

Nkwichi...always pick of the Week!

NKWICHI Lodge **MANDA** Wilderness



Nkwichi Chronicle

Nkwichi Lodge chosen for
Tatler's 'Best 101 Hotels of the World'

'Pick of the Week' in The Week magazine

AND Waitrose 'Hotel of the Week'!

Chicaia: winner of the Manda Wilderness Football league 2010



On a sun-beaten New Years day, the soccer stars of Manda Wilderness competed in the finals of the biggest sporting event of the year - the Manda Wilderness Football League. Chicaia deservedly won a 1-0 victory against the previous 2-times champions, Chigoma village in a thrilling, and sometimes gruelling, match watched by eager, ululating supporters from both sides. This year the competition involved 32 hard-fought games, with teams sometimes walking 2 days to face the challenge of their rivals, in an event that has helped strengthen the identity of the Nyanja communities

For next year the organisers are hoping to go for a 64-match competition, the biggest tournament yet seen in Manda Wilderness and the first proper football league. MWCT regularly supports community events such as the football league, the choir festival and the annual canoe races.

John, Paul, George, Ringo and now....

Halipus Watsonii! A new species of beetle has been discovered in the Manda Wilderness area, and has just been recognized by the scientific community. During his stay at Nkwichi, while he carried out his research, Will Watson braved swamps and streams and trekked through miles of uncharted bush to make his discovery. The 2.7mm Diving Beetle, named after its discoverer, is just one of several new species that have been found in Manda Wilderness since the project began. Many more are still waiting to be unearthed...



Umoji: One green footstep closer to realising its potential



After a process of 4 years of negotiation, planning and more bureaucratic wrangling than a small Soviet state, the community association Umoji, comprised of the 16 villages of Manda Wilderness and Nkwichi Lodge, have just had their plan of development for the area approved by the provincial Government. The final stage of the process is to present the plan to the government in Maputo and once ratified, will see the creation of the first community-owned conservation

area in Mozambique. The communities will then be able to attract more investment, helping more tourists to experience one of the last great wilderness in Africa. As well as meaning a more sustainable development of the area, this will help preserve some of the lost treasures inside, from the pristine Miombo woodland to the roaming African Wild Dog.

A new team.....



Nkwichi is lucky to have 3 figures of outstanding character here to look after your stay and make sure it's filled with stories and smiles. Andrew Kaiwala (Staff Manager), Rebecca 'Big Mama' Mswachi (Assistant Staff Manager, pictured here) and Francis Makawila (Guest Manager), have recently been promoted into the top management positions. From being at Nkwichi since the early days, this talented trio have risen through the ranks with hard work and determination. They head a team of over 60 lodge staff, all from the local villages and keen to show off their heritage with their unparalleled friendliness.

Education is just a bunk bed away...

Last year the Manda Wilderness Community Trust raised enough funds to start the construction of a girls' dormitory near the Secondary school in Cobue. Women remain a disadvantaged group in this remote corner of the country and often have less chance to attend secondary education, a point recognized by the communities when they first asked the Trust to help. Some of the villages of Manda Wilderness are up to 3 days walk from Cobue so the MWCT boarding house will improve opportunities for girls in the area to realise their potential. Showing its support for the scheme, the Government has promised to install solar power to supply electricity.



Julius Nkambula, known to many Nkwichi visitors from his time at the Lodge, has just been appointed manager for the project, and he's put together a 12-member building squad. Work is moving along at a rapid rate; the foundations are almost finished and the completion of the dormitory is expected for April.

In short...

Row, row, row your boat! The much-anticipated Annual Canoe Race, this year at Mataka village, is due to take place on March 19th.

Tirarai Mpofu, Nkwichi's new resident permaculture expert, is set to introduce a Chicken Tractor to the Manda Wilderness Agricultural Project. This poultry-powered device will help fertilise the soil and keep the hungry insects at bay.

The Nkwichi Waterfall is flowing again. Another secluded picnic spot not to be missed!

Finally, a big thank you to all who joined us at Kampfumo restaurant at CFM in Maputo for our evening on the Manda Wilderness Project in January. The night was a roaring success and saw 2 lucky prize winners win a holiday to Nkwichi to experience it for themselves. We hope to see everyone else here some time soon too!