

Snapshots from paradise after a slow meander to northern Mozambique

NINE thousand, eight hundred and sixty nine kilometres. That's how far we've driven in the past six weeks, to Mozambique and back.

"Magical" and "enchanted" are not words I use lightly, but we have spent weeks in the thrall of that wonderful country, snorkelling over coral pinnacles, wandering the back streets of the ancient capital of Ilha de Moçambique, gazing over the floodplains of Gorongosa, drifting silently in our dhow over the impossibly translucent waters of the Bazaruto Archipelago.

There are many ways to travel Africa. Some people fly in with a pocketful of dollars and whizz around the safari circuit and sip

Man Friday
tony weaver



cocktails on the decks of luxury resorts, insulated and isolated from Africa and Africans, others do it with a backpack full of old clothes and a head full of young dreams.

One of the finest ways to travel Africa is in an old, slow Land Rover.

There is a timeless feel to it, a dreamlike quality to the landscapes which change very slowly as you drift along at a pace that quietly digests rather than gobbles up the miles. There is a hospitality

extended to the owners of old Land Rovers which other travellers do not find. And crucially, wherever you go in an old Landy, in the most rural parts of Africa, there is a mechanic who knows how to fix them and there are always spares available.

Not of course, that Land Rovers ever break down. But it is comforting to know that if they do ...

This was a journey of extremes: we left in icy weather as the World Cup kicked off, and it gradually warmed up to the early 30s as we ventured north. By the time we had crossed the border at Giriyoondo in the Kruger National Park, and arrived at our first Mozambican destination, the beautiful Campismo Agua Pesqueira, the "place of the

fish eagles", perched on the escarpment above the Massingire Dam, it was hot enough to swim.

My kids asked the camp manager, Manuel, if there was anywhere to dip: "heh heh, only if you speak very, very nicely to the crocodiles," he chuckled. I reminded them that this was where, while on assignment for the Peace Parks Foundation some years ago, I had photographed from the air literally hundreds, if not thousands, of the biggest crocs I have ever seen. We showered.

Snapshots from paradise: At Pomene Lodge, a wonderful camp on a sandspit promontory wedged between the ocean and a mangrove-fringed lagoon, a mechanic called Whisper welded a broken strut for

me. "I was a very quiet baby, so mama called me Whisper."

In Inhassoro we were entertained by Senhor Rodrigues who told us "I made a lot of money from my casino in Swaziland, and I wanted a beach house in Mozambique, but they told me 'no beach houses, only lodges allowed'. So I spent R10-million and bought the lodge. Now I've got my beach house."

The lost game park of Gorongosa, where Renamo made their headquarters during the civil war, and where the once vast herds were machine gunned to feed the soldiers, is re-emerging as one of the gems of Africa, one of the most beautiful parks we have seen in all our travels. And the animals are back.

We stumbled into a lodge and camp site called Cua Cua on the north bank of the Zambezi, where we were the only guests in a vast dining room where the light fittings were old gin traps, and the head of a buffalo with light bulbs in the eye sockets hung above the bar.

On the cliffs of Fernao Veloso above Nacala Bay, we found a little piece of paradise called Libelula - dragon fly camp - with a beach like icing sugar and crystal waters hiding coral pinnacles where fish from a stoned Impressionist artist's painting flitted about.

Ilha de Moçambique, the ancient capital, enchanted us with its winding alleys and crumbling buildings, some of which have been immacu-

lately restored by, among others, our host on the island, Milanese architect Gabriel Melazzi. Here we dined democratically, goat stew and prawn curry at Reliquias on the beach front, grilled prawns and flat chicken at Ancora d'Oura on the plaza, more prawns at Escondidinho, and late night samoosas, chips and espetada with cold beer on the roof terrace at Bar Flora as a warm, spicy breeze blew in from Madagascar and the Comores.

And it was as we sailed in our dhow off Ilha de Magaruke in the Bazaruto Archipelago that Mozambique sent us the rarest of farewells presents: four dugongs slipping through our wake.

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WORLD CUP LESSONS

A 16-year journey to success

Danny Jordaan

HOSTING the 2010 Fifa World Cup has helped to elevate all Africans to their rightful place on the world stage. After the delivery of this World Cup no one will ever again have the courage to argue that Africa is a "hopeless continent".

This has been an incredible journey of 16 years.

Hosting the World Cup required revolutionary technological advances. It required high speed telecommunications, a new organisational model, emphasis on team work, empowerment, collective and shared leadership and a participatory environment because of the complexity and the scale of the project.

This journey started in 1994 and these were the goals we set ourselves:

- Nation building
- Increasing tourism
- Rebranding South Africa
- Building infrastructure
- Generating investment

We said the delivery of major events in our country would help to build the kind of South Africa that we wanted to see: a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa. We have a new constitution, but the new constitution on its own does not deliver a non-racial and non-sexist South Africa. We had to create it by bringing the people together to engage directly in a large and exciting project.

