



PO Box FM 648, Famona. Bulawayo, Zimbabwe

Welfare No: W/O 30/94

## NEWSLETTER 18 / JUNE 1998

### **1 - ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT BILL**

The Ministry of Mines, Environment and Tourism has released the draft Environmental Management Bill for discussion and review. The draft bill is based on discussions and studies that were undertaken over the past two years, and seeks to codify all the existing legislation. Presently there are 20 environmental laws governed by eight ministries.

The bill is based on ten principles:-

- Sustainability and consideration of developmental needs
- Our dependency on a complex and diverse environment
- Anticipating and preventing negative environmental impacts
- Our ability to monitor, evaluate and ultimately sustain our environment
- Monitoring environmental quality and controlling pollution
- The effectiveness of environmental legislation
- All Zimbabweans should have a constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment
- Effective and efficient environmental management relies on a well-coordinated and integrated system of institutional arrangements
- Our ability to make meaningful legislation depends on meaningful public participation
- Zimbabwe's domestic law must recognise and seek to implement international environmental conventions.

For those interested in more information, please contact the Chairman, or your nearest NRB office. Of course, all this depends on Government's ability to fund an effective NRB, and political will to enforce the law. Both these aspects are sadly lacking in today's environment!

### **2 - WILDLIFE SOCIETY**

The MCS has extended an invitation to all members of the Matabeleland Branch of the Wildlife Society to join us on our quarterly field trips. It makes sense to combine these events rather than have both societies providing the same repeat services to their members. Members of the MCS are invited to the many Wildlife evenings / talks held each month and advertised in the press.

We learnt with sadness of the passing of Mr Robert Paul. The Paul family own and operate Zindele Safaris on Broadlees farm, in the eastern Matopos, and have hosted the Society on a number of occasions.

The Chairman, Committee and Members convey their sincere condolences to the Paul Family on the sad loss of a real gentleman.

### 3 - NEXT EVENT

WHERE	Social trip to MANGWE. South Western Matopos
WHEN	Sunday 5 July 1998
MEET	At Churchill Arms Hotel 08: 15am for 08:30am departure
WHO	All members and friends
WHAT	Bring own lunch, deck chairs, drinks. Don't forget your hat!
WHY	An historical visit to the south western Matopos.

All vehicles will be able to access the sites

This field trip will be an historical outing. We will pass through the Mangwe Pass, the original point of entry into Matabeleland 175 years ago, and the main route to Bulawayo until about the turn of the century. We will continue south to visit the ruins of Lee's house and trading store, which was built to serve the band of traders, hunters and missionaries awaiting permission to visit Bulawayo. Fort Mangwe (1896) will be visited on the return, along with the pioneer cemetery. It is also hoped that we will have time enough to visit the newly constructed dam near Mangwe Pass. The afternoon will be spent relaxing, or visiting rock art sites in the vicinity.

Due to the extensive programme, it is important that we depart on time, and as we will be travelling along various farm roads, it will not be possible for late-comers to catch-up. So please all do your best to be on time, AND NOTE OUR EARLIER DEPARTURE SCHEDULE! Barbara and Dereck Viljoen have kindly allowed us to visit their farm, where we will be having lunch. Braai facilities are available. Members who may wish to travel out on the Saturday (or earlier) are more than welcome to stay in the guest lodges on the Viljoen's farm, at \$80,00 per person, per night, own catering. Please contact Mrs Mary Friend (Telephone 42469) to make arrangements if you want to stay out. It is important that all accommodation enquiries are directed through Mary, who will co-ordinate with the Viljoen's, and the party travelling out on Sunday.

Dereck Viljoen, who has studied the local history, will be travelling with us to the various historical sites to inform us of the events and significance of the various places. As a result, we expect the outing to be very informative, whilst the countryside is most attractive.

### 4 – REPORT BACK

The outing to Ntema dam on the 4 April was attended by 45 members and friends. Our group, well spread out to avoid the dust of the Old Gwanda Road, made its way to Ntema dam, not far from Ntunja Business Centre. After refreshments the party set out across the dam wall, enjoying the vista of a dam brim full, with water lapping the steep granite sides of Ntunja hill. On reaching the summit, advantage was made of the height and the panoramic view of the hills to identify the numerous lofty peaks around us, and the river valleys that flowed away to the south west. Just below the summit is the cave, which is regarded as the longest cave in the hills, and whilst the paintings have not survived that well, it did provide an ideal auditorium for the Chairman to illustrate the nature of rock art deterioration, both natural and man-made. As there was insufficient shade around our "car park" it was decided to travel on past the Matopo Mission to the Stephens' Shumba-Shaba Mkulu farm to have lunch. Once on the farm, a game – viewing route was selected, and whilst not much game was seen (as it was mid-day) it did result in three cars becoming stuck in the mud crossing a vlei. The vehicles were pulled free, and the whole episode lent a real "country" feel to the day.

Some members returned home after lunch, whilst others were accompanied on scenic walks through the pleasant valleys, and dramatic cliffs of the farm.

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**NB - SUBSCRIPTIONS**



It's that time of the year when the committee has to review its level of subs for the year ahead. Regretfully, given the general increase in costs, but particularly in postage, we have found it necessary to raise our subscriptions. Details are below.

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Please complete the details below, and return to the MCS with your 1998 / 1999 Subscriptions.

	Ordinary	\$ 70		Name		
	Special Snr / Jnr	\$ 35		Address		
	Corporate	\$250		Amount	\$	Cheque/Cash