfectly with the terrain which is only not spoiled by roads.



Musapa Pass

This enthralling wilderness is only accessible by footpaths guaranteed to give every traveller a magical connection with nature—it only adds to the fun of the wild and unspoilt character of the area.

Standout large mammals that occur in the mountains are the shy leopards, mountain reedbuck, klipspringer, blue duiker, common duiker and simango monkey with the rest being various small mammals.

Key tourist activities may include one or all of going on the diverse hiking trails, rock climbing challenges, birding, camping in caves among the sparkling waterfalls and swimming in the natural crocodile-free swimming pools.



Natural pools are plenty



The Mountain Hut – formerly known as Balls Hotel, sitting bare at 1,630m above sea level offers ideal refuge to visitors.

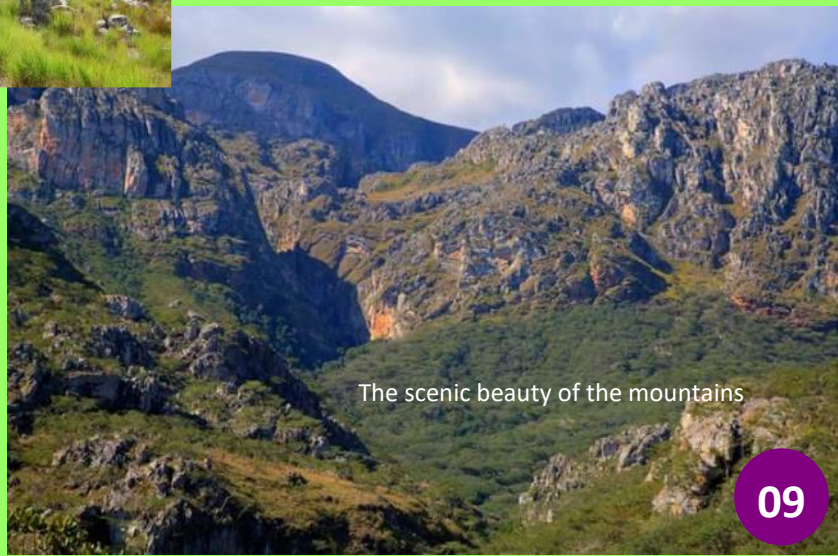
Tourists can also camp freely anywhere within the mountains except at Base Camp – at the foot of the mountains from where visitors pay to gain entry.

Those that are daring can



take the option of spending the night in either Terry's or Peter's caves – disused mine shafts.

Those who may feel that they are not up to the challenge of the ascent to the mountain hut, which is accessible through various routes depending on the choice of difficulty one desires, may prefer the Corner Camp Area that borders Chikukwa Village.



The scenic beauty of the mountains



Sanganai
Hlanganani

**WORLD
TOURISM
EXPO**

“Africa’s Premier Business Exchange”

2019

**12 - 14
September**

**Register now !
for Exhibition space**

@Zimbabwe International Exhibitions Centre (ZITF GROUNDS) - BULAWAYO



for registration contact : Zimbabwe Tourism Authority, 55 Samora Machel Avenue, tel - 263 772 263 328, 713 834 710, 775 164 571

email : sheona@ztazim.co.zw, vigilant@ztazim.co.zw, kudzi@ztazim.co.zw, sanganai@ztazim.co.zw

website : www.sanganaitourismexpo.com



Who should participate??

- National Tourism Boards
- Embassies
- Airlines
- Tourism destinations
- Tour Wholesalers, Tour Operators and Travel Agents
- Hotels
- Car Hire and Transport Operators
- Suppliers of goods and services to the tourism industry
- Investors
- Government Ministries
- Parastatals

Lodgings . Restaurant . Resorts

Frog & Fern Cottages' rustic comfort

Heaven Mountain Lodge's

Saturday pizza night tradition

Chirinda, a hidden gem

Bridal Veil Falls, Tessa's

Pool cyclone makeover

Frog & Fern Cottages' rustic comfort

by NORMA TSOPO

ZIMBABWEAN round-hut architectural designs have always fascinated travelers but locals are increasingly drifting away from these beauties.

Some even now despise them as backward – an embarrassment even.

It is no wonder then that when the building plans for Frog and Fern Cottages – which pioneered the architectural designs of giant huts in the local hotel industry in the early 1990s, the local council refused to approve them.

Chimanimani rural district council could not tolerate having 'huts under thatch' in its low density suburbs. It took the intervention of an hotelier in its board to have it passed.

Its main double storey rondavel architectural master piece, stone cabins and rustic layout was, and continues, to inspire archetypical Zimbabwean village lodge presentations in many up market facilities across the country – of which Musanganano Lodge is one.



Frog and Fern's location is also perfect for viewing Chimanimani as it sits atop a hill that was used by the Rhodesian Army as a vantage point, during the war of liberation, to monitor the entire Chimanimani valley – the small town and its environs stretching over to Ngangu high density area as well as the surrounding mountain ridges.

It backs up against Pork Pie Eland Sanctuary Mountain but has everything else in its outlay.

The view might no longer be as clear from one standpoint because of the beautiful Miombo forest that has been allowed to regenerate creating a perfect enclave for nature lovers and birders while retaining its vantage point status for breathtaking views.

The Msasa woodlands and aloes as well as a variety of plant species attract all manner of endemic insects,

amphibians, small mammals and birds.

There is no attempt to create a showy Victorian garden – with all its excesses of water and chemicals to keep it neat and clean, making this perfect for conservationists.

It is no wonder that many wildlife researchers and nature enthusiasts prefer staying here.

