

## TONGOLE WILDERNESS LODGE

A month's stay at Tongole Wilderness Lodge ....

I had the opportunity for the first time to spend the month of July 2011 at Tongole Wilderness Lodge. This opportunity came about because the Managers (Zane and Jo) went on leave in South Africa, so I had to slip into their big shoes to act as Lodge General Manager. It was not only interesting and educating but also adventurous as everyday proved to be different from the other.

Most interesting was watching groups of baboons and monkeys pass the Lodge either up or down the stream on a daily basis. Amongst them would be bushbucks where there seems to be a clear symbiotic relationship between them. The crocodiles were coming out of the water and enjoying the sun, peacefully, and the hippo, in the evenings passing the Lodge upstream to graze. The peace and tranquillity that these natural creatures enjoy being so evident

It was educating to learn and interpret the animal footprints. Christopher, the Lodge scout is very good at this. Shai is also good at the names of the so many beautiful birds found around the Lodge. As if this was not enough, I also joined Aubrey, our carpenter, to make beds for the staff. I enjoyed every bit of my days!

The guests in the month, amongst others, included the British Royal Marines from Scotland who were in Malawi for training with the Malawi Defence Forces but had two days at Tongole. They enjoyed hiking up the Kasusuku Hill and spending the evenings encamped at Muta Falls for the night. They chose to take such adventurous activities. The Tongole team were privileged to host the soldiers and, from their comments, everyone had a great time here.

Since the Lodge started its operations, it has hosted guests from Australia, UK, Chile, Majorca and this month from Boston in the USA. Some of their comments speak volumes of what makes Tongole to be such a special place.

"I came here after only seeing the website. It is difficult to describe the amazing experience here. The place is absolutely the best. The facilities are outstanding and the food – wow! The activities can be relaxing or strenuous – your choice!"

"Truly unique and wonderful. The staff are incredibly kind and helpful. The food, service and location first class. Fishing was awesome."

"An amazing experience, first class service, wonderful food, 27 elephants, a fantastic place to de-stress."

It was an amazing experience for me too and I look forward to the next opportunity of spending time at Tongole and being able to host more wonderful guests from all over the world!!

Yendani Bwino and see you all soon!

Bentry

If you are interested you can find out more and follow progress by visiting [www.tongole.com](http://www.tongole.com)

Please contact us if you would like to receive more information or if you would like to stay at the lodge.

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