

## NEWS UPDATE NUMBER 2

March 2011



## Zalala Beach Lodge and Safaris, Lda (ZBLS)

Apologies again for the long gap since the last News Update. We have been so busy, that we had no time to spend sharing our news with our readers! So, once again, we ask you to excuse us for packing in a lot of information into this Newsletter!

### Bungalows completed!



All 10 bungalows were completed by the end of September last year and we had a big party on the site to thank our hardworking builders from Zimbabwe. Music was provided by *Garimpeiros*, one of Zambezia's best known bands! The party was a great opportunity for the ZBLS team to get together with community members to look forward positively to the coming changes after the Lodge has been completed and starts operating!



### Bungalows interiors – looking great!

In the photo below, Artemis, our interior decorator (amongst other things!), is seen below celebrating with Evans, the architect just after having installed the bathroom mirrors and other bathroom accessories.



Tenday, our thatcher from Zimbabwe, has returned to the site and he is will be doing the thatch of the restaurant as well as the meeting and games room

### Restaurant in progress



### Visit of Tourism Minister from Maputo!



After successive obstacles: from difficulties finding poles heavy and long enough to support the thatch of the roof structure to problems getting materials to the site owing to the impassability of the access road, the building of the restaurant is finally moving forward rapidly and we expect it to be completed by the end of March at the latest!

In December, Fernando Sumbana, visited the site during his flying trip to Quelimane. He praised us and wished us every success!

## Appointment of General Manager!



We are happy to announce that Pedro Canteiro, former Manager of Chitengo Camp at the Gorongosa National park has been appointed as Lodge Manager! He will take up his position from mid-March.

### Chef's Assistant

Dona Rosita, who taught for over 20 years at the Escola Andalucia, the only school of tourism in the country, was appointed as sub-Chef. In February, Pedro and Rosita visited the site. Pedro and Rosita are photographed below with Manuel and Angela, the co-Directors!



Above, they are examining the plants and spices growing around the nursery and below, they are taking a look at the turkey and goats on the small animal farm on the site.



## Community News

One of the main benefits for communities is the generation of employment opportunities generated by the Lodge. According to our records, a total of 400 community members have gained access to some form of employment. Many, both men and women, have been employed in construction and also on the road construction.

In the photo below, workers are arriving for their weekly pay pack!



Esperanza has been working since the project started in 2008. She first worked at the Nursery and she currently works as a guard and is also looking after 9 puppies recently born to the resident dog, named Supinho! She is now considerably better off than she was before selling at the market.



## Support for Women's Groups

The group of women below are benefiting from the Rotating Credit and Savings Scheme supported by ZBLS. On her recent visit in December 2010, Angela met with the members of the group to hear about the group's success at the Zalala Festival where they sold food and drink and made a handsome profit!



After the planning discussion, each woman received a 'capulana' (cloth) to wear at the Festival.



In order to show their link to the Lodge, the ladies all wore ZBLS T-shirts (provided by ZBLS):



Below, clay pots made by another community women's group supported by ZBLS are displayed on the patio of the bungalows.



Three women attended the Festival where they managed to sell many of their clay pots and make a considerable profit! The women said this was the first time they had left their village and attended a big cultural event and they are already planning their participation in next year's Festival!