With Chimanimani being home to rare birds that include endangered Blue swallow, Bronze sunbird, Gurneys sugarbird, Miombo tit, Mashona hyliota and Miombo rock thrush some of them can sometimes be seen from the comfort of this lodging.



with ideal particularly if it's rainy.

It's only a walkable distance from town and very accessible.

Sitting a few hundred metres off the road to Bridal Veil Falls, Frog and Fern is perfectly positioned for visitors to this key attraction.





The facility has three cottages with each being a home in its own right with a warm ambiance and charming décor that includes original art works by well known and loved local artists including Martin van der Spuy and Dee Schafer, its co-owner, complete with a kitchen, lounge, bedroom and bathrooms.

All this combines to give a relaxing homely comfort.

Miombo Cottage is the largest and perhaps the most impressive of the three.

It is a stone, double storey rondavel, under thatch, with a central chimney that works as a source of heat in the winter.

It has a double en suite downstairs and four single beds – dorm style, upstairs. There are two bathrooms, sunken lounge open plan kitchen and central jetmaster fireplace.

It may be ideal for families although they will not check in anyone with children under five as a safety precaution due to its stairway and interior upstairs design.

Msasa Cottage is particularly designed with the elderly in mind and also disability friendly. It has an open plan design and would suit either couples on a honey moon or with one young child.

“My mother helped design this for herself and its ideal for people living with disability as well,” High told

maDzimbahwe Explorer.

It has a spacious patio area that overlooks the garden.

Mzanje Cabin is meant for a single couple but also has extra beds in the lounge one is to squeeze in a third person or children.

Being a self-catering facility, the cottages and cabin are well stocked with some basics like coffee, tea, salt and sugar in the well-appointed kitchen.

There is also a camping facility but due to limited parking areas and limited flat ground it can only accommodate three tents. This comes with a kitchenette, stone braai, private Boma, a toilet and hot shower.



Heaven Mountain Lodge's Saturday pizza night tradition

by NGONI SHUMBA

ONE of a kind quartzite mountain range. Distinct and diverse vegetation cover. A motley assortment of amphibians, insects and animals. Rare endemic bird species. All make Chimanimani a natural wonder paradise.

Forever cool and green, its soothing atmosphere and beautiful scenery make it one of Zimbabwe's many world-class tourist destinations.

Its main attraction is however the mountain that forms the border with Mozambique which is gifted with beautiful natural pools, waterfalls and streams with its diverse cover of grasslands, rocky outcrops and indigenous flora and fauna.

This tranquil mountainous region's spirit is captured in the aptly named Heaven Mountain Lodge—a homey guest-house, wreathed in creepers and vines, is in a very pretty garden amid lush mountain scenery.

The lodge sits at the edge of Chimanimani village, along the way to Chimanimani Mountains National Park – a 150 km but three-hour bus ride from Mutare.

It is not only one of the southern African country's original backpackers – it is one of a few diverse places in the eastern highlands.

The main house's spacious sitting room and dining area are exquisitely decorated with the country's historical pictures, wacky sculptures and paintings. A theme that runs through the entire establishment to create a relaxing environment.

Situated on over eight acres of private grounds the lodge caters for backpackers, over-landers, families and business travelers with its wide variety of private rooms, communal dorms – in a mixture of A-frames, cabins and an ordinary room in the main house as well as self-

catering cottage and camping facilities.

Jacqui and Allen – the lodge's ultra-friendly owners run a bar and restaurant whose major highlight is its wood-fired Saturday pizza nights from this area.

This attracts local town folk and travellers who may even be booked elsewhere allowing guests an opportunity to interact with a diverse group of people.

This makes the lodge's common



area a source of lasting memories.

The menu is more diverse during other



days. But there is need to talk to the cook in advance about the meals and menu options.

Beyond being a favourite eatery for both visitors and locals this is only one aspect of the rich experiences it offers.

This also allows it to suit most budgets. Accommodation pricing is also aided by the fact that the lodge offers breakfast on request and on a separate charge.

It also has a book exchange for the internationally diverse book lovers that comes through its doors.

Outside, there is also some garden furniture to sit out in the sun on and admire the mountain scenery.

The rooms are homey and comfortable. There are plenty of blankets for those cold winter nights too. Some of the rooms however have no en suites and guests will have to be comfortable with shared ablutions. These toilets and showers are clean.

There is a Wi-Fi hotspot, but it comes with a nominal fee.

Chimanimani may not as yet be back to its vibrant tourist magnet best but its accommodation facilities are ready to host the visitors.



Chirinda, a hidden gem

by NORMA TSOPO

CHIRINDA forest – a moist evergreen Zanzibar-Ihambane transitional rainforest, is a colossal ecological treasure trove of rare vegetation, birds, reptiles, insects and mammals.

There is no such forest further south on the Africa continent.

The most popular section of this Afromontane forest many be the Valley of Giants with its amazing population of oversized trees among which is the largest red mahogany tree in southern Africa and the tallest native tree in Zimbabwe – the Big Tree whose age is estimated around 600 to 1 000 years although some say it could even be 2 000 years old.

This is only one of many reasons why the forest should be a tourist magnet. But it has more. A bit of something for everyone.

The names of the diverse plant and animal species whose names distinctly show that they were either first identified from this forest on the slopes of Mt Selinda a few 30 kilometres from Chipinge town are testimony to its rich biome.

Naturalist Charles Swynnerton who was appointed manager of the nearby Gungunyana farm in 1900 also left his signature on both botanical, insect, bird and mammal species that he discovered in the area, through their names.

