



# COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION IN THE SOUTH LUANGWA, ZAMBIA

HOW THE SAFARI CAMPS AND RELATED BUSINESSES CONTRIBUTE  
TO THE PEOPLE AND WILDLIFE OF THE LUANGWA VALLEY



# FOREWORD BY —DR KENNETH D KAUNDA—

FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

## South Luangwa National Park:

In 1971, I felt humbled to have had the privilege of declaring, on behalf of the Government and People of Zambia, the legendary South Luangwa as a National Park.

From the beginning, we realised that wildlife and environment were key to a sustainable life. Living in harmony with wildlife and its environment would also be very helpful to Zambia's economy and the livelihoods of our people.

No economy can be sustainable in the presence of poor environmental practices. In this approach, we, in league with that friend of mine, Norman Carr (MBE), the legendary and also friend of South Luangwa and North Luangwa national parks. Norman Carr did tremendous work to lay the foundation for the growth of the Luangwa Valley.

I have over the decades of visiting the area found that the Luangwa Valley is a truly unique and vital eco-system. It is world famous for its populations of leopard, hippo, and elephant. It has endemic species such as Thornicroft's giraffe and Cookson's wildebeest.

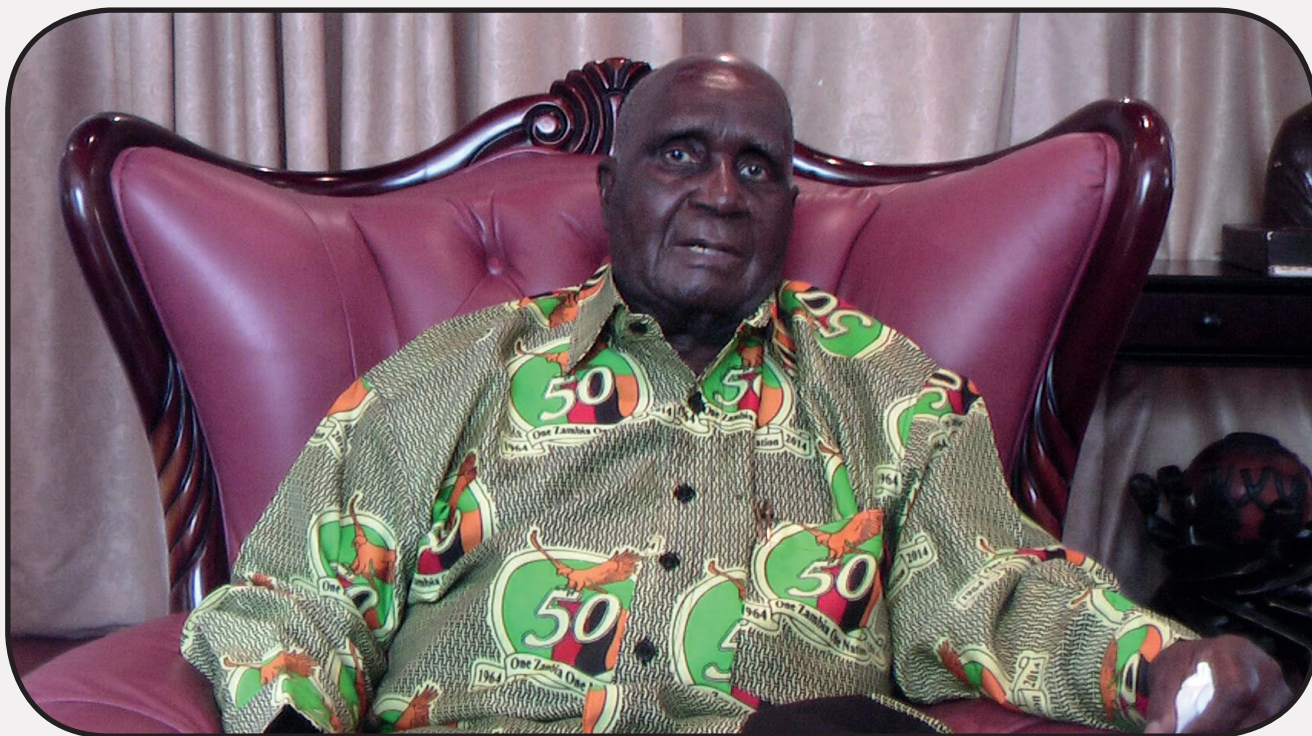
To support the Luangwa Valley, my government, in the 1970s, put in vital infrastructure like airport, roads, and the bridge. The various investments contributed to this precious asset of eco-diversity that is the South and North Luangwa national parks.

Even today, we still must be practical and active. I am proud to know that the work we started so long ago is being carried on by today's Luangwa community.

At various times, even very recently, I have had the pleasure of visiting many community and conservation projects run by the people of the Valley. I would like to say to them: Thank you, keep up the good work for our great country and God's Creation and continue to make us proud for working together across generations.

We hope you enjoy this showcase of some of our conservation and community efforts. These efforts bring benefit not only to the people of the Luangwa Valley, my spiritual home, but to the country as a whole and, indeed, nature worldwide. Yes, another manifestation of our "One Zambia, One Nation."

Photography by: Gabriel C Banda



Where it all started...

*"One of the most important aspects of wildlife conservation is to get the co-operation of the local community. It has been shown that this is not possible unless they can receive material benefit from their wildlife."*

Norman Carr 1958 Luangwa Valley

Back in the 1950's the visionary conservationist Norman Carr realised that the unique wilderness of the Luangwa Valley and its teeming wildlife was under threat unless local communities had the reason and the will to conserve.

His love for the wildlife, the environment and the people of the Luangwa drove him not only to start the first school sponsorships but to ensure that local Zambians had the chance to make a living from and a contribution to wildlife.

The first and arguably still the finest safari guides came from the Luangwa Valley having trained under Norman. The quality of camps, innovative marketing and his wilderness walking safaris put Zambia on the map as a place for the most sublime of safari experiences.

