



PhotoMail is an occasional picture newsletter for those with an interest in photography, nature and the environment, travel, Africa, Zambia, African life and current affairs.

And especially for those who just like looking at pictures.

Send your feedback - PhotoMail will be developed in line with what its subscribers want to see.

PhotoMail is available for free subscription by emailing me at wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com

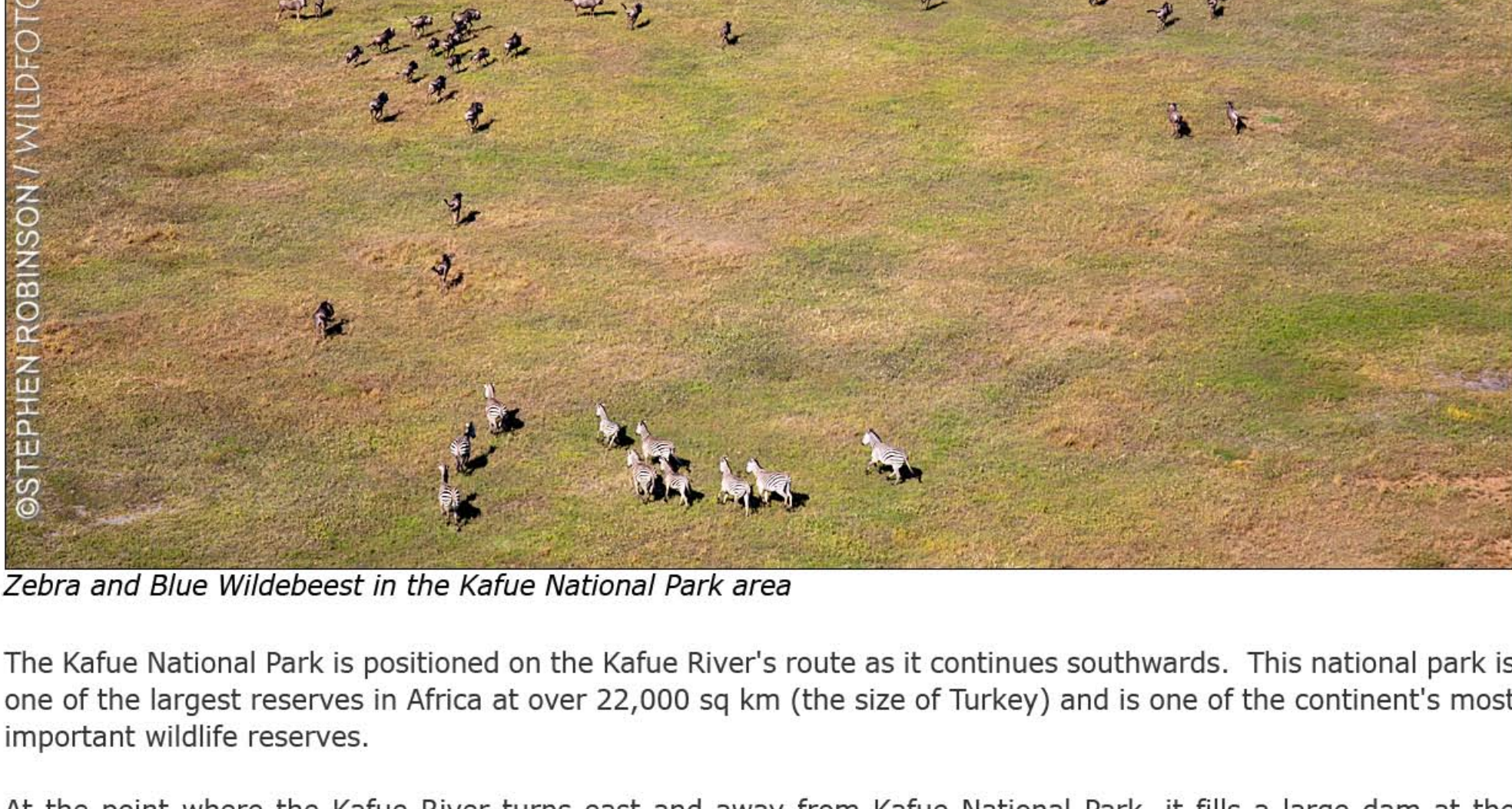
The Story Behind the Pictures:

THE KAFUE STORY: Zambia's Lifeline River - Part 2

In this PhotoMail, Part 2 of the life story of Zambia's most important River - the Kafue River.

