



THE EXPLORERS CLUB FLAG EXPEDITION # 89 REPORT

EQUATORIA – A Walk Across Africa

April 26, 2011 - September 30, 2011



Flag # 89 Report Submission

Julian Monroe Fisher FI'00 FRGS

Expedition Leader

Submission Date - November 16, 2011

EQUATORIA

A WALK ACROSS AFRICA

Introduction

EQUATORIA – A Walk across Africa took Julian Monroe Fisher walking west from the Indian Ocean coastal town of Pemba, Mozambique, towards the coastal town Lobito, Angola, at the Atlantic Ocean. The more than 4,000 mile journey took him across the landscape comprising parts of the territories of the African countries of Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Angola.



Picture: Gear packing before departure from Austria

The Route

- Mozambique: Pemba to Lichinga to Chiconono to Meponda, across Lake Malawi
- Malawi: Senga Bay to Lilongwe to Michinji
- Zambia: Chipata to Mfuwe, across the South Luangwa National Park, to Kanona to Ndola to Chingola to Solwezi to Jimbe
- D.R. Congo: Side trek to Bunkeya, Katanga
- Angola: Across the Parque Nacional De Cameia, Luena, Kuito, Side trip to the Moxico Province for the MAG research, Huambo, Lobito, Luanda

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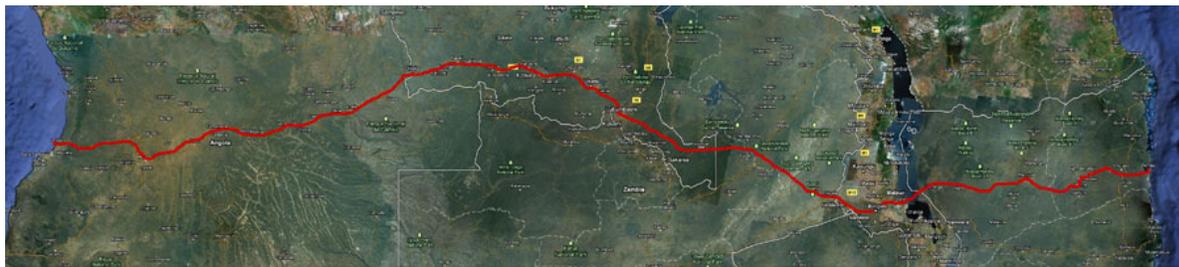


Figure: Overview of the route map

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Expedition Personnel

- Julian Monroe Fisher: Expedition Leader, Explorer, Adventurer, Anthropologist, Author, Photographer
- Feliciano dos Santos: Logistics for the country of Mozambique, Lichinga, Mozambique
- Seong-Ho Cho: Logistics for the country of Malawi, Lilongwe, Malawi
- Rita Pires: Logistics for the country of Zambia, Lusaka, Zambia
- Pedro Bandeira: Logistics for the country of Angola, Luanda, Angola
- Leon A. Swart: Logistics for the country of Malawi, Salima, Malawi
- Tristan Clapp: Security Advisor, Boston, Massachusetts, USA
- Kate Wiggans: Media & Public Relations of MAG International, Manchester, UK
- Thomas Troll: Social Media, Vienna, Austria
- Dr. Ursula Musil-Singer: Legal Advise, Vienna, Austria
- Dr. Anita Greiling: Medical Advisor, Practicing Phystian, Gars Am Kamp, Austria
- Dr. Christoph Sickinger: Medical Advisor Reptiles & Dog bites, Veterinarian, Horn, Austria
- Regina Fisher: Communications Officer, Klosterneuburg, Austria



Picture: With Feliciano dos Santos, talking GPS coordinates of the departure point in Lichinga, Mozambique



The Goals and Objectives of the Expedition

- To gather ethnographical content on the Yao or waYao indigenous people.
STATUS: ACCOMPLISHED BUT INCOMPLETE Due to the death of Osama Bin Laden that coincided with the day I started walking across Mozambique my security advisors recommended that I downsize my time spent in the remote bush country with the Yao who are the largest Muslim group in region.
- To research conservation efforts to fight poaching within the South Luangwa National Park in Zambia while traversing the park on foot.
STATUS: ACCOMPLISHED
- To research conservation efforts within the Parc National Da Camea in southern Angola while traversing the park on foot. Due to years of civil conservation research on the park is all but nonexistent. My research will be the first ever scientific study conducted on foot while traversing the park.
STATUS: ACCOMPLISHED
- To research the long term benefits to the indigenous people in Angola of the efforts of MAG International – Mines Advisory Group, co-laureate of the 1997 Nobel Peace Prize, an non-profit humanitarian initiative clearing remnants of conflicts.
STATUS: ACCOMPLISHED
- To document the physiological effects on the body of a 56 year old man before, during and after walking 4,000 kms across equatorial sub-Saharan Africa. My research will be the first ever scientific study conducted regarding a person over 50 years young walking coast to coast from Mozambique to Angola.
STATUS: ACCOMPLISHED
- EQUATORIA – A Walk Across Africa is believed to be the first attempt by an American to walk 'coast to coast from the Indian Ocean to the Atlantic Ocean along this specific route.
STATUS: PARTIALLY ACCOMPLISHED. I was unable to walk large sections of Angola due to the vast areas still covered with land mines.

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Picture left side: hiking on asphalt roads in Malawi; right side: no bridge to cross the river



Picture left side: hiking through man-high grass in Malawi; right side: "Zebra-crossing" in Zambia

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Conclusion

EQUATORIA – A Walk Across Africa was my most ambitious expedition to date. It challenged me mentally and

physically to the limits. In many ways it was an attempt to distinguish myself from modern day explorers but in the end I came away feeling that I became more like them. For I attempted to be first at something that along the trail I realized with clarity that the local indigenous peoples have been walking along those same dusty roads and trails for generations, not to distinguish themselves, but for survival.



Picture: Arrival at the coast of Angola