Norman died in 1997 but his legacy lived on with the Kapani School Project which was the first of its kind in the Valley. Classrooms were built, and over the years, thousands of school children sponsored through school and in to Colleges and Universities.

The success and the principles of the project were quickly recognised by other operators in the Valley most notably Jo Pope who set up Project Luangwa and Andy Hogg who introduced the LCCF, and a culture of supporting education and conservation has become endemic.

Most of the safari and related businesses here in the South part of the Luangwa Valley are not only contributing immensely to the local economy by employing and buying locally but they are also engaged in all manner of different community and conservation programmes.

We hope Norman would be content that his legacy lives on in the commitment that the safari and related businesses show to the community and the wildlife surrounding the South Luangwa National Park.

This publication is not intended to be an exhaustive and comprehensive report – we just wanted to highlight some of the work being done behind the scenes that people might not realize is happening. You will discover that there is hardly a school or a village in the area that has not benefitted in some way from this conservation and community work and you'll also see how all this work is done in a spirit of great collaboration – not only between the Lodges and charities themselves but also local authorities, government departments, traditional leaders and the whole community.

Thank you, Norman, for the inspiration; and thank you to all of you here in Mfuwe and surrounds for everything you do! 🐾



Safari wa kale - the original walking safari



Norman with Big Boy and Little Boy the orphaned lions cubs he raised and successfully returned to the wild.



# What's in an ACRONYM?

Here in Mambwe District we use a lot of acronyms and abbreviations. This can be confusing so here's a brief guide to who's who and what's what!

👤 **BCP** – Bio-Carbon Partners and the CFP – the Community Forests Programme – there's a short description of the work of BCP on page 29 but to understand more – have a look at their website.

👤 **CRB** – Community Resource Board

👤 **CSL** - Conservation South Luangwa - see pages 6, 7 and 8 to read all about CSL which used to be called SLCS and prior to that – RATZ – the Rapid Action Team Zambia – that's why the CSL base is sometimes called the Ratz base.

👤 **DNPW** – Department of National Parks and Wildlife (formerly known as ZAWA – Zambia Wildlife Authority)

👤 **The LCCF** – Luangwa Conservation and Community Fund

In 2009, the idea to add a contribution to the daily rate paid by visitors for conservation and community projects in the Luangwa Valley was conceived by Andy Hogg from Mfuwe Lodge and the Bushcamp Company. It was spearheaded by an insightful group of photographic tour operators with a long-term vision of sustainably funding the activities of Conservation South Luangwa and local community projects. They knew, like Norman Carr before them, that without the wildlife and habitat in Luangwa, they would have no business and a special place would be lost.

They also understood that without involving local communities and focusing on education, there would be little hope of protecting Luangwa's amazing wildlife in future years. Depending on their nightly rate, the lodges add either \$5 or \$10 per person per night to the final cost of the safari and to date, the Fund has generated over \$1.5 million. The funds generated are split equally between Conservation South Luangwa (CSL) and other conservation, community and education projects chosen by the members.

LCCF Members are; Bushcamp Company/Mfuwe Lodge, Flatdogs Camp, Time + Tide (Norman Carr Safaris), Kafunta Safaris, Robin Pope Safaris, Lion Camp, Remote Africa Safaris and Shenton Safaris

👤 **The LSA** – Luangwa Safari Association - is an association of safari operators and linked businesses. It's an information sharing and lobbying group representing business interests in Mfuwe – anyone whose life or business is connected to the wellbeing of wildlife and the community – which is every business here when you really think about it - is most welcome to join.

👤 **LSAMF** – The Luangwa Safaris Association Medical Fund. Since 1999 the fund has provided a fully qualified and licenced Doctor to work at the Kakumbi Rural Health Centre. Not only has the presence of the Doctor saved countless lives in our community of residents and visitors, but over the years the Doctors have raised or donated funds for improved infrastructure, training, medicines and equipment, the installation of water and proper plumbing, HIV/Aids awareness raising support, asthma care and so much more.

👤 **PL** – Project Luangwa, started by Jo Pope of Robin Pope Safaris in 2009. Project Luangwa Members are Robin Pope Safaris, Flatdogs Camp, Kafunta Safaris, Croc Valley and Shenton Safaris – see pages 9, 10 and 11 to learn about their achievements.

👤 **ZCP** – The Zambia Carnivore Project – see pages 16 and 17 to learn how ZCP is saving our precious and iconic large carnivores.

## WHO'S WHO AND WHAT'S WHAT?

# THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY

## SOUTH LUANGWA NATIONAL PARK ZAMBIA

[www.bushcampcompany.com](http://www.bushcampcompany.com)

Photography by: The Bushcamp Company

Since its inception, The Bushcamp Company (BCC) has been a leader in the safari industry's efforts to provide benefits from tourism to the people of Zambia. The Bushcamp Company, from their HQ at Mfuwe Lodge, currently sponsors, funds, and organizes projects to promote better education, health, and employment, as well as being a major contributor to the upkeep and protection of the South Luangwa National Park and environs.

### *Commit to Clean Water*

In Zambia, around 5 million people lack access to safe, clean water and more than half of the population has no proper sanitation facilities. Inadequate water and sanitation is a major cause of death and disease, reducing a community's ability to thrive and develop. In the villages of the Luangwa Valley, water is commonly only available from rivers, streams, or wells dug in dry riverbeds. This water is often unclean and potentially a source of many water-borne diseases. It is often a long way from the village, so women and children face laborious journeys on foot into areas where potentially dangerous animals also drink.

In conjunction with generous donors, BCC has embarked on an ambitious project to provide deep boreholes in village locations and schools.

Over 85 boreholes have been drilled to date and the project will continue as long as the need exists.

To ensure sustainability, each village with a new borehole forms a committee to oversee its maintenance and upkeep and all the boreholes are handed over to Mambwe District Council ownership once tested and certified.