To tree huggers, it has a rich collection of rare tree species which seldom occur elsewhere in the country like the fluted milk wood which apparently is the dominant canopy species, Chirinda fig, undershrub big-leaf, Chirinda stinkwood, yellow bitter berry and forest strychnos. And one would only be getting started.

On the mammals side there are local races of the mutable sun squirrel (*H. m. chirindensis*) and red-bellied coast squirrel that is a Selinda mountain squirrel and *P. p. swynnertonii* as well as the Selinda veld rat which is only known from two other sites in the country.



The Big Tree

Birds that were first described from this forest are the strikingly coloured race of red-necked spurfowl (*P. a. swynnertonii*), a fulvous-coloured race of wailing cisticola, a race of bar-throated Apalis, the smallish, dusky and streaky-throated Swynnerton's thrush which is endemic to the Eastern Highlands, and a race of olive sunbird.

Quite a number of highland bird species reach their southernmost



Mt Selinda Acraea mimic butterfly

occurrence on the African continent here as well including the aptly named Chirinda Apalis and Swynnerton's robin – a globally threatened species.

On the reptiles' end there are worm lizards discovered by Swynnerton like *Chirindia swynnertonii* and *Zygaspis ferox* which are endemic to the forest and its vicinity.

In the closely related amphibian family there is the Chirinda toad which is known from Chirinda and in a forest north of Dombé in adjacent Mozambique.

The forest is the only place in the world where the Mount Selinda Acraea mimic butterfly is found.

Something this rich, with rare and endemic species, in a government-reserved forest is thus puzzling not to be consistently on the radar of tourists according to a recent Hospitality Association of Zimbabwe (HAZ) mar-



Chirinda Apalis

keting meeting that was exploring efforts to market the eastern highlands to the international market.

Forestry Commission (FC) which manages the forest reserve took part of the blame on their failure to aggressively market it.

It is only being frequented by researchers and people that know what a wonder world it is.

The quasi-government institution that is tasked with protecting the country's indigenous forests admits that it hasn't been doing well on that end.

"Indeed the number of tourists who visit the forest have been very poor. We only have a lot of interest in researcher who will be studying indigenous plants and other local occurrences.



Swynnerton's robin

"We probably should take part of the blame because we have not been aggressively marketing it to the international traveler," Philip Tom, FC's Manicaland provincial manager said.

Tom said while accessibility to the 950 hectare rainforest may be another reason for poor tourist inflows there was need for stronger linkages between it and other tourist destinations.

"It would help if we can package it together with other tourist destinations and its proximity to espungabera border post between Zimbabwe and Mozambique makes is very accessible from that side," Tom said.



Valley of giants

Bridal Veil Falls, Tessa's Pool cyclone makeover

by NORMA TSOPO

DROP-DEAD gorgeous riverine tourist attractions – Bridal Veil Falls and Tessa's Pool emerged out of tropical Cyclone Idai in rugged splendor.

Their new look rocky outlay though giving a coarse feel makes them even more striking.

Stripped of some of their vegetation and soil, the two iconic attractions are now at one with the celebrated jagged quality of Chimanimani mountains.

Both Bridal Veil Falls' and Tessa's Pool were also slightly enlarged—a plus for swimmers.

Mike Mataure, Chimanimani Hotel co-owner, feels the changes to the falls are more of nature's 'rearrangement' than 'destruction'.

Chimanimani Tourist Association (CTA) chairperson Jane High described the changes at Bridal as 'spectacular' as they have not taken away its 'outstanding beauty'.

"We hope National Parks don't tidy up too much and try to beautify the falls areas because frankly I think they are more beautiful now with the rugged landscape carved out by Idai," High said.

She said they were already moving on to market the region and how its attractions now look like after the violent storm.

What really needs attention is the battered road infrastructure to allow tourists full access to both scenic spots.

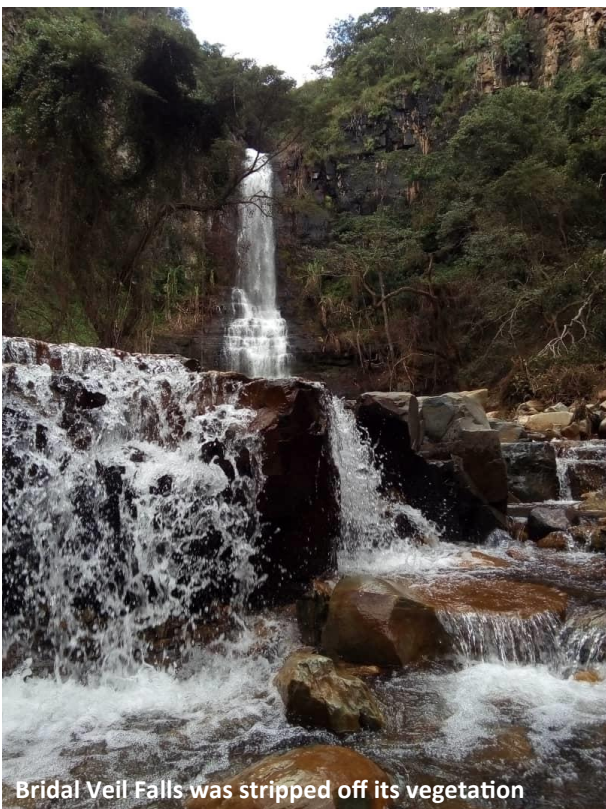
Hospitality Association of Zimbabwe (HAZ) vice president Clive Chinwada feels government and its development partners need to quickly work on the region's tourism enablers for it to quickly bounce back as the players in the area are not big enough to shoulder the costs on their own.

