



July 2008

Only 2 weeks behind schedule this month, so we are slowly getting back up to date after June's delays. My excuse this time is that we have all been running around extremely busy in between bouts of viral flu and malaria...!

Even so, I could not let this month go by without making mention of an incredible sighting that a family staying with us was lucky enough to see on one of the night game drives. Below is the story of the event as told by their guide, Nobby Chalimba:

*"We were on our way back to the lodge, and I was behind another vehicle which made me take another road to avoid the dust. The road I took had a few elephants around, trumpeting loudly as we drove past... Then I came across one of them standing in the middle of the road so I switched off the headlights of the vehicle as well as the spot light and waited for her to move across the road, but she only moved a little.*

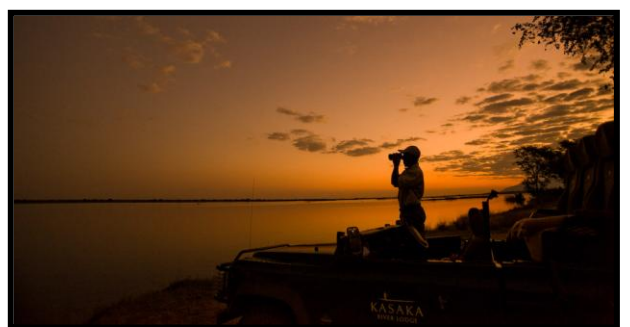
*I spotted another elephant to the side of the road which became unusually aggressive and made me feel threatened, so we reversed a short distance and I told the spotter on the back of the vehicle to put the spot light back on so that we could see what was happening.*

*I took my binoculars out to see better what was going on... There was a lot of blood around her backside and things hanging on the ground behind her, and at the back of the elephant was a baby trying to get up off the ground. He was unable to get up at first but with a little help from his mother he was finally up on his feet. To my amazement we had just witnessed a newborn baby elephant take its first steps.*

*(cont...)*



Our guides Weston (left) and Nobby (right).



*We left the elephant and her baby and decided to take another road home, which to our good fortune, led us to a sighting of a very relaxed leopard. He walked calmly in front of the vehicle and past us into the bushes to the side and as a result..... we were late for dinner!*

The leopards I mentioned last month being spotted in camp have become bolder visitors, with Alex (our GM) nearly walking into one, less than 20 foot ahead on the path, on her way to bed one night.

In November we are looking forward to offering our first ever specialist photographic safari at Kasaka, hosted by Patrick Bentley, a professional guide and photographer. Patrick is Zambian-born (5<sup>th</sup> generation) and grew up here where he learnt to respect and appreciate the diversity of the wildlife on his doorstep and then to capture these experiences through photography. As a wildlife photographer he captures images of the natural world and animals in the wild. As a naturalist he is equally passionate about the conservation and protection of the wildlife he photographs. Patrick has been guiding in Zambia's National Parks for 14 years, so we feel he is more than qualified to be involved with our project. Please do visit [www.patrickbentley.com](http://www.patrickbentley.com) or have a look at his fascinating blog which he updates regularly [www.livingluangwa.com](http://www.livingluangwa.com). For more information about this offer please visit our website, [www.kasakariverlodge.com](http://www.kasakariverlodge.com), or contact me directly.

Finally I would just like to mention that we are still struggling with our internet service here in the office, with many of our emails disappearing into cyberspace. If you have not received an answer to an email within 24 hours please re-send your email and we will be sure to get back to you.

The images on this month's newsletter are from Gareth Bentley's ([www.garethbentley.com](http://www.garethbentley.com)) last trip to the lodge, which are also available on our website. Please feel free to contact me any time should you have any queries or requests. See you soon!

[www.kasakariverlodge.com](http://www.kasakariverlodge.com)