### *Schooling and Education*

BCC, through its own charity (Charity Begins at Home) supports projects at five local schools providing buildings, furniture, equipment, meals and individual pupil sponsorship. Chiwawatala Primary School in Mfuwe Village and Chilongozi Primary School benefit with sponsorship for students, teachers' salaries, classrooms and staff houses construction, ablution blocks, an assembly hall, and game drives for students.

BCC has built for Mfuwe Day Secondary School - six classrooms and offices, four dormitories, social areas and the refurbished the existing girls' dormitory. Around 350 children receive individual sponsorship to pay for school fees, books, equipment, uniforms, food, etc. This project extends up to the college and university level.



"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."  
Nelson Mandela





## Meal-a-Day Program

BCC provides over 2,500 children with a nutritious daily meal at three local schools. This initiative has had a very positive effect on levels of general health, mental alertness, academic results, and attendance throughout the schools. Some students have to get up at 5 am to walk 15 km to school, do a full day of lessons, and then walk home with nothing to eat. The mental and physical challenges facing the pupils are obvious as focus, energy levels, and concentration decrease. Correct nutrition is a vital part of children's development.

## Aunt Mary's Academy

Mfuwe's latest educational establishment is a small preschool called "Aunt Mary's Academy". Its founder, Mary Phiri, was a member of Mfuwe Lodge's staff before successfully embarking on a teacher training course. She has now started her own school and we are very happy to see her ambitions come to fruition. This is a very worthwhile and much needed venture. The children are now benefiting from the Meal-a-Day program, and the school has received furniture and materials. A new playground is planned and more equipment will be provided.



## Calendar Project

For several years children from local schools have provided artwork to illustrate a calendar which is then sold to raise additional funds for school projects. This project has been in place for nearly 10 years, and for the last few years, Mulenga Chafilwa, a prominent Zambian folk artist, has come to Mfuwe Lodge and assisted the budding artists with their final submissions. This initiative also serves to involve the children and raise awareness of issues affecting their communities. The 2017 calendar illustrated the benefits of having safe, clean water, whilst the 2018 calendar focuses on the conservation of the local wildlife.

## Ele Collection

These unique hand-crafted pendants have been specially crafted to celebrate the elephants of the South Luangwa National Park. Their sale will raise funds to support the anti-poaching activities of Conservation South Luangwa and our own Commit to Clean Water campaign in the local community.

More details can be found at [www.elefricollection.com](http://www.elefricollection.com).



## Awards and Recognition

At a time when world tourism is encouraged to become more sustainable, our conservation and community projects have attracted considerable attention, both at home and internationally. We have received awards from a variety of world tourism organizations.

- National Geographic 'World Legacy Awards': Engaging Communities - Recognizing direct and tangible economic and social benefits that improve local livelihoods, including training and capacity building, fair wages and benefits, community development, health care, and education.
- The Educational Travel Community 'Sustainable Tourism
- Showcase Awards': 1st Place Honouree.
- World Travel and Tourism Council 'Tourism for Tomorrow Awards': for having made a direct and tangible contribution to the preservation of nature, including the protection of wildlife, expanding and restoring natural habitat, and supporting biodiversity conservation
- Partners Guide 'Golden Ribbon Award': for innovation, or social, or environmental contribution to Zambia

## Tree Planting

BCC supports additional community projects that focus on reducing deforestation and encourage tree planting and market-gardens, as well as looking at alternatives to firewood use - supporting solar cooker and 'rocket' stove projects. The company runs a number of tree planting initiatives at local schools each year, and these programs provide fun and motivation for students, while simultaneously teaching them the importance of concern for the environment, focusing on the issue of deforestation. The students take great pride in "their" trees, and the programs have been very successful in educating them (and helping the environment as well).



"If you want  
to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far,  
go together."  
African Proverb

## Conservation South Luangwa

BCC firmly believes that community support and conservation of wildlife go hand in hand. The natural resources of the Luangwa Valley provide the tourism opportunities that ultimately allow communities to develop and thrive.

Conservation South Luangwa is a privately-funded charitable organization that works alongside the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and other community partners, to protect resources and reduce human/wildlife conflict. CSL provides vital technical and logistical support to reduce illegal activities, as well as providing valuable monitoring and veterinary services.

The Bushcamp Company has always been a major supporter of CSL's activities providing regular funding and also donated a light aircraft which is used for aerial surveillance and monitoring. More details of CSL's valuable work can be found at [www.cslzambia.org](http://www.cslzambia.org).



This Mfuwe based results driven NGO started in 2003 as a small grass roots organization that has evolved into the District's largest conservation organization. Employing 85 full time staff of whom 99% are Zambian, the hallmark of CSL's success is *Zambian-Led Conservation* through employment, training and empowerment of communities. The organization largely supports community scouts from the surrounding Chiefdoms and is one of the biggest employers in Mambwe.

Under the management of Rachel McRobb and Benson Kanyembo, and hand in hand with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW), CSL has grown into an internationally recognised and award-winning conservation organisation. CSL focuses on three key areas of action; broad scale anti-poaching support to DNPW, Wildlife Veterinary Work and Community Development.

## Anti-poaching Patrols and Aerial Surveillance

The sheer size of the South Luangwa National Park and surrounding Game Management Areas (GMAs) presents great difficulties in understanding the scale of poaching problems on the ground. Large tracts of land with very little road network cannot possibly be covered by foot and the CSL aircraft provides a solution to this problem.

DNPW and CSL's anti-poaching work has improved dramatically through aerial surveillance over the past 7 years. Regular aerial surveillance of the park allows management to collect valuable data including carcass locations, drying racks, water sources at different times of year, fires, deforestation and much more.

Aerial surveillance is vital for anti-poaching operations and can be used to pinpoint poachers from the air, prevent them from escaping and directing ground patrols to them. On average CSL flies 300 hours a year on anti-poaching patrols.

Anti-poaching operations are conducted hand in hand with DNPW who lead patrols. Hundreds of patrols are conducted each year. These well-trained men and women are at the forefront of wildlife protection in Luangwa.



