

benade-gideon-2019-03-19.mp4

Gideon Benade [00:00:10] I grew up in a farming background so agriculture to put it more specifically. So we had a farm out in the (unintelligible) area just outside Harare. And we had a nice large dam on there which a lot of people used to come and fish on and water sports on etc. etc.. And. Basically from there as soon as I could walk and I was ending. Fishing rods of sorts in a makeshift fishing rods and in that massive fishing rods. And we used to have so many people come and fish there. And take us fishing as kids. And to me that's where my love of fishing grew I think. I would often go off on my own. Or with friends or with family and fishing a lot. And. The culture from that area was very Fishing wise for a lot of people we that spend a lot of time in Lake Kariba which is the big dam.

Gideon Benade [00:01:08] On the border about country between us and Zambia. And. Fortunately for us we got the whole Zambezi Valley in their Zambezi River. So. Many many many times. Of. Enjoyable fun fishing on the Zambezi River as well.

[00:01:28] (unintelligible). In the early days. Of our fishing what first of all our fishing has always, our special fishing has always revolved around the Zambezi River, Kariba itself and the Zambezi River And that particular catchment. Has seen a lot of changes because I mean from obviously as you know early dams. Normally have better fishing and as it gets later. The fishing dies off. There's a long cycle of things which affect Kariba from nutrients going in and out and. Up north etc. etc. but basically the dam went through a bad patch. The last sort of 10 years. And in the last two years it's really bounced back spectacularly and. A lot to do with farmers back on the land again and nutrients getting into the water. And. Because of the water coming in and rising past the low levels. So much more nutrients in the dam and the whole cycle has just kicked off and it's actually amazing. The dam has changed. So yeah we love it could you again. So beautiful to fish so spectacular the scenery etc, etc,.. The river itself. We have started producing more and more electricity and they've. Put in. New electricity generators into the wall... Which are letting more water than the old ones used to. And also because there are more of them. The river itself is the lowest in these river is pumping a lot faster and a lot deeper. Than it has been in the last 15 20 years silting up. So that also is gone through a change. We're in the very beginning. When I'd say in the 1980s when the river first opened up after. The silt and the wall. The fishing was absolutely amazing obviously. And obviously had a slow decline from there. And then. And in sorting up coming in etc. etc. And now all of a sudden it's pumped all that silt out of the river itself is fishing amazingly well. And. What's even more spectacular there is that the river itself right from the dam wall almost right down to the water basin. Has been. I would say 90 per cent to be taken over by. Photographic. Guide orientated safari places as opposed to hunting safari outfits. And. So the good thing about that is that. It's come with a lot of anti poaching which which the hunting guides did as well that a lot of anti poaching. Because poaching is a huge problem anywhere in the world but especially in a world where it's hard to live day to day (unintelligible). And so. One spectacular thing that's happened there is that this legal decisions have been taken over by photographic concessions. They really entered into looking after anti poaching. And so. The fishing again is taking off here on the rivers.

Gideon Benade [00:04:35] Definitely. So. For me. I know for a fact that the whole season. I guess so in this part of the world we talk about the rainy season and the dry season. That's the. I mean we don't really talk about summer and winter. They're feeling mild. We'll be here. In some of the higher lying areas. There's a significant change but yeah with mild changes in temperture. We normally talk about the rainy season the dry season and the rainy season without a doubt is. Definitely a month later. Than it should be. And. I would

even say two months later now which is a which is a big time change in that. In a year. You know I mean so. Definitely the rain has started later and ends later. Than when I was younger. I must say that because. There's a big tournament in Kariba the international tiger fishing tournament. Which. Everyone sort of zeroes in on. In the fishing community. And. And. When you know all the ins and outs of what the tiger fish do and when they do it etc. You can see that that's changed definitely. And so people have to change accordingly.

Gideon Benade [00:05:58] what We tend to do as we fish on the all species side which is with bait. So we use artificial lures and we as bait. And we target all species. Whereas the fly fishing guys normally tend to stick to the eastern islands but they do ply their trade in Kariba. And. Like this weekend's competition which is a fundraising competition for (unintelligible) I'll be guiding them to the places where I know they the particular fish they want to catch. And then. It'll be up to them to catch with the fly what they target targeting what they're looking for.

