



TONGOLE WILDERNESS LODGE

We are now officially open!

As most of you know we opened Tongole in April as a trial run so we could gradually get into the swing of things.

We have, without exception, delivered our objectives which were to create a Lodge like no other in Malawi and become one of the best in Africa.

In addition, this project is about creating sustainable employment and new careers for local people which will have far reaching benefits for the wider community through tourism.

Education for children and animal conservation are also part of our plan and this will be made possible through the recently formed Tongole Foundation. If you are interested in finding out more visit our Foundation website, thetongolefoundation.org

The BIG day came along with over 120 guests -we expected a crowd but not quite so many! Joanne and Emmanuel, our lodge manager & our head chef, once again excelled delivering food unlike any other in Malawi. By the comments made, I think many will be back soon for a few days stay.

Minister of Tourism, The Hon Daniel Liwimbi and his entourage were our official opening guests along with representatives from National Parks and Wildlife, the District Commissioner and other local representatives. Also present were the many Chiefs, including Chief Tongole, from around the reserve who once lived in Nkhotakota before the final communities left in 1957, before even I was born!

With the singing, dancing and eating over, our guests departed and Tongole Wilderness Lodge returned to the peace and quiet that so many people have already experienced.

The next morning we and our Lodge guests woke to the sounds of the birds and crunching branches, the Elephants were back.

I have to say over the next few days we were spoiled by elephants of various size herds from as few as 5 to as many as 53. This herd had 6 very young with them and a bull elephant in must, so more to follow we hope.

Other sightings throughout the week were bush buck, water buck, bush pigs, long crested eagle, fish eagles, crocks and of course Vervet monkeys and troops of baboons.

I along with David Gridley, our guests and our trusted scouts Chris and Shai, decided to climb our closest mountain, Kasukusuku which is some 3000 metres in height. We achieved the climb in 2 hours precisely. The record is 45 minutes so for those who like a challenge, that's the time to beat!

The Parks and Wildlife department are now preparing to create a sanctuary within the reserve into which they will re-introduce more lost species. Watch this space on that one!

Zane and his team have opened more walks and tracks enabling guests to see new areas and plains where he has erected viewing platforms for game viewing and fly camping, a must for the adventurous! Are you?

So there you are, Tongole is the place to go for something new, exciting and relaxing and as one guest wrote in our guest book;

"Tongole is a piece of African paradise"

Paradise is waiting for you.

David

If you are interested you can find out more and follow progress by visiting 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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