## CSL K9 (Canine) Unit

Sniffer dogs have proven themselves irreplaceable across conservation and law enforcement disciplines all over the world and in 2014 CSL implemented Zambia's first wildlife K9 Unit. Detection and tracking dogs are capable of greatly improving law enforcement efforts in the wildlife sector and since 2014 we have achieved exactly that. Eight Zambian handlers and five dogs have been professionally trained by partners from the USA to detect a wide range of objects including ivory, bushmeat, firearms, ammunition, pangolin scales, lion and leopard skins and body parts and mukula wood.

The dogs proved to be highly efficient, drastically reducing time taken to carry out searches. A detection dog will complete a search in a few minutes that otherwise could last over an hour and still be unsuccessful as criminals get wiser at smuggling wildlife contraband. This has significantly reduced the amount of smuggling as poachers have found it increasingly difficult to operate and find alternative routes over the years. Over the past four years the team has conducted **305 operations, searched 13,500 vehicles, 1100 bikes, 198 buildings, apprehended 114 suspects, confiscated 162 illegal firearms, 500kgs of bushmeat, 32 mukula logs, 6 leopard skins and 6 pangolins.**

Due to the success in Mfuwe, in 2018 CSL replicated the program and built a K9 Unit in Chipata at DNPW to assist Government in reducing wildlife trafficking in eastern Zambia.

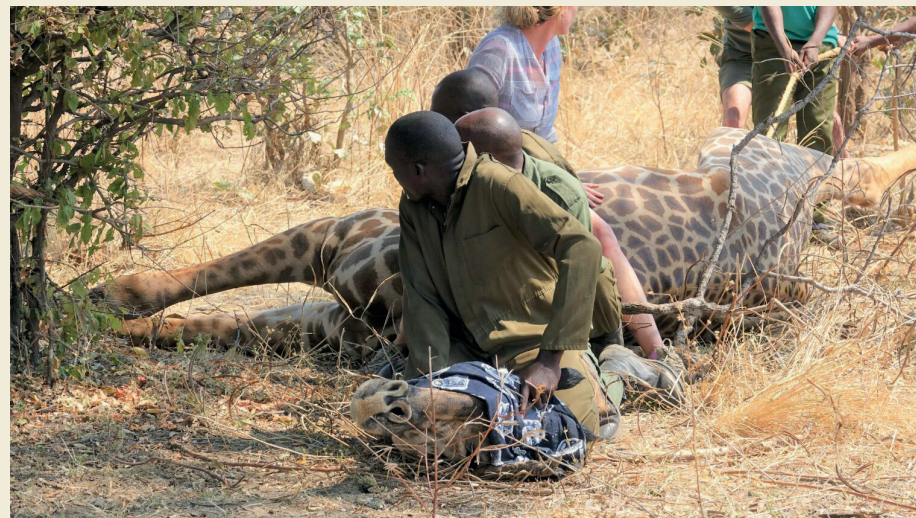
Each of the CSL K9 dogs are high energy, reward driven rescue dogs who have been specifically hand picked for their personality and play drive. The dogs have developed a very tight bond with their handlers, who have become their family.

## Veterinary work

Maintaining five healthy, hard-working dogs would be very difficult without the skills of the joint CSL / ZCP Veterinarian Dr. Mwamba Sichande. CSL and ZCP are proud to be the first wildlife conservation NGOs in Zambia developing the skills and offering employment to Zambian vets. Dr. Sichande specializes in wildlife rescue and has de-snared countless animals such as elephants, giraffes, lion, hyenas, buffalo, zebra and wild dogs in Mfuwe.

Dr. Sichande is also responsible for running the small veterinary clinic based at CSL that offers a community service for domestic dogs and cats and other small animals, a rabies sensitization project, and a sterilization campaign. One can regularly see young boys bringing their new batch of puppies for vaccinations and other treatments.

South Luangwa is a world-famous tourist destination due to its exceptional wildlife and natural resources and would not be growing into the economic hub it is, if there was no wildlife. With the help of organizations like CSL it shall continue to thrive as a tourist attraction.



'Highly skilled de-snaring work' - these iconic creatures recovered fully and are now 100% healthy



## Chilli farming

From 2009 to date, CSL has involved the community in an alternative crops programme - growing chilli. The smell of the chilli irritates the elephants and previous studies have shown that elephants usually stay clear of areas where they encounter the spice. Elephants often raid fields and grain stores for maize and other crops, but they tend not to touch chilli. The chillies grown are used not only as an alternative cash crop for sale but also in mitigation measures for direct conflict through the use of chilli fences, chilli dung bricks and chilli blasters.

CSL conducts training and workshop programs for new chilli farmers. They teach farmers how to start nurseries and about transplanting. Chilli farming is a big commitment so CSL facilitates monitored farming from the nursery stage through to harvesting. These training programs are conducted in several villages around the five chiefdoms of Nsefu, Kakumbi, Malama, Jumbe and Chitungulu. The programs are targeted at farmers experiencing the most conflict with elephants.

The project saw a total harvest of 11, 000kg of dried chilli this year. Once harvested chillies are sold to the Zambian condiment company Rivonia who buy all of CSL's chilli making it a viable business option for many farmers. They receive K15 per kilogram which compares very favourably with cotton, a cash crop that is not only harmful to the environment but very marginal in terms of profit.

CSL also helps with special non-snare electric fences which can be put around the agricultural field in the wet season. Using 'poly wire', which unlike regular wire, can't be taken down and used for snares, in the dry season it can be used around vegetable gardens and to prevent the bull elephants from hammering houses and grain stores down.





Anti-snare patrol

CSL  
CONSERVATION  
SOUTH LUANGWA

## Human Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

Communities in the Luangwa Valley Park often face losses due to elephants. As the human population increases in the Luangwa Valley, conflicts including crop raiding and property damage are also increasing. CSL plays an important role in mitigating this.