"Infrastructure for the accessibility to the sites which is currently damaged will need government and development partners to work support the small tourism sector as the cannot manage to rehabilitate it on their own," Chinwada said.

Otherwise nature gave these two sites a makeover that many are already falling in love with.



Tessa's Pool



Bridal Veil Falls was stripped off its vegetation



Environment

Plant Life . Animal Life . Bird Life

Aloe howmanni—the cliff hanger!

Chimanimani's pre-historic plant

Haroni-Rusitu forests birding hotspots

Cave Squeaker—went missing for decades

Chimanimani's pre-historic plant



by NGONI SHUMBA

CYCADS are a pre-historic plant species that endured and survived weather extremes that wiped dinosaurs out of existence.

Like a special place that it is, Chimanimani has its own species that is exclusive to these mountains—Chimanimani cycad or *Encephalartos chimanimaniensis*.

It's a species of cycad that is endemic to these mountains.

This species thrives in the montane grassland which enjoys rainfall of over 1,800 mm per annum, and at an altitude of about 1,000 metres above sea level.

It is associated with schist and quartzite sediments in granitic mountains.

Sadly, cycad collectors are threatening to completely destroy its occurrence in the wild and it is now a specially protected threatened species.

This proves over and over again how humanity is driving many species into extinction both directly and indirectly.

According to a 2003 assessment only between 500 and 1,000 plants remained in the wild. However, another researcher – Capela (2006) provided an estimate of 1,200 mature plants at Makurupini and an additional 300 at Morambo, besides smaller isolated colonies.

Interestingly, the plant is relied on as a food source by locals in times of drought. Albeit an unsustainable food source considering how slowly they grow.

The sturdy plant is peeled, cut up into cubes and soaked in water for days before it is pounded and cooked, locals said.

Disappointingly, very few locals appreciate just how special and rare cycads are in general let alone that there is a species unique to Chimanimani.

Aloe howmanni—the cliff hanger!

by NGONI SHUMBA

HOWMAN'S cliff aloe, a rare cliff-dwelling aloe only known from sheer, south-facing sandstone rock cliffs in the iconic Chimanimani mountains is a local endemic.

Also known as *Aloe howmanii*, the shrublets were named after Roger Howman, a colonial era Native Commissioner of Nganga and Zaka who collected this plant from these cliffs during Easter in 1940.

It was however only named two decades later by Gilbert Reynolds in the *Kirkia* botanical journal in 1961.

It is distributed from the Bundi Gorge, to the Musapa Gap in altitudes of between 1,678 and 2,380 m in very poor acidic soils that receives rainfalls of between 1,000 and 2,000 mm per year.

The soil is poor in minerals and acidic. Rainfall in the habitat is high and ranges from 1 000–2 000 mm per annum.

Although the plant endures veld fires by re-sprouting after fire damage they are often spared from very intense infernos due to their rocky habitat.

The mountains are also perfect for this aloe because it depends for its pollination on sunbirds which are abundant in this part of the world.

The good news is that it has been successfully used as a flower albeit only under conditions that closely mimic Chimanimani's the south-facing cliffs – mineral-poor, sandy, acidic soil, in light shade.

It can be grown both, as a container plant, or in moist grassland gardens, where frost is not severe. It should preferably be grown in dry stone walls or on vertical walls where the plant can become suspended.



Haroni-Rusitu forests birding hotspots

by **BIRDLIFE ZIMBABWE** [Pics: Adam Riley, John Caddick]

THE Haroni-Rusitu is a very special, though very threatened lowland forest, one of few in the subregion.

From the junction area on the Mozambican border at 312m it rises as high as 1400m over just 4km up to the dramatic southern tip of the Chimanimani Mountains.

Access to the reserve is rough resulting in few visitors and illegal clearing continues despite its supposed protected status, threatening also its rare mammals, reptiles and amphibians and plants.

The area is well known for unusual birds including Barred Long-tailed Cuckoo, Tiny Greenbul, Black-and-white Flycatcher, Woodward's Batis, Black-headed Apalis, Eastern Bronzenaped Pigeon, Chestnut-fronted Helmet-shrike and Lesser Seedcracker.

Other great forest birds include Grey Cuckooshrike, African Broadbill, Stripe-cheeked Greenbul, Yellow-streaked Greenbul, Orange Ground-thrush, White-starred Robin, Barratt's Warbler, Yellow-throated Woodland-warbler, Chirinda Apalis, Blue-mantled Crested Flycatcher, White-tailed Crested Flycatcher, Olive and Gorgeous Bush-shrike and Yellow-bellied Waxbill.

African Pitta is known to breed here and Pel's Fishing-owl and

Bat Hawk occurs in the riverine forest, with African Finfoot in the rivers.

Silvery-checked Hornbills fly the forests and Blue-spotted Wood-dove, Green Malkoha, Lesser Cuckoo, Green-backed Woodpecker, Collared Palm-thrush, Short-winged Cisticola, Red-winged Warbler, Pale Batis, Black-bellied Starling, Red-throated Wryneck, Black-winged Bishop, Green Twinspot and many others are in more open habitat.



Olive Bush Shrike



Pel's Fishing-owl



Gurneys Sugarbird



Chirinda Apalis



Red-throated twinspot and even

The miombo areas can give you Rubellied Tit, Miombo Rock-thrush, Miombo Double-collared Sunbird, Plain-backed Sunbird, Western Violet-backed Sunbird and Black-eared Seed eater.