Zambia's namesake river is of course the Zambezi River - but it is the Zambezi's largest tributary, the Kafue River, that is by far the most important in socio-economic terms. To get some idea of the immense importance of the Kafue River, we continue on our trip down the river's mid section (see Part 1 for the story of the upper Kafue):

After its journey through the Zambian Copperbelt, the Kafue River turns south-west and then south, to run close by the Lukanga Swamps situated about 80km west of Kabwe. Each rains season the river joins with the Lukanga Swamps, to inundate a wetlands floodplain of over 6,000 sq.km. (equivalent to the size of the US state of Delaware) - an area of immense importance for environmental & wildlife conservation, and for the people of the region.



Zebra and Blue Wildebeest in the Kafue National Park area

The Kafue National Park is positioned on the Kafue River's route as it continues southwards. This national park is one of the largest reserves in Africa at over 22,000 sq km (the size of Turkey) and is one of the continent's most important wildlife reserves.

At the point where the Kafue River turns east and away from Kafue National Park, it fills a large dam at the Itezhi-Tezhi Gap. This was built in the 1970s as a holding reservoir for hydro-power generation at the Kafue Gorge installation some 260km downstream. The reservoir is now over 500 sq.km. in area. More recently, the Kafue River waters at Itezhi-Tezhi have been used to generate 120MW of power at Itezhi-Tezhi.



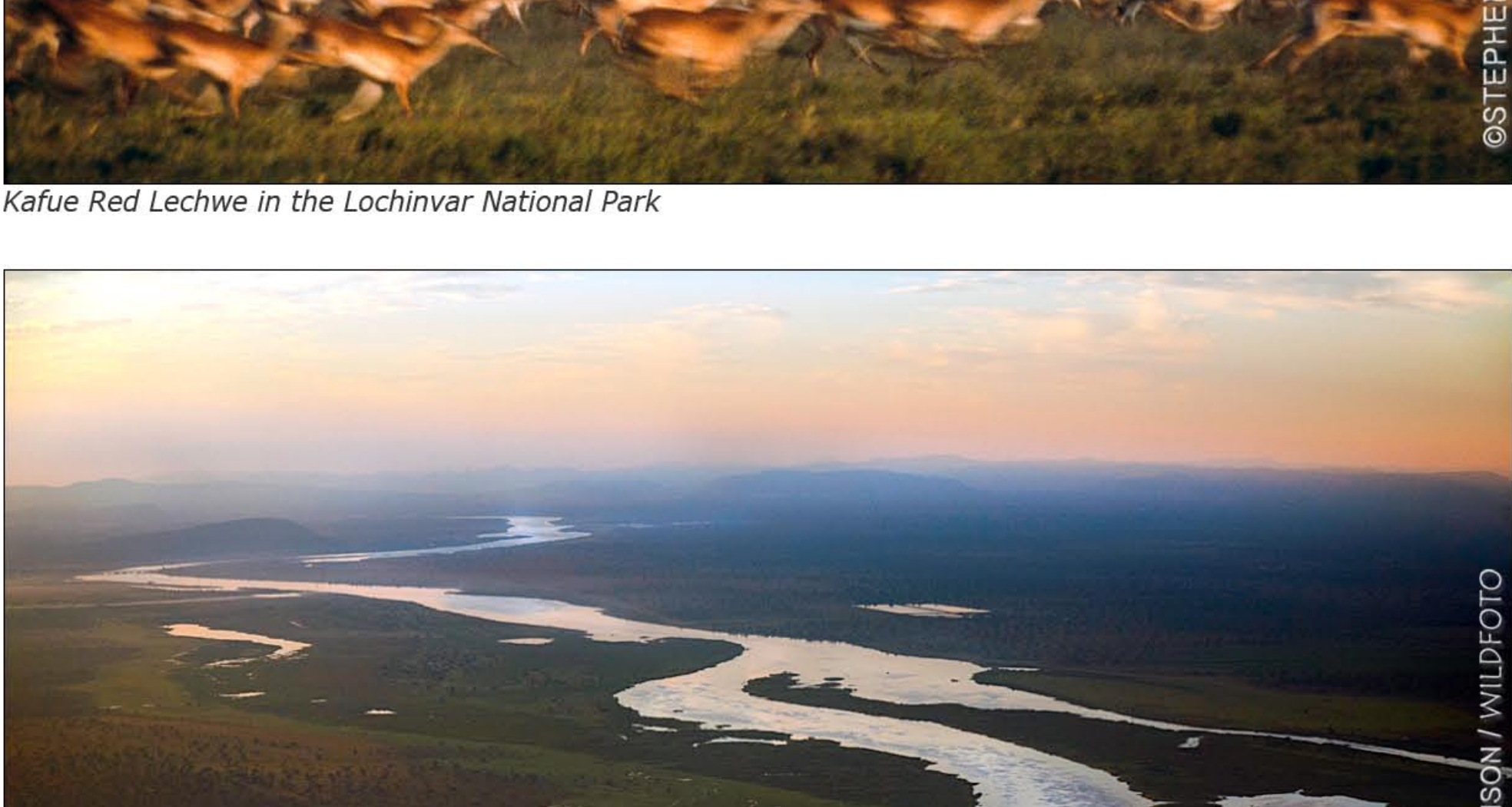
Dawn over the vast wetlands expanse of the Kafue Flats