## Elephant Safe Grain Stores

Innovative elephant safe grain stores within villages help farmers to keep their harvested maize crop safe during the year. These model grain stores can store up to 50 x 50kg bags. The stores are made from cement and the lid is sealed with chilli to prevent elephants from smelling the maize. Maize is deposited into the stores from an opening at the top and extracted from a hatch near the base of the structure as and when it is needed. Currently there are 120 elephant safe grain stores funded by CSL in the surrounding chiefdoms.



Chilli blaster

CSL  
CONSERVATION  
SOUTH LUANGWA

## Chilli blasting program

Across Africa and Asia, a technique has been employed to help stave off crop marauding elephants. Ping pong balls are filled with chilli and cooking oil and with a special blaster, used to ward off the animals.

The idea is to target the matriarch, the leader of the herd and blast her flank with the oily chilli which irritates her skin and discourages her and the herd before they raid and trample the fields. The chilli blasting is totally harmless, the irritation is short-lived but sufficient to make the leader of the herd think twice! CSL conducts a one-day field-based training day to teach selected community members how to be a chilli blaster.

## CSL Conservation Fun Run and Carnivore Cup

For the past 10 years CSL has been hosting an annual Conservation Fun Run and for the past two years joined forces with the Zambian Carnivore Program to include the Carnivore Cup. Now known as the most anticipated and exciting annual event in the District, the Fun Run is a day of sports and entertainment, prize giving, music, food stalls and a specific conservation message that attracts close to 5000 people on the day. This event is not something to be missed and grows each year!!



With aerial surveys, wide-ranging anti-poaching patrols, snare patrols, animal de-snaring, human/animal conflict mitigation, detection dogs, veterinary support and the annual CSL Conservation Fun Run the team from CSL together with DNPW are protecting our most precious resource and unique diversity — the wildlife of the Luangwa Valley. 🐾

Project Luangwa is not your usual NGO, as the story of its birth will tell. Back in 2008, when we were all worried about the recession – or ‘global’ as it was known colloquially in Mfuwe - local safari operators also worried about the impact it would have on their community projects. ‘Global’ meant fewer tourists, and those who came had less to spend. And in 2009, their worries seemed justified.

After 20 years in South Luangwa Jo Pope had a wealth of experience and argued that a coordinated approach would achieve more than the sum of its whole. Five lodge owners agreed and in 2009 a new charity, supported by these same lodges raising funds through their guests, was born. They called it Project Luangwa.

Project Luangwa (PL) helps local communities improve their long term economic prospects whilst avoiding a negative impact on the environment. They do this in varied ways: supporting schools; helping children attend, as well as stay in, school . . . and university; craft training of community members - especially women who were unable to complete their education, and providing a gender support network. PL's directors are diverse in their approach, one minute building classrooms and the next designing menstrual pads to make sure that girls attend school every day of the month. This co-ordinated, holistic yet diversified approach has recently been praised by the UN as a “nexus of their millennium goals”.

So what has PL actually done? Since 2011 with the funds raised from lodges and their guests, Trusts and foreign businesses, PL has built 36 classrooms, 21 teachers’ offices, 4 teachers’ houses, 4 school dormitories, 2 ablution blocks with showers and flush toilets,



2 science classrooms (with equipment), 15 VIP and 8 Menstrual Hygiene toilets, 3 study shelters, 4 libraries (and filled them with over 40,000 books), a Girls’ Clubhouse, and refurbished another 15 classrooms and a dormitory. They have started an expanding gender support programme, installed solar power to 2 schools and connected 2 more to ZESCO, supplied nearly 700 desks and chairs, 2000 text books and readers, 60 iSchool Zedupads, enrolled 1200 pupils on the Edulution maths project, sponsored over 400 pupils and students to school and university, provided 16 wheelchairs, developed a sustainable craft workshop and made and distributed around 40,000 washable, re-useable menstrual pads across Zambia. Phew!



And the future? Project Luangwa will continue to support schools but their emphasis is slowly shifting away from infrastructure to projects with a broader educational and community impact.

The Edulution programme is one such change. Maths has long been a problem recognised by teachers and pupils alike. The SAQMEC III survey revealed that only 24.5 % of Zambian children in grade 6 managed basic numeracy, whilst just 1.5% achieved competency. Edulution is an e-learning system focussing on maths. It is extracurricular, using young coaches rather than teachers, and tablets upon which pupils can progress at their own rate. PL has enrolled 1200 pupils on the Edulution programme many of whom have shown a 48% improvement over 6 months.



www.projectluangwa.org  
Photography by: Project Luangwa

Sponsoring upwards of 150 secondary school pupils annually, and often onto college or university, will also continue. Most children are able to attend primary school but often



Edulution pads





parents are unable to find the school fees needed for secondary level schooling. PL finds sponsors from across the world to help vulnerable pupils with academic potential. Often the high achievers receive support at tertiary level and many have progressed to careers in medicine, accountancy and teaching.

Project Luangwa has a special interest in the welfare of women and girls but their approach is a little unusual. Not only do they work with girls, but with boys as well.

Girls in Zambia face many issues; early pregnancy and marriage, physical, mental and sexual abuse; low expectations academically, and when money is short a son, rather than a daughter, will be sent to school – all leading to lowered self-esteem and confidence. Project Luangwa's Girls' Clubs are 'safe places' where girls learn life skills and how to cope, can voice their fears, learn about themselves and how to support, rather than judge, each other.

However, PL believes that working only with girls is doing half a job and widening the gender gap. In their own club, boys can learn about themselves, as well as girls, and the result is an increased respect for their female peers. But boys have their problems too. Abuse is not unknown and many need to express their emotions in a safe and confidential space...just like the girls.

Bringing the two sexes together for discussions is exciting and enlightening. These are bright young people who have learnt respect for each other's opinions, and given the space and encouragement can come up with some very good answers.

A close cousin of the gender support pro-



One of the 16 wheelchairs

gramme is PL's Menstrual Hygiene Management (MHM) Project. In 2012, PL Director, Karen Beattie noticed that absenteeism amongst their sponsored girls was a regular monthly occurrence echoed in most schools. The cost and lack of access to sanitary pads was the culprit.