Interesting raptors occur with Taita Falcon, Southern Banded Snake-eagle, Dickinson's Kestrel, Palm-nut Vulture, Martial Eagle, African Crowned Eagle, Ayres's Hawk-eagle and even vagrant Egyptian Vulture!



Crowned Eagle



Martial Eagle



Taita Falcon



Egyptian Vulture

Cave Squeaker— went missing for decades

STAFF WRITER

THE cave squeaker – listed as critically endangered in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is only found in Chimanimani mountains.

This frog species is so rare that after having last been seen in 1962 it took more than four decades for it to be sighted again.

According to Afro Mont – an African mountain research network, Dr Rob Hopkins, a frog biologist working at the Natural History Museum in Bulawayo in the herpetology department, led a recent mission to “re-discover the long missing frog, that was found by Don Broadley in 1962 and not recorded since.”

Dr Hopkins and Dr Broadley had attempted re-location on some four occasions without success, indicating how rare and localised this frog species is.

It is highly endangered and has since been listed as such in the red data book.

The cave squeaker is unique as a frog as it undergoes direct development to hatch as miniature adults unlike other frogs whose developmental process involves being tadpoles.

The embryo develops into a tadpole and subsequently into an adult frog before hatching. But the eggs still require being laid in a damp location.

This unique ability frees the cave squeaker from dependence on bodies of water for reproduction.

The cave squeaker’s extent of occurrence is less than 100 km²

and its area of occupancy is less than 10 km², all individuals are in a single location.

Afro Mont fears that this frog species’ population may continue declining “due to climate change and other unidentified threats.”

Illegal mining activities on the Bundi river in Chimanimani mountains over the past decade have been noted by researchers like Dr Hopkins as a direct threat to this amphibian species.

The mountain range also have another endemic frog species – *Bufo vertebralis grindleyi*, among 35 amphibian species that are found within it.

These uncelebrated wildlife species make Chimanimani a special place whose total import is however yet to be fully discovered by many beyond as few researchers.



Bufo vertebralis grindleyi



Our Vision

The centre of governance excellence for socio-economic growth by 2030

Our Mission

To provide first-class service delivery and promote economic growth to enhance the quality of life of the residence of Chipinge Town

Our Values

Proactiveness
Accountability
Transparency
Integrity

Background and Overview

CHIPINGE Town Council (CTC) is a relatively new town having attained that status in November 2003. It is the third biggest urban settlement in Manicaland with an estimated population of slightly over 30,000.

Chipinge is essentially an agricultural town as it is surrounded with plantations ranging from large banana, tea, coffee, wattle, sugarcane, avocado and macadamia plantations as well as dairy farms. It also has a strong army of small holder farmers who are either into market gardening or out growers of bigger agricultural concerns.

The town is home to the country's main milk processing plants.

It is also a key tourism hub due to the area's large farms and the nearby Chirinda forest with its iconic big tree as well as rich Ndau culture.

Administered under Urban Council's Act chapter 29:15, this young town is optimistic of attracting investors to drive its growth as an economic hub to support the commercial activities that abound in its environs.

Like any urban settlement in Zimbabwe at the moment, it is struggling to deliver efficient and effective services to its residents due in part to its residents and rate payers' attitude towards their responsibility in prioritising rate payments viz-a-vis other expenses such as ZESA, DSTV subscriptions, and other sundry expenses. Residents' perceptions towards Council's mandate to deliver services to the public, littering and vandalism of public property needs continuous moulding.

Notable achievements

- Chosen to pilot the urban resilience project, a WASH initiative with funding and technical support from UNDP.
- Selected by the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) to pilot the urban citizen engagement programme phase 2. To this end, communication with residents has greatly improved through the use of U report, Facebook, WhatsApp and various other community engagement platforms.
- Successful use of all Promun modules as prescribed by UNICEF.
- Hiring of highly skilled staff who hold diplomas, honours degrees, masters' and doctorates.
- One of very few local authorities in Zimbabwe that has adopted the use of prepaid water metering.



Chipinge town partnership opportunities

Health delivery

Chipinge Town has two clinics – Gaza and Town. Gaza has since been upgraded into a polyclinic with the assistance of development partners. It however needs assistance in completing a maternity wing currently stalled due to financial constraints. It needs inner wall plastering, wiring, flooring plumbing and all medical equipment that is used in a maternity ward.



Culture and innovation hub centre

Chipinge town in a bid to preserve Ndau culture has set aside land for the construction of a culture and information centre. We are open to partnerships to give life to this initiative that will be central to tourism in the town.

Solid Waste

Solid waste management is not as efficient as hope as it only has one refuse compactor and as well as a front-end loader and tipper truck that are also shared the roads section.

Door to door refuse collection are, therefore, only done in town while in Gaza high density area refuse is periodically collected from temporary dumpsites. Innovative positive engagement with residents has managed to ensure the presence of vibrant community health clubs to assist in litter and refuse management.

A standard land fill is yet to be constructed although the site has since been identified and set aside.



Water

With perennial rivers flowing all around it, water sources – both underground and surface, are plenty although they are not being fully utilised due to limited resources. It is currently being served by two dams - Bangazan and Kabanga. However, data collected indicated that only one dam is presently under use even though not all residential areas receive water in the required quantities.

Through partnerships with UNICEF and PSIP lot of works were done and these include the refurbishment of the water treatment plant; installation of new water pumps; upgrade of the main water supply line from a 150mm to a 300mm pipe; drilling of boreholes with four being motorised and being powered by either electricity or solar energy; and construction of two more sedimentation tanks.