The Kafue River then gives life to yet another area of immense ecological importance - the Kafue Flats wetlands of some 12,000 sq.km. area (the size of the Middle East state of Qatar). Each rains season, the Kafue inundates the flats area up to 1m deep and it regenerates the deeper lagoons and the lower swamps

The Kafue Flats are home to a wide variety of wildlife including tens of thousands of Kafue Red Lechwe - a semi aquatic antelope - and one of the greatest populations of wild birds in the world. The Blue Lagoon National Park and the Lochinvar National Park are located in this area.



Kafue Red Lechwe & the birdlife of the Kafue Flats



Kafue Red Lechwe in the Lochinvar National Park



Fish farming in the Kafue Flats wetlands

Despite being heavily polluted during its journey through the industrialised and highly populated Copperbelt, the Kafue's waters have been found to be remarkably free of pollutants in the river's middle and lower reaches. It's thought that the large wetlands of the Lukanga Swamps and the Kafue Flats act as natural filters and help the river cleanse itself of pollutants from upstream urban & mining waste.

The Kafue River then continues eastwards to provide Zambia and its people with yet more bounty - its waters give life to the important agricultural areas of Zambia's Southern Province. In just one farming venture, near Mazabuka (pictured below), the Kafue River provides over 700,000 cu.m. of water per day for the irrigation of 130 sq.km. of commercial sugar cane plantations.

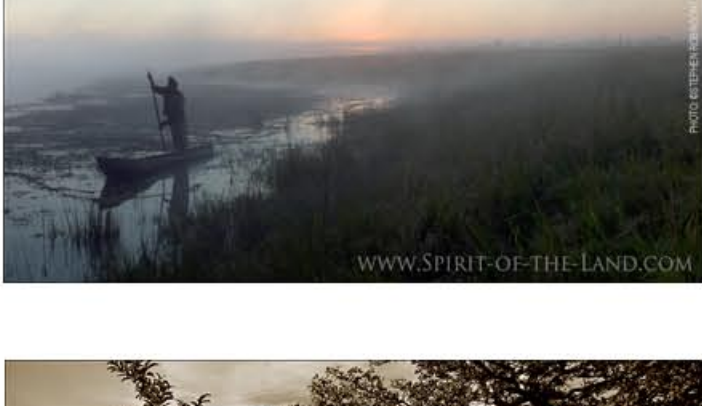


In southern Zambia, the Kafue provides water for irrigation of large-scale commercial farming ventures

Soon after, the Kafue River changes character again, adapting to some wild times ahead...

More of this remarkable river's life story in the final Part 3 of 'The Kafue Story'.

WHAT'S NEW - LATEST WORK



NEW SERIES
OPPOSING VIEWS - The Landscape Behind You

The Landscape you Don't See
Diptychs of Urban and Nature landscapes

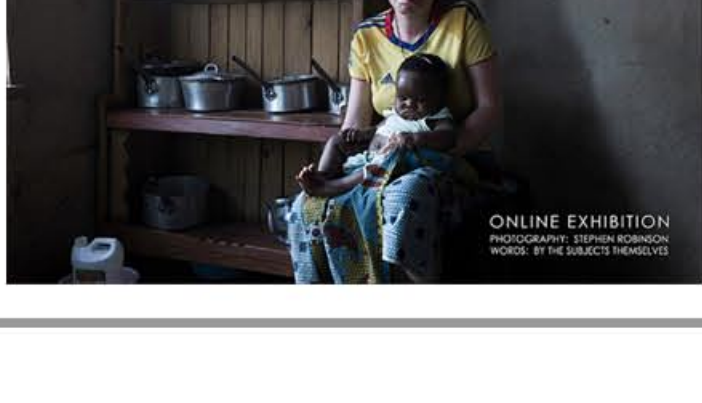
To see the exhibition, please go to:
www.spirit-of-the-land.com>EXHIBITIONS>The Place of Water



NEW SERIES - CHIMFUNSHI: The Place of Water

Chimfunshi means "The Place of Water", due its location on the headwaters of the Kafue River - the most important of Zambia's rivers and the country's lifeline

To see the exhibition, please go to:
www.spirit-of-the-land.com>EXHIBITIONS>The Place of Water



LIFE IN THE SHADOWS - Albinism in Africa

Exhibition News:
Since the launch, this online exhibition has been seen by over 550,000 visitors from 114 different countries.