After two years of trials Karen finalised de-

signing a washable pad made from layers of hydrophilic material, backed with waterproof, breathable fabric, encased in cotton, and trained local women to make them. Ufulu pads are pretty 'all-in-one' pads guaranteed to last for two years distributed free to local school girls with the help of local alangizi (traditional counsellors) and teachers. They are available to buy in PL's Mfuwe Craft Shop as well as sold to other charitable organisations for distribution.

"We are proud to say that the Ufulu Pad project was started without any funding", says Karen. "We had some donated sewing machines and fabric and started teaching the ladies to sew at my house. Certain fabrics couldn't be used for the pads so they were re-purposed to make bags to sell to tourists. As bags were sold so more fabric was bought and this soon turned into a craft workshop now employing around 14 women". But it didn't stop there – a young man paints recycled tea bags to make cards; another has been taught to weld and produces sought after sculpture made from junk; there's a wood carver too, and the shop sells baskets made by local families. Right from the start the craft shop and pad project have been self-sustaining and helps support Project Luangwa and all they do in the Mfuwe community. 🙌

Project Luangwa is proudly supported by Flatdogs Camp, Robin Pope Safaris, Kafunta Safaris, Shenton Safaris and Lion Camp and would like to thank them and all their guests and the many donors for their valuable support.







Flatdogs Camp, which opened in 2000, prides itself on offering great value for money and, as one of the area's largest employers, is at the forefront of conservation and community work in the Valley.

# Flatdogs Camp

South Luangwa National Park - Zambia

## At the forefront of conservation & community work in the Valley

[www.flatdogscamp.com](http://www.flatdogscamp.com)

By Esnala Banda

### Conservation & Community

In 2010, Flatdogs joined with other operators in implementing the Luangwa Conservation and Community Fund (LCCF) proceeds of which are shared between Project Luangwa (PL) and Conservation South Luangwa (CSL). Since 2010 Flatdogs has raised over \$230,000 from the LCCF.

#### Conservation

Half of this has been donated to CSL who, in partnership with DNPW, undertake the majority of the conservation efforts here in the Valley. A further \$3600 per year in addition to the LCCF supports CSL operations, human/animal conflict mitigation and forest guards combating environmental damage around the National Park.

Flatdogs pays HRH Chief Kakumbi and the Community Resource Board (CRB) to conserve a large area around Flatdogs and assist the CRB to employ forest guards. This area is a key buffer zone where wildlife and habitat are totally protected. Wildlife numbers in this area are increasing annually.

Flatdogs is also carbon neutral! By purchasing carbon offsets from BioCarbon Partners (BCP) Flatdogs supports forest programs in the Luangwa, helping communities conserve their natural resources.

#### Education

The other half of the LCCF goes to Project Luangwa and a further \$300,000 has been raised for PL projects in the education sector.

Flatdogs support Chiyembekezo Community Pre School by paying the teachers' allowances and upkeep.

Wendy Malama-Kakumbi, started teaching at Chiyembekezo in Nov 2017.

"I teach a pre-school class. I had studied early childhood learning and now teach 5 subjects to 58 students. My class has 32 girls who are all as enthusiastic about learning about conservation as the boys - if not more so. They take an active interest in learning how to take



Photography by: Edward Selfe / CSL

care of trees and preserve animal life," she proudly explains.

Flatdogs have worked with the Board of Chiyembekezo to target where funds are needed and with their guests' help have installed electricity, painted the classrooms, fitted glass windows, provided furniture and most recently gave every pupil a re-usable Flatdogs Camp water bottle.

#### Nature Conservation FC

Understanding that sport is great unifier, Flatdogs Camp sponsors a football team in the local league. Helping enforce a link between conservation, tourism and the economy, it opens up more channels for community engagement and dialogue.

When Owner, Adrian Coley, was Chairman of LSA he and the Mfuwe Sports Association (MSA) liaised to get the local football league sponsored by the LSA. It became known as the Mfuwe Safari League and is still going today.

Flatdogs then took on sponsorship of the Nature Conservation Football Club whose players (boys between 16 – 22) play every game in the name of conservation.

Many thousands turn up to matches and it's a great way to build friendships between various sections of the community.

#### Supporting the Local Economy

Flatdogs award winning restaurant owes much of its success to the fresh produce of local suppliers. 90% of Flatdogs' fresh produce is purchased from the local area and from veg farmers whom they have helped to establish and a local Youth Development Centre, Chikowa, who run courses training local youths in skills such as agriculture, carpentry and mechanics.

The majority of the meat, eggs and dairy on their menu is free range and ethically, locally produced. 🌱



Fresh local produce





When you think of wildlife in Zambia, rhinos don't exactly spring to mind. The conservation education organisation - Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust (CWET) is named after the black rhinoceros in the local language of Chinyanja: "Chipembele." The Luangwa Valley once held the highest density of black rhinos in Africa, until they were poached to local extinction by the late 1980s. Chipembele is a reminder to protect and conserve our wildlife and ecosystems so that we prevent further losses of our incredible animals.

Chipembele was founded in 1998 by passionate Africa lovers, Anna and Steve Tolan, whose life dream was to give back to a special place in Africa by establishing a conservation education centre and programme for local children. Twenty years later, CWET has grown into a robust non-profit organisation based in Mfuwe and is a leader in environmental education in Zambia. This rapidly growing rural settlement on the edge of South Luangwa National Park is experiencing ever-increasing rates of deforestation, habitat loss, poaching, littering, over-fishing, bush fire destruction and human-wildlife conflict as the population expands. The work is therefore critical for upholding CWET's vision that people and wildlife can live together in harmony.

Today the Chipembele Conservation Centre hosts Anna's all-day dynamic and incentive-based educational programme for Conservation Club members from 7 local schools. The Centre is also home to an animal sanctuary, where Anna and Steve rehabilitate orphaned and injured animals back to the wild. CWET's energetic education team runs 31 Conservation Clubs across 18 different schools in the greater Mfuwe area at both primary and secondary levels. At their headquarters office, CWET established a Botanic Garden and a Community Nature Conservancy to provide on-site opportunities for inquiry-based learning and exploring.