We wanted to see 10 million tourists by 2010 and 15 million by 2015. I think we are on course to reach that.

We wanted to show a South Africa that is a place for investment, trade, and business, with a growing economy and great job opportunities.

Building infrastructure to generate investment was another area of focus because in the 1990s there was almost a stagnation of infrastructure, and what the World Cup did was not only to talk about investment in infrastructure but to create it in a given timeframe.

We had strict deadlines and timeframes that were non-negotiable. We found that all the people who participated in delivering the infrastructure understood that they had to respond according to schedule and on time. And so the old mould in which people operated here was broken.

We had promised the world that all of our infrastructure would be ready by December last year, and all the stadiums were completed by then.

We all understood that on June 11, 2010 the referee would walk on to the field. At 4pm he would blow his whistle, and the two teams would have to be on the field and the match would have to start.

June 11, 2010 was the biggest news day in world history. It was bigger than the inauguration of Barack Obama which had been the biggest news day in world history till then. We received 12 million internet visitors a minute. We had more than



FUTURE VISION: South Africa has successfully met the challenges of staging a world-class event. Now we have to march on in the battle against poverty, grabbing opportunities for new investment and development, says the writer.

16 000 broadcasters, journalists, and photographers - and not only sport broadcasters.

CNN, Sky, BBC, Al Jazeera, ESPN and all of the other broadcasters carried not only the sports component but also political commentary, an economic focus and other social commentaries. South Africa was shown not only during the 90 minutes on the field but as a tourist destination, as an investment destination, and as a trade destination. All those stories went throughout the world on a daily basis.

We had more than 700 million viewers, probably closer to 750 million, watching the final in South Africa, and that is the largest number ever to watch a final of the World Cup.

There is immeasurable value in this sort of positive global exposure. It cannot be quantified.

The number of fans who attended this World Cup was 3.18 million. Yet the world had said no one would come to a World Cup in South Africa. Remember the argument that you would need to have a bulletproof vest and a stab-proof vest and so on?

After the Dutch team made it to the final, KLM, the day before the



This World Cup has shown that being African and being world class are synonymous

final, put on three flights into Johannesburg. They were booked out within one hour!

Nation building probably had its roots in the match that the Blue Bulls rugby team had to play in Soweto. When we met the Blue Bulls we explained to them that because of the problems we had on the grass during the Confederations Cup and because of winter they could not play into May on the Loftus pitch. Then they wanted to know where they could play and I said there was Orlando Stadium in Soweto, and they sat back and it took them about five minutes to say that if it was available they would go there.

The first match they played there was the semi-final of the Super 14. They called back and said that 10 000 of their season ticket holders, who were mostly white, had returned their tickets. They were not going to go to the "black township" of Soweto. We then helped to get the tickets sold.

Then the Blue Bulls made it to the final, and when they made it to the final, every season ticket holder was fighting for a ticket, because by then they had all heard what they had missed in Soweto, and they were not going to miss it a second time.

So the Blue Bulls ended up with a big problem and were looking for more tickets and more opportunities,

because everyone wanted to be there and wanted a ticket.

We also saw the unprecedented support of all South Africans of all colours for Bafana Bafana during the opening match. Football Friday, the Fan Mile in Cape Town: it was just an incredible spirit.

We must continue to do what we can do and that is to deliver.

What about the legacy? Education being very important, we launched the IGoal Project that seeks to build schools for about 40 million children on the African continent who have no school to go to: 75 million on a world-wide basis, but Africa of course has the biggest need for the building of



schools, and the project aims to reach 4 billion children on the continent.

The "Win in Africa with Africa" is to build artificial pitches and also training centres, 20 centres for 2010, and these are development centres to deal with skills transfer training and also preventative healthcare to deal with malaria prevention. Polio is still an issue and of course HIV/Aids.

South Africans delivered the most logistically challenging World Cup ever.

We had to deliver for this World Cup of 32 teams, 32 base camps and 10 new stadiums. Some 16 000 journalists from all over the world had to be accommodated and technically provided for: Transport and logistics were big challenges, as were technology and telecommunication.

The sophistication of our banking industry was a huge plus, because many of the people who came here could conduct their business from our country for the 30 days they were here, and they could do that with ease.

What happens next? What are the measures to be taken after the World Cup?

Dealing with the post 2010 chal-

lenges of a country that is an emerging economy means greater investment must be part of the discussion. Making poverty a thing of the past requires huge commitments and is a enormous project.

This World Cup has shown that we have come too far to turn back now. We have to march on, and there are new opportunities for new investments and for working with other emerging economies.

As we now say, there is no difference between being African and being world class.

