

The HBF Howzit

All the latest news from Galagos Wildlife Conservation

DECEMBER 2011

ISSUE 6



Editor's Note

Firstly, here at GWC we would like to wish you all a very Happy New Year! We hope you had a fantastic festive season with lots of good food, great company and fun times.

We could sit here and reflect on the great year that has been but instead we are going to look to the future, with the exception of saying a big thank you to those who volunteered in 2011! We are looking forward to a awesome 2012, with many new ideas and projects in the pipeline and exciting adventures along the way.

So come and join us in conserving this small part of the bigger picture! This really is an amazing place that you can't help but fall in love with. We look forward to working with many of you this year; helping us work towards a great year in Conservation.

We are also offering some great rates for June, July, August & September in our bid to take wildlife conservation volunteering back to what it used to be: Affordable, personal, a once in a lifetime experience and above all else truly valuable to conservation.

Life at GWC – Dan Halai

I wanted to get away from my normal life and experience something completely different. To get away from technology, mobile phones, laptops, and televisions. I wanted my time away to be relaxing but also useful to a good cause. So after searching and looking at various companies, organisations and activities, I decided to go with GWC. Why, because they didn't charge extortionate prices and were far more flexible than most. They also came across as far less commercial than other volunteering companies. Did I get the feeling I got away from modern living and working from a high technology environment? I certainly did.



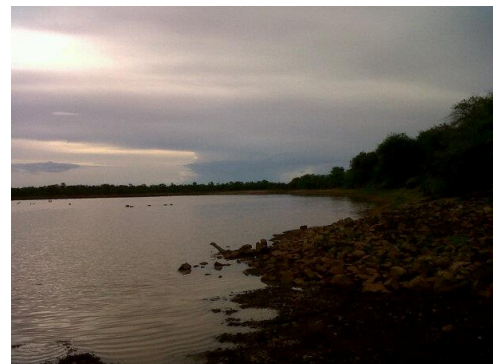
What was surprising is that I started to get used to it, far too easily! I didn't miss home or home life at all. Apart from one thing; Google. Having information and knowledge at your fingertips is a resource we often take for granted. Not being able to research something or look up something which you don't know about was frustrating. Other than that, I could have quite easily got used to the basic living and way of life in the Bushveld. Even the thought of being covered in bugs wasn't too pleasing before I arrived, but by the end of my trip I felt at home with them.

Though people were sparse those that were there were very friendly and social making most evenings an event. Of course I could list a variety of activities, animals, bugs, beasts, snakes and scorpions along with a few other things which could have killed me, but if you are reading this you've probably sourced all that already.

I knew I had been and done the right thing when I felt sorry that I would be leaving on the last night on the reservation. I felt emotional and at a loss. I didn't want to leave the experience I had enjoyed for the last 3 weeks and the time I had spent with the staff, but life in the UK and normality awaited me. Was that a good thing, not so sure.

GWC is a fantastic set up. I feel as though I have found a place that if I needed to get away again, be of some use and feel at home with nature I would be welcomed back.

Thank you Dan for your hard work whilst at the project; You are more than welcome anytime, besides you still have some animals to see



The Mighty Baobab.....

I think it can be said that a Baobab is a tree that embodies the spirit of Africa; and there are certainly plenty of them in this region. Baobabs have one of the longest lifespans; there are trees known to be 3000 years old and most of the oldest tree's are hollow inside. Most of the Baobabs in our area are probably about 300-500 years old. These huge magnificent tree's are actually succulents and consist of 80% moisture which makes them very useful to animals and humans.

Elephants browse the leaves and strip the bark for food and moisture, baboons devour the fruits, birds and bees nest in holes in the trunk and bats and bush babies pollinate the flowers before they fall to the ground to become food for many antelope species.

In ancient times kings, elders and leaders would hold meetings under these tree's to discuss matters of great importance. Not only did they provide great shelter, it was also believed that the



spirit of the Baobab would help them make wise decisions. Humans also make use of the fruit. The white powdery pulp inside the fruits is a great source of calcium, vitamin C and antioxidants and it can be peeled, sliced and cooked with just about anything. Unfortunately like many things it is now being commercialized and tagged a super food and used in moisturisers and other products.

So that's it for another month at Galagos Wildlife Conservation.

Why not take a break from hectic life and come and join us for a 'lekker' time and experience this amazing beautiful place for yourself whilst giving back to nature. Or pass this on to any friends or family who may be interested in joining us!

Contact Us:

info@gwcvolunteers.com
+27 73 261 5838

or visit our website for lots more information
www.gwcvolunteers.com

Hope you all have a fantastic month and we look forward to meeting some of you soon ☺

Nicole

Our Green World



After the first rains of this season the bush is looking fantastic, with many hues of green, a lush paradise! All we need now is a couple of big downpours to re-fill the big dams on the reserve for the next dry season.