Throughout the year students participate in a range of activities including a

student-driven environmental campaign, field trips into South Luangwa National Park, a Chipembele Ranger Programme, 'Nature Nights' camping trips, a week-long outdoor education excursion, an annual celebration of conservation event known as 'Chikondewelero', computer courses and more!

Gender awareness, leadership, communication, team-building and other important life skills are infused into their core programmes, with opportunistic seminars and workshops on offer during the innovative 'Skill-Up!' programmes.

The weekly Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP) Club is unique in that it provides students the opportunity to work directly with scientific researchers and educators from ZCP Mfuwe. ZCP is a non-governmental organisation working in three regions of Zambia, including Mfuwe/South Luangwa, to conserve large carnivores and their ecosystems through science, action and local leadership. Former Chipembele students, who are employed as wildlife ecologists for ZCP, run this club. They teach the scientific process in a hands-on manner and provide support conducting wildlife surveys, using research tools such as hand-held GPS units and camera traps, using data to help answer relevant resource and management questions, and more. The ZCP Club develops students' skills in computer literacy, technology, critical thinking, writing and public speaking skills essential for pursuing further studies in a conservation or natural resource management career. Few secondary students in the world have this direct insight into what it takes to become a field biologist!

In 2018 and 2019, Chipembele's top Conservation Club students participate in 'Tisamale Global Exchange' with Australian conservation students and "Mentors at the Zoo" (MATZ) from Adelaide. Tisamale means 'we conserve' in our local language, and enables Zambian and Australian students to teach each other about their different wildlife, ecosystems and conservation challenges while sharing each other's cultures and favourite activities. Thanks to Zoos South Australia (ZOOSA), this life-changing experience fosters inspiration and action for our next generation of globally-minded conservationists. In July 2018 Chipembele hosted the Australian MATZ and the best 14 students Chipembele students will travel to Adelaide to complete the exchange in April 2019.

In 2016, Chipembele expanded their work to adult community groups within four geographic zones of the greater Mfuwe area which are led by four field-based Community Conservation Educators. A Mobile Education Unit (MEU) was added in 2017 to support remote schools and communities throughout Mambwe District, an area of

over 5,000 km<sup>2</sup>. Through the colourful MEU Outreach Programme, the Education Team trains distant teachers how to set up their own conservation clubs and provides them with the educational tools and resources to run them independently. The MEU includes a conservation library and puts on evening movie nights to showcase wildlife documentary films to members of these remote villages.

In addition, Chipembele facilitates student sponsorships to enable deserving students to attend school. An average of 60 orphaned or otherwise vulnerable students are sponsored

each year to secondary school and 12 at tertiary level.

Chipembele helps youth to appreciate and protect the wildlife from learning and understanding, and grow to become the next generation of responsible stewards of the natural world we all depend on.







Photography by: Edward Selfe

The **Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP)** is a non-profit **Zambian** organization working in close collaboration with the **Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW)** and dedicated to conserving large carnivores and ecosystems through a three pronged approach, namely:

### 1) Conservation Science

We live in an era of rapid, human-induced ecological change, necessitating accurate and current scientific information to guide, inform and evaluate conservation efforts. Our collaborative long-term studies of large carnivores, their prey, habitat, and the factors limiting and threatening them are therefore of critical importance.

### 2) Conservation Action

Our conservation actions address the immediate threats to species and ecosystems as identified by our conservation science. We collaborate with an array of local partners to help ensure that threats are addressed through initiatives ranging from supporting anti-poaching and wildlife crime prevention, to connectivity, land-use planning, species reintroductions, mitigating human-wildlife conflict and disease mitigation.

### 3) Conservation Capacity

Sustainability of conservation efforts rely heavily on local leadership and the capacity of **Zambian** organizations and individ-

uals successfully to research and manage carnivores and their habitats, as well as on local community support for carnivores and wildlife. We have comprehensive programmes beginning in secondary Conservation Clubs up through international graduate degree programmes for Zambia's current and aspiring conservation leaders.

ZCP currently works in all the country's major large carnivore populations—the largest wild dog, cheetah, lion, leopard and spotted hyena populations, with field-based projects in Eastern Zambia's Luangwa Valley, the Greater Liuwa Ecosystem, and the Greater Kafue Ecosystem.

The Luangwa Valley is ZCP's longest running project focusing on the country's largest populations of lions, wild dogs, and leopard. We employ an integrated research approach dealing with an array of biological, environmental, and human issues ranging from population dynamics and predator-prey studies to wire-snare poaching and human encroachment of wildlife areas.

Our collaborative work provides some of the only scientific data on large carnivores and herbivores and the threats facing them for much of their range in Zambia, and has been utilized extensively in guiding conservation policy in the country. The success of this work fundamentally rests on our diverse and effective collaborations with local, national and international partners, agencies, organizations and institutions that collectively provide the expertise, resources and energy to address the myriad conservation challenges facing Zambia and the region. 🐾



[www.zambiacarnivores.org](http://www.zambiacarnivores.org)



# TRIBAL TEXTILES

Writer: Esnala Banda  
Photography: Edward Selfe  
www.tribaltextiles.co.zm

Since Tribal Textiles was established in 1991 it has been a consistent presence in the Luangwa Valley. From the company's home, located between the National Park and the Airport, they create a wide range of beautiful home textiles and décor products that are sold in their beautiful showrooms and exported around the world. Their products mix traditional African art with contemporary designs, drawing inspiration from the stunning Zambian wildlife and surroundings. Each piece is hand-painted by local Zambian men and women in a rich palette of striking colours.

As well as providing valuable employment in the local community over the last 25+ years, Tribal Textiles supports a number of community projects, including the outstanding primary school Malimba. Tribal Textiles makes and sells fund-raising products for the school – which now has more than 400 pupils – and offers support with administration, finances and building work.

