



カバに向き合うアマサギ(cattle egret)。アマサギは主に牛などの動物に追い立てられた虫を捕食することから、英名では牛を意味する cattle が付く



シレ川に数多く生息するクロコダイル



ゾウの群れ。湿地の向こうにはシレ川が見える



湿地に生息するアフリカトキコウ



インバラリリーの花



最大で2メートルを超えるナイルオオトカゲ



レイヨウの一種であるウォーターバックとアマサギ



じゃれ合う2頭のカバ

# Liwonde: Malawi's little gem

## ■ さまざまな機関の協力で復活した保護区

Sitting on the top of Naifulu Hill in Liwonde National Park, we had a bird's-eye view of the eastern boundary of Malawi's main national park. Julius Chiomba, a nature guide, pointed out distant wisps of smoke rising from villages and farmlands eastward beyond the park boundary.

Our high position gave us a great view west over the woodland in the heart of the national park. The distant Shire River shimmered in the late-morning sun, as it slowly flowed south from Lake Malombe in the Great East African Rift Valley. Listening to the call of a rock hyrax allowed my mind to wander back in time.

David Livingstone was the first European to visit the Liwonde area back in 1859. With my binoculars and Julius' directions, I found a giant hollow baobab tree. This marks the Livingstone expedition campsite.

The reserve was named after Chief Liwonde, who made efforts to protect the area. It became a national park in 1973 to preserve its biodiversity and conservation potential. However, decades of mismanagement, poaching and human intrusion followed. The Malawian government finally acknowledged the condition of the park was getting worse, and sought help. Ini-

tially, South African National Parks and the Frankfurt Zoological Society offered assistance.

With the help of nonprofit and nongovernmental organizations, a 47-square-kilometer fenced sanctuary was created inside the national park, enabling the reintroduction of black rhinos to Liwonde. Further successful relocations of Cape buffalo, eland and antelope, along with Lichtenstein's hartebeest and Burchell's zebras, made Liwonde an important place for rare species in Malawi. African Parks then took over management of the area in 2015. Further reintroductions of cheetahs and lions followed.

## ■ 動物減少の要因は周辺の人口急増

With my mind returning to the present, we enjoyed the view of the wilderness in silence until Julius said, "We have plenty of animals here today, but it was not always that way. Elephant poaching used to be really bad. When I began working here in 1996, illegal hunting and snare poaching were very serious, and the animals were few and very scared."

As we went down the hillside, I asked Julius why he thought the poaching situation had improved. He replied, "It began with the arrival of Wilderness Safaris in 1995. This helped tremendously, as they employed many of the poachers to work in

tourism operations at Mvuu Camp. More recently, the number of scouts has also increased and African Parks arrived, making poaching a less attractive alternative." Whether talking about meat poaching or illegal fishing, it is clear that the cause of these problems was linked to the rapidly expanding communities surrounding the park.

## ■ シレ川から観察できる多種多様な動物たち

The following day, I went on a boat cruise along Malawi's largest river, the Shire, which enables the park to support high diversity and density of animals and birdlife. While sitting in my boat on a river filled with hippos and crocodiles, we spotted a western-banded snake eagle with a snake in its right talon.

River cruising provided opportunities to observe waterbirds, huge crocodiles and hippos, and the Upper Shire is one of the best places in Africa to view these beasts. We also enjoyed close encounters with elephants that came down to drink, along with waterbuck, impalas, kudu, warthogs and even the occasional herd of majestic sable antelope.

Malawi is a small nation with a population of 19 million, many of whom rely on subsistence agriculture and fishing to survive amid a scarcity of land and resources. Nowhere in Africa have I felt more strongly that national parks are tiny

Story and photos by Stephen Cunliffe

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## KEYWORDS

gem 宝石  
bird's-eye view 全景  
boundary 境界  
wisp 筋  
shimmer ゆらめく  
valley 谷

call 鳴き声  
rock hyrax イワダヌキの一種  
David Livingstone 英国出身の探検家(1813~73年)  
binoculars 双眼鏡  
hollow 中空の  
expedition 遠征  
reserve 保護区(後出 sanc-  
tuary は禁猟区)  
(be) named after ~ ~にちなんで名付けられる  
chief 先住民やオ族の長のこと  
biodiversity 生物的多様性(後出 diversity は多様性)  
conservation 自然保護  
mismanagement 誤った管理

poaching 密猟(後出 poacher は密猟者)  
intrusion 侵入  
South African National Parks 自然保護機関名(後出 Frankfurt Zoological Society と African Parks も自然保護機関名)

reintroduction (ここでは)移入(後出 relocation も同意)  
black rhino クロサイ  
Cape buffalo アフリカサイギユウ  
eland レイヨウの一種(後出(sable) antelope と Lichtenstein's hartebeest,  
waterbuck, impala, kudu もレイヨウの一種)  
Burchell's zebra バーチェルサバンナシマウマ  
species (生物の)種  
snare わな  
Wilderness Safaris エコツアーリズム運営会社

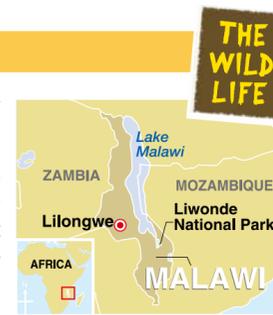
tremendously 大いに  
scout 見張り  
alternative 選択肢  
density (ここでは生息)密度  
hippo カバ  
western-banded snake eagle オビチュウヒワシ  
talon かぎ爪

encounter with ~ ~との遭遇  
warthog イボイノシシ  
herd 群れ  
majestic 堂々とした  
subsistence 自給自足の  
scarcity 不足  
at the mercy of ~ ~の意のままに

heritage 遺産  
admirable 実に見事な  
embrace 受け入れる  
commitment to ~ ~するとの約束  
dynamite ... packages 小さいが中身は素晴らしい  
human tide 人口のこと

## Liwonde National Park, Malawi

リウォンデ国立公園には多種多様な動物が生息するが、特にゾウ、カバ、クロサイなどが有名。また、385種もいる野鳥観察にも適している。年間を通じて入園できるが、訪れるなら6月から11月の乾期がお勧め。首都リロングウェまたは南部の都市ブランタイアの空港を利用するのが便利。いずれの空港からの道も舗装されている。園内には複数のキャンプ場がある。詳細はウェブサイト(www.africanparks.org/the-parks/liwonde)参照。



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多読チャレンジ 探検家リビングストーンがこの地を訪れたのは何年? [本文 - 666 words]