This World Cup has shown that being African and being world class are synonymous.

● *Jordaan is CEO of the Fifa 2010 World Cup Organising Committee South Africa.*

This is an edited version of a speech delivered in the Next Economy National Dialogue series, launched by the Department of Economic Development in association with the Cape Times and the SA New Economics Network, on Monday in Parliament. A more complete version will be available soon on the Sane website, www.sane.org.za along with all other transcripts from the event.

How the Word-I warriors defeated Sudokolites at puzzles' final frontier

"JONATHAN Cluesolver?" a deep voice boomed down the phone line. "Er, yes," I answered, wondering how James Earl Jones got my cellphone number.

"Join me on the dark side. Together we will suck the light out of the galaxy."

"That's very generous," I replied, seriously flattered, "and thank you, but I really don't want to work for Eskom."

"No, no, Cluesolver," the voice rasped, "forget your clever clues and fancy words and become part of the numbers racket."

Welcome to the Star Words trilogy, which consists of a prequel, a sequel, a postquel and a postscript.

It was 17 Across in the Everyone's

Angry Utterances (10)*
jonathan ancer



Crossword in the Sunday Times that inspired the Star Words fantasy. Well, maybe it was a combination of 17 Across and the bottle of red wine at supper but, for some reason, on Sunday night as I drifted off to sleep I started to think about "Celebrity fights (4, 4)"** and "The Dark Side."

The clue for 17 Across: "Something heavy placed by the bar as a balancing force (13)"*** was easy enough to solve. It was the words "balancing the force" in the clue that inspired a stream of Star Words con-

sciousness (with apologies to George Lucas).

It's a long time ago, in a galaxy far far away, and cryptic crosswords are a Force for good. The Force is energy, which can be channelled by Word-I warriors. Word-I warriors have the ability to solve difficult cryptic clues. When a Word-I solves a clue, energy grows, binding the galaxy together. However, there's a dangerous craze sweeping across the galaxy - Sudoku. Sinful number-crunchers dabble in Sudoku's dark arts in a bid to take over the galaxy. These Sudokolites are infused with hatred, hostility, evil and a love of maths.

According to Word-I prophecy, Anagram Cluesolver, the Chosen One, will destroy Sudoku's death

forces and bring balance to the Force. Anagram is trained by venerable Word-I Master, O.B.E.-Kenobi, in the art of synonyms, spoonerisms, palindromes, anagrams, hidden words and puns. His outcomes-based training leaves him proficient in the art of doublespeak. But despite this skill he resists the urge to work as a spin doctor for ANC Youth League president Julius Malema and instead he becomes the best clue cracker and crossword compiler in the galaxy, wielding his pen like a lightsaber.

But the pull of the Dark Side is strong and, in a momentary lapse of concentration, Anagram succumbs to its power.

He takes the Sudoku name Dof Verber and, in the Attack of the

Palindromes, declares war on the Word-I warriors. The series ends (or begins - it's a prequel, remember) with an epic word duel between Dof Verber and his son Lewd Cluesolver. The Sudokolites are eventually destroyed and their evil masters banished from the galaxy.

During the trilogy, we meet Yoga, the Word-I master. Yoga is the enigma-oozing master cruciverbalist. When he's not channelling his inner Lotus and chanting aum, he is a walking, talking cryptic crossword. In fact, he speaks Cryptese. "Do or do not... There is no try," he tells Lewd Cluesolver. "Named must your fear be before banish it you can," he adds.

We also meet C. Creepy-Ou, the interbred half-word, half-number

R2D2, Solo Hand and his buddy Chewingtobacco. Chewingtobacco will later become a digital entrepreneur and start a highly successful online encyclopaedia called Wookieepedia.

I'm not the world's greatest Star Wars fan, but every year on May 4 the shrink, who is my wife and crossword companion, and I have a picnic in honour of the galaxy's greatest sci-fi tale. We eat sausages and spaghetti with pesto, and pay tribute to the Force. Last year was a disaster. We forgot the sausages, the pesto and only brought knives - have you ever tried to eat spaghetti with a knife?

This year on May 4, we picnicked as usual. We filled our glasses with wine. "May the fourth be with you,"

we toasted, clinking our glasses. I looked at the shrink: "May the words be with you?"

She groaned. But I wasn't finished. "May the fork be with you?"

She grunted. But there was more. "May the sauce be with you?"

The Shrink rolled her eyes and then growled: "You'd better be careful, with so many terrible puns, divorce might be with you."

And now for the postscript. Here's a Star Wars cryptic clue. "Ide Jeht (6, 2, 3, 4)" Stumped? E-mail jonathan.ancer@in.co.za and, if you are not part of the Dark Side, he might put you out of your misery.

* Crosswords
** Star Wars
*** Counterweight