To see the exhibition, please go to:
www.wildfotoafrica.com>NEW Work

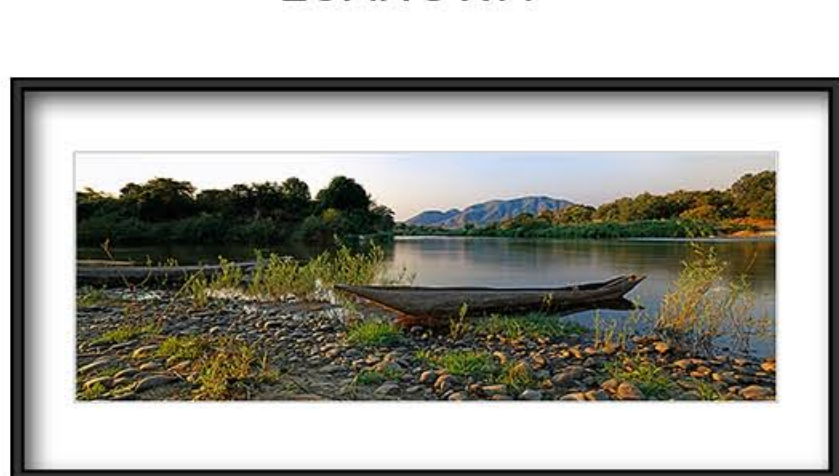
PRINTS SALE - 80% OFF STOCK ITEMS

AT WWW.SPIRIT-OF-THE-LAND.COM > SPECIAL OFFERS

SPIRIT OF THE LAND

PANORAMIC AFRICA

Typical framing illustrations



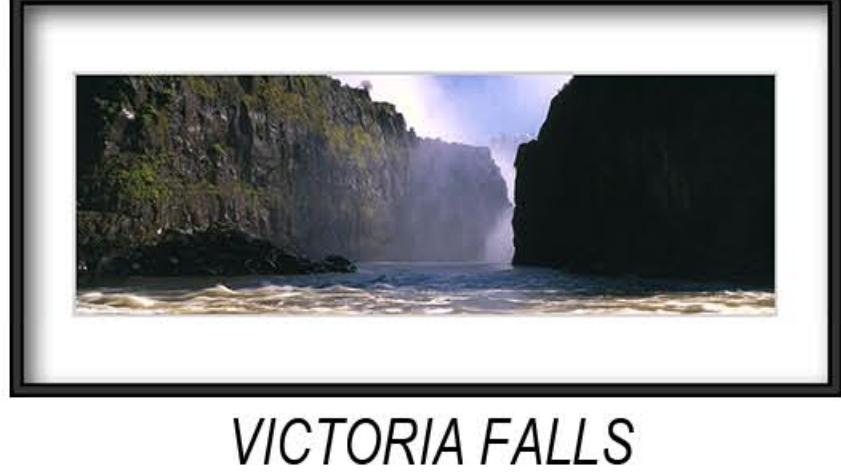
LUANGWA



NYIKA



LUANO



LUAPULA



KAFUE



VICTORIA FALLS

SEE MORE WILD ZAMBIA AT THE KITWE ZAMBIA GALLERY AND AT:

www.spirit-of-the-land.com

AND

www.wildfotoafrica.com

Advertisement

PHOTOGRAPHER FOR HIRE

Stephen Robinson is a photographer operating from his Zambia base. He undertakes photo assignment work in the corporate, industrial, mining, donor-aid project and environmental fields, including the production of photo based communications, advertising and promotional media. Medium format panoramic photography and aerial work are specialities.

This commercial work supports his nature photography speciality, including landscape, environment, conservation and wildlife work - and including his well-known panoramic photography project and exhibitions on the remote landscape, peoples and environment of Zambia.

PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY
Assignments | Commercial | Calendars
Corporate Media | Features | Reportage
Nature & Landscape | Environment
Portraiture | Fine Art | Gallery

SPIRIT OF THE LAND
PANORAMIC AFRICA
FINE ART PRINTS
www.spirit-of-the-land.com

WILDFOTOAFRICA
Stock Photo Library | Fine Art Prints
www.wildfotoafrica.com

ENQUIRIES
EMAIL: wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com
TEL: +260 966 992999

- NEXT PhotoMail ISSUES -

The Kafue Story continued

Victoria Falls: the Early Explorers and the Africans they relied on

What David Livingstone said about Zambia and the stories behind the pictures

Back Issues - all back issues of PhotoMail can be seen at www.wildfotoafrica.com

If this PhotoMail has been sent to you in error, or if you want to cancel a subscription, please send an email with 'PhotoMail unsubscribe' in the subject header.

All photographs ©Stephen Robinson. All rights reserved. Photographs can be supplied as prints or made available for licensed use by first contacting me at wildfoto@wildfotoafrica.com