Waste Water

The town has a combination of sewage networks and septic tank use especially in newer suburbs. There is however need to improve this system and also adopt new technologies to enhance its waste management system.

Roads

Roads maintenance is largely funded through grants from Zinara. Cyclone Idai has however left most of our gravel roads either partly damaged or completely destroyed and since only have one motorised grader, front end loader and tipper truck hence we can no longer cope with the need.

This however did not deter us from assisting in the Junction Gate-Koppa Road rehabilitation process that was initiated by the urban council's association of Zimbabwe UCAZ to make one of the worst affected areas accessible.

Land for various other investments

The town has vast land that has been reserved for major investments and flexible terms are available for stakeholders who want to do major developments.

Currently there is a university site that is set to be developed by the united church of Christ in Zimbabwe and ZAOGA is also planning on building a college in the town.

The town still needs a hotel and an up-market shopping mall as well as an upmarket sporting facility whose space has already been reserved at St Kelvin.

MUSIC . RECIPE . HERITAGE . CULTURE

Dee Schafer's fine art

Basic homemade bread

Muchongoyo: Ndaupride

Sekuru Ndunge was not evil—son

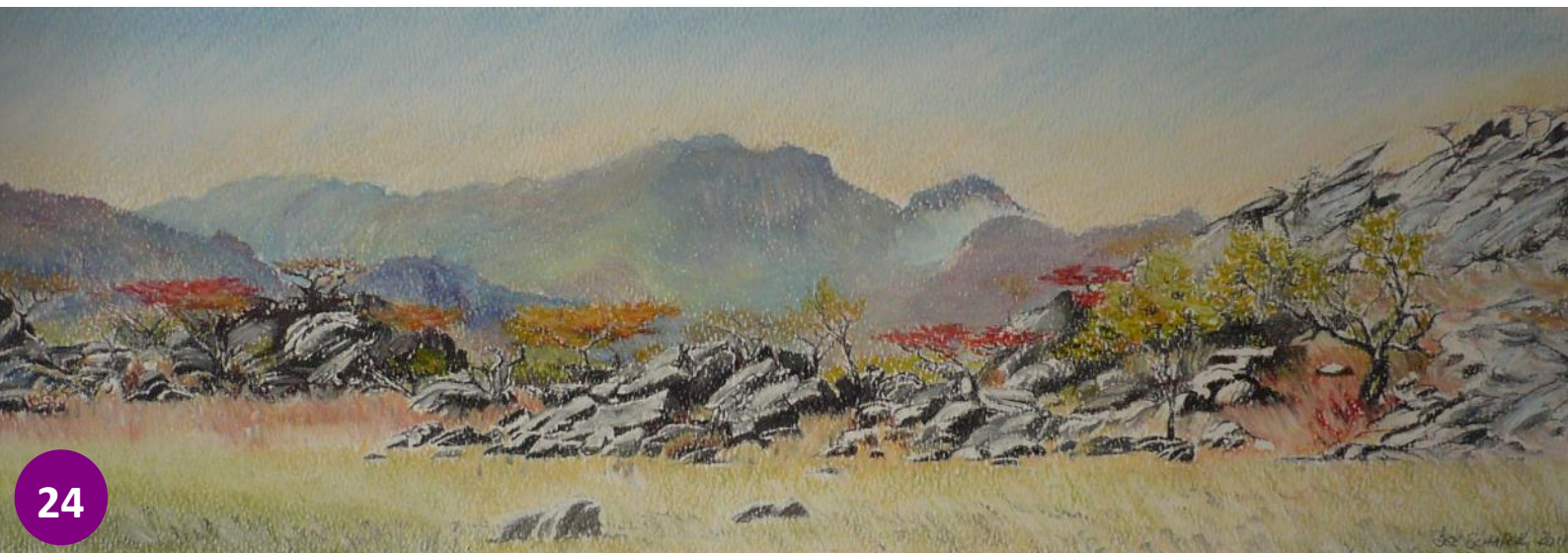
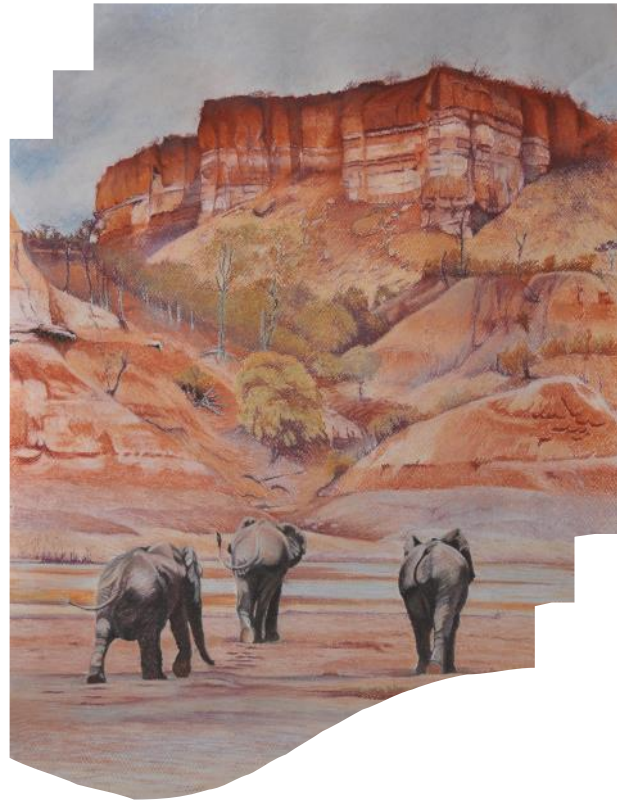
Dee Schafer's fine arts

CHIMANIMANI is home to Zimbabwean born artist Dee Schafer who is also co-owner of Frog & Fern Cottages.