Gideon Benade [00:06:33] Yes so James as I said. From an early age. Fishing. Not competitively fishing for fun. Social competitiveness amongst family and friends. Just enjoyment of being outdoors. Is what originally started me fishing. I think I was lucky to be right next to a dam. And. As soon as. The fishing bug got hold of me. It just went from there. I think all credit to my parents. And. The other people used to come to our dam and. Take the kids fishing. Take their kids fishing and then. Just go from there. You know so basically from that social aspect and visiting all the different fishing places in the country that. Turned into a. Fairly competitive angler. Just because. I hanging on with the same type of friends who love the same type of things. So. For me that group of people was a special group of people. I mean we can be fishing competitively we were waking up in the early hours of the morning on a. Cold wet day. Or we can be waking up late and going out after breakfast and having a little competition. Or just going out socially by yourself. I mean I love fishing by myself it's for me it's something peaceful. And so of our fishing by myself. Isn't that pressures about anything else. And. The joys of. Just seeing things other things in nature while you're fishing. And. Especially in the fishing you you get a little bug where. Well it is not called fishing a lot because angling because you try to work out what the fish is thinking and you can make up you're only a few theories and eventually you establish theories. And it's lovely to be able to work out exactly what the situation is. And once you've done that it's very easy because. You can go anywhere and catch fish and others are struggling and it's actually very simple once you looked at all that. And. I think projects. Like this where people go into more detail may. Be. Done as well. We especially in a particular country in a particular area where fishing knowledge is captured and contained and not lost because very often the good guys have been fishing all their lives. They die with a. Little secret shall I say were the. Preferred methods and things like that. And nobody ever knows you know. Yeah. So we've managed to do an effort take kids fishing teach him the ropes. Most of us were messing around and. Fishing. Sort of. Haphazardly. Most of our lives. And then as soon as you started competitive fishing everything started falling into place so we just looked. Think to yourself if you had been taught that when you were a young kid. Imagine where you'd be now.

Gideon Benade [00:09:28] Definitely. So I've got three boys and all that fishing and they've been fishing since they could walk. And as soon as I had them fishing. I lost all interest in. Fishing with anybody else. If I can go fishing with my kids. And the joys of teaching them everything that I know and learning from them. Things that they can teach me for fishing in that. It's very important for the youth to be fishing because if you don't have them coming through the system. The places where we fish at. The recreational areas that we go to. The anti poaching that we do. Will all fall apart you know. So it's really

important. For the youth to go in there and I tell you what. Again as I said earlier about enjoying fishing with the people who with the same interests as me. I generally find that their kids. Have the same interests and the same good clean habits. And, to be honest, I'd rather they had those good clean habits than spending. And after a weekend after the rave or whatever not that I'm saying that is bad these things but I'm just saying that I liked that good clean. Living fun. And. Definitely I see that it will. The same type of kids do the same type of things which is lovely especially for the youth.

Gideon Benade [00:10:49] Favorite fishing story as well. We. Gotta be honest and say that. My favorite ones are probably family fishing stories. So. If I had to choose. It's very hard to choose one but if I did choose one I'd have to say something that. I mean me that tournament's in Kariba. The title and where we win a vehicle for the biggest fish which I've done twice. And. To actually win the title fishing touramnet is a great one in Zimbabwe We all talk about it. For the year in the 365 days a year. We have lunch with our friends who can be in the tournament. But as a favorite fishing story. I think that. When my kids were young. Is a place in Kariba called a gorge where we. Really go fishing. It's a lovely lovely scenic place and. One of my favorite memories of fishing is we went there and parked. Across a big waterfall that falls into the water. And we started it up across there and fish there for the night. And. For me that was just so special because. The guys were so busy fish were getting millions of fish who were getting. Things called wonders which. I'm sure you know about. And all kinds of species. And the enjoyment that I saw in my kids faces for me that was. The most special.