Dee's paintings decorate the walls of her holiday cottages and are available for purchase by international and local guests who stay at Frog & Fern.

Her paintings now reside in homes as far away as Germany, Switzerland, France, USA, Australia and Canada among others.

You can contact Dee at: frogandfern@gmail.com



Muchongoyo: Ndaou pride

STAFF WRITER

VERY feel things give cultural pride to the Ndaou people beyond their stomping traditional war dance – Muchongoyo.

Appreciated across the country and showcased on internationally acclaimed platforms like Harare International Festival of the Arts, this rich dance unifies eastern Zimbabwe and western Mozambique.

The Tsonga, Shangani, on either side of the border also lay claim to the exuberant dance. To them, it is Muchongolo.

Muchongoyo is derived from the Ndaou word *kuchongoya* which means feet stomping.

Performed either as a motivational or celebratory dance before and after battles the dance is now only performed for entertainment.

While dance performances include both males and females it's the males that take leading roles while women do the vocals.

Women would form the back line while male dancers form the front line with two drummers positioned just in front of the musicians.

According to journalist Stephen Ephraem, the dance begins with a lead man known as *chikopo* performing an introductory solo act called *mungeneso* – the entry dance.

He would then blow his whistle to invite the dance ensemble to join in.

Females get things going with an acapella over clapping hands before the drummers join in.

Ephraem says this is followed by a dance routine called *chibhubhubhu* in which is performed in unison by all male

dancers which ends with the going onto the ground feigning tiredness.

This then invites the cameo performance of two female dancers who dance rhythmically to bring either refreshments or small clothes to fan or wipe sweat off the male dancers.

The rest of the female musicians will be cheering everyone on.

After this the male dancers take turns either in solo acts or as duets to showcase their dancing prowess in a session called *chigiyo*.

Finally, they perform *mubudiso* or the exit dance as they leave the stage.

Their dancing attire is rather fancy and unmistakably Ndaou traditional dress.

Males wear *mbikiza* (fluffy fibre skirts), vests, head gear called *ngututu* or just feathers, they wear fluffy bands on the legs and arms called *zvihlabvu* –reminisce of the war era and sandals on the feet.

Women are also as elaborate in their dressing with, writes Ephraem, *maqeyo* on the head, *zvipetu* (combs) in the hair, *ketani* (tie) on the body, *matimwa* (multi-coloured beads) in the neck, *madhuku* (doeks) on the chest to cover breasts, *chikisa* (multi-coloured heavily

pleated mini-skirts), and *matuza* (aluminum and copper bangles) on the arms.



Basic Homemade Bread

by TASTE OF HOME

Total Time

Prep: 20 min. + rising **Bake:** 30 min. + cooling

Makes

2 loaves (16 slices each)

Ingredients

- 1 package (1/4 ounce) active dry yeast
- 2-1/4 cups warm water (110° to 115°)
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 1 tablespoon salt
- 2 tablespoons canola oil
- 6-1/4 to 6-3/4 cups all-purpose flour



Directions

- In a large bowl, dissolve yeast in warm water. Add the sugar, salt, oil and 3 cups flour. Beat until smooth. Stir in enough remaining flour, 1/2 cup at a time, to form a soft dough.
- Turn onto a floured surface; knead until smooth and elastic, 8-10 minutes. Place in a greased bowl, turning once to grease the top. Cover and let rise in a warm place until doubled, about 1-1/2 hours.
- Punch dough down. Turn onto a lightly floured surface; divide dough in half. Shape each into a loaf. Place in 2 greased 9x5-in. loaf pans. Cover and let rise until doubled, 30-45 minutes.
- Bake at 375° for 30-35 minutes or until golden brown and bread sounds hollow when tapped. Remove from pans to wire racks to cool.

Test Kitchen Tips

Be careful that your water isn't too hot when proofing yeast.

Nutrition Facts

- 1 slice:**
 102 calories
 1g fat
 0 cholesterol
 222mg sodium
 20g carbohydrate
 1g sugars
 1g fiber
 3g protein

Boggie Events Mutare, Zimbabwe

STRETCH TENTS
 FOR ALL YOUR SOCIAL & CORPORATE EVENTS

One stop Tents solution Centre

- Stretch Tents
- Peg & Pole Tents
- Frame Tents
- Waterproof Stretch Tents
- Waterproof Stretch Tents

0772 274 382/0771 753 148/0775 996 371 | webmbira@gmail.com

Sekuru Ndunge was not evil—son

by NORMA TSOPO

THE late enigmatic Chipinge traditional healer Sekuru Charles Makwiyana-Ndunge was a slave to his calling.

It couldn't have been about wealth. Or status.

As his fame grew, he became glued to his healing hut and people were continuously camped outside his Makwiyana village homestead for nearly three decades.

When Sekuru Ndunge passed on in April at age 90 and with 71 years of healing practice, had not set foot in the nearest town – Chipinge, less than 50km away, in 27 years despite owning properties there.

His skin was ashen from lack of sunshine. The gift had become an obsession.

Owning over 30 vehicles – more than six of which he received as gifts from satisfied clients the doyen of local traditional healing just had no time even for these toys as he dedicated his time and life to helping people.

Having started his practice in 1948 he dominated this field to such an extent that people would camp to wait for their turn to enquire of his services from across the country and internationally.

“He would not have any time to rest. He would work every day and his only break was when his friends would visit him which some clients would even see as a distraction. He needed it though,” Jabulani, 44, his son and apprentice who has now taken over the practice said.

While some came for the healing physical ailments others sought divination in dealing with vexing spiritual puzzles with yet others seeking to have their fortunes change in relationships, workplaces, grow their businesses and bank balances as well as curse their enemies steeping his trade into the dark arts of witchcraft.

It is this dimension that brought fear at the mention of his name.

This however is not discouraging his children from taking up after him. “We will keep the trade alive and we are not going to stop,” Jabulani who has been working with his father for decades said.

Jabulani's children had also joined in the trade working with their celebrated grandfather.



“We will continue from where he was working from and continue with his legacy,” he vowed.

His sister Nyerai popularly known as ‘Owen’ who is based elsewhere is already a proficient practitioner and was even touted as having been groomed to take over.

This is a practice that is accepted and commonplace among the Ndaou people. Which attracts cultural visitors to Chipinge all year round.

Many may however not openly confess to using traditional healers' services but the sea of people who attended Sekuru Ndunge's funeral attests to the acknowledgement of this practice.

Although most Zimbabweans claim to be exclusively Christian and would publicly denigrate traditional healers as demonic many would still seek their services either as individuals, families or communities.

Jabulani sees this practice as a gift to humanity by the creator and although some would seek to harm others using the art it was generally meant for the good of humanity.

“When God gives people such gifts he would have searched their hearts. If you give a stick to a madman it would certainly spell doom to society. Traditional healers are there to serve society and not to bring harm to them.

“Being a traditional healer is like being a doctor,” he contends. Chipinge has dominated this art of healing. And they are produced in tonnes here.

It undisputedly has the highest concentration of these traditional healers with some moving into towns across the country and beyond the borders especially into South Africa where there is a lot of respect for their competence.

The Tanganda-Chiredzi highway is littered with signposts to these healers' shrines and there is hardly any village without one. They are always a walking distance.

Chipinge town council (CTC), in acknowledgement of this local cultural asset also plans to accommodate a traditional healer in a cultural village that it is setting up in the eastern border town.

“We want to showcase the Ndaou culture so that people have an appreciation of what we are as a people and we will have a hut in the village who will be performing his trade,” CTC town secretary Dr Susan Dube said.



Cyclone Idai worsened animals' plight

by NORMA TSOPO

Picture: Sunday News

ANIMALS were not spared the trauma of Cyclone Idai. Over 15,000 died and thousands more were injured— suffering the same fate with their owners who were washed away by angry rivers, buried in land slides and wounded in the violent storm.

VODAT coordinator David Mukunda confirmed the working relationship adding that they sought to have also partnered Mares Donkey Sanctuary in the efforts.

But, with hundreds of people dying and missing in the immediate aftermath of the devastating weather phenomenon, animal welfare was never going to get priority.

"We have partnered with Mares Donkey Sanctuary and Support for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) to provide

It was however a huge relief when animal rescue experts moved in to assist.

Society for the Prevention of Cruelty against Animals (SPCA) official Lynne James said the cyclone complicated an already dire animal situation.

"Every day, everywhere there are animal rights issues to attend to and the cyclone worsened this.

"Everything that happened to people happened to the animals they also owned," James said.

She however said her organisation had been on the ground and managed to respond to emergency issues in the cyclone hit areas of Chimanimani and Chipinge.

James said the biggest challenge in helping has been scant information. "Animal issues have largely been subordinating to human issues and the information has been slow in coming to have a full appreciation of the situation."

The SPCA official said they were also working closely with Voices of Domestic Animals Trust (VODAT) in covering the areas.

Every day, everywhere there are animal rights issues to attend to and the cyclone worsened this. Everything that happened to people happened to the animals they also owned.

"We are trying our best to support government and communities to assist affected animals by providing food and medical relief to animals in the affected areas," Mukunda said.

He said while attention on animals was still limited they were hoping that some care will be given to animal welfare issues.

"We were struggling to get sufficient attention on the need to look at animal welfare due to the huge number of people who died and were injured... we hope that sooner rather than later people will also mobilise and assist animals that are in distress and who are central to our lives," Mukunda said.

He also said they were trying to ensure that critical veterinary care including treatment for vitamin deficiencies and dispensing antibiotics and vaccinations to prevent disease reached all needy animals.

SPCA noted that the worst affected animals were those which were penned as free grazers were a bit more flexible with their food sources.

James said her organisation was offering and mobilising for feed to such animals.

Both organisations are calling for donations to continue essential veterinary medicines, food and shelter building materials for the affected animals.



WHITE HORSE INN

A Paradise frozen in time

For that romantic getaway The white horse Inn is the place to be.
A Paradise frozen in time, relax around the pool or visit parts of the
Vumba that appeal to you



CONFERENCE - WEDDINGS - HOLIDAYS

INTERNET WIRELESS CONNECTION AVAILABLE INNSIDER CARDS ACCEPTED

White Horse Inn

Laurenceville Road, Tel: (263 20) 60325 / 60138 - Vumba, Cell : +263 715 938 388

Near Mutare. email: whitehorseinn@bsatt.com

P. O. Box 3193, Paulington, Mutare. facebook page: White Horse Inn, Vumba

www.whitehorseinn.co.zw

“a member of best of zimbabwe”

<http://madzimbabwe-explorer.co.zw>

MADZIMBABWE

The complete Zimbabwean story chronicler

EXPLORER

...explore this special region