In 2018, the company partnered with top London designers, Patternity, who, inspired by their trip to South Luangwa and Malimba School, designed a range of textiles which launched in London's famous Selfridges department store. A donation from each piece sold in this collection goes directly to Malimba school.

Tribal Textiles also hosts a busy community artisans' market. Established over 10 years ago as simple stalls in the Tribal car park, recent investments have created a communal work space and individual booths where artisans can work, display their wares and sell directly to visitors. The company provides ongoing support through merchandising, marketing and business advice and has recently secured funding from PEP Zambia and DfID for further development of this community business.

Using this funding, Tribal Textiles sourced an internationally-known product designer to help the artisans create commercial, sustainable products that they can sell to support their families. Tribal Textiles showcased some of the artisans' work alongside their own at the Zambian Arts and Design Show in Lusaka, allowing the artisans to build their market, and also created a catalogue of the artisan products to market to local lodges, increasing their selling potential still further.

2018 also saw the beginning of a recycling business, turning glass bottles into jewellery and decorative homewares. Future plans include setting up a larger-scale recycling centre to process some of the reusable waste generated in the Luangwa Valley; this will be a further opportunity to train and equip local artisans with the skills and tools to make saleable products from waste materials.

In addition to Malimba School and the Community Artisan Market, Tribal Textiles actively supports local conservation projects through the sale of dedicated Textiles ranges - 25% of revenues from their Carnivores range is donated to the Zambian Carnivore Programme and more than \$5,000.00 was raised in 2018. Other organisations supported include Birdwatch Zambia, Conservation South Luangwa and the Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust.

**The three pillars of Education, Environment and Conservation are at the core of Tribal Textiles' existence, but perhaps their most valuable contribution has been their consistent employment of a large number of local people for more than quarter of a century.**



Artisans from the Mango Tree Artisan Market enjoying their time with international product designers Magda and Rufus van der Vloed.



If you want to go fast go alone,  
if you want to go far, go together.

African Proverb

Patternity designers Anna Murray and Grace Winteringham, with pupils from Malimba School, during the designers' visit to Mfuwe.

Tribal Textiles' carnivores range, from which 25% of sale proceeds go directly to the Zambian Carnivore Programme.





Kelvin Muya, a Grade 9 sponsored student attending Mambwe Boarding Secondary School. Photography: Time + Tide

2017: The girls' self-esteem increased from 47% to 100% over the course of 2017 and at the end of 2017, 85% of girls in the club scored as functionally literate, an improvement from 73% of girls who scored the same at the end of term 2. The girls in the Yosefe Girls Club also achieved a 100% academic pass rate! Jackline Soko, age 12, was one such graduate who qualified to Katete Secondary School, one of the top achieving girls schools in the Eastern Province. This is what she shared with us about her time in the club:

*"Before [girls club] I was failing to answer questions in class and I did not understand when the teacher was speaking. Now I feel very good about myself... I am Jackline and I want to finish school and become a doctor".*

#### Wildlife and Conservation Education Centre:

Together with a grant from the Time + Tide Foundation, Tide + Tide allocates a portion of LCCF to sponsor the operating and student costs for seven local schools to attend conservation education classes at the renowned Chipembele Conservation Education Centre. Over terms two and three of 2017, Chipembele hosted 700 student visits for a full day's activities and quizzes, with pupils spending over 4,200 hours learning about local ecology in the interactive classroom and museum. Have a look at pages 14 and 15 to find out more about the Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust

For more information about the Time + Tide Foundation and how the LCCF that the Time + Tide Lodges collect is distributed, please visit [timeandtidefoundation.org](http://timeandtidefoundation.org) and [www.timeandtideafrica.com](http://www.timeandtideafrica.com). 🌱



The girls of the Yosefe Girls Club visit the Field Based Education Centre.

# TIME + TIDE IN THE COMMUNITY

Time + Tide operates five camps in the Luangwa Valley -- Chimzombo, Luwi, Nsolo, Kakuli and Mchenja -- with a vast majority of Zambian staff - 96% in fact! Almost all staff originate from one of the Kunda Chiefdoms, so it's very important to Time + Tide to contribute positively to the wellbeing of their communities, over and above local employment and procurement.

The Time + Tide Foundation is the philanthropic arm of Time + Tide, with a focus on four specific project areas in the South Luangwa:

#### Home-Based Education:

This programme provides physical and cognitive support to children with disabilities in Kakumbi and Mnkhanya chiefdoms.

There are currently 98 children registered in the programme who have 72 volunteer caregivers helping with their education and giving support to them and their families in their homes.

Volunteer caregivers received 173 hours of training over the course of 2017 and 2018. Since 2016, each child has progressed in an average of 7 development areas, showing improvements in their motor, cognitive and self-care abilities. One such child is Patience Njobvu, age 4, who has an intellectual impairment. Today, Patience can complete day to day activities with ease and spends lots of time

running, dancing, playing with friends and helping her mum at home. In 2018 Patience successfully enrolled in nursery school to the amazement of her family who never believed it would be possible!

#### Kapani School Project:

This is a sponsorship programme for children from the six Kunda Chiefdoms. Thanks to the LCCF contributions from Time + Tide and private donors, there are 88 students currently under sponsorship attending 9 primary and secondary schools in the Eastern Province and 12 tertiary institutions across Zambia. Since 2015 there have been 31 successful graduates at Grade 12 and 14 graduates at tertiary level.

#### Yosefe Girls Club:

Created to inspire and support girls in grades 6 – 9 at Yosefe Primary School, the Girls Club builds levels of self-esteem and improves written and verbal English language skills, which are essential for improving performance in government exams.

#### Some highlights from the Foundation's monitoring and evaluation results:

2018: The Yosefe Girls Club girls' confidence speaking English increased by 40% over the first two terms of 2018.



Children in the Home-Based Education programme attending Sella Academy School in Mjiwe.



In 1986, Robin Pope, who had been working for Norman Carr at the original Nsefu Camp; decided to start his own safari outfit, initially setting up an 8 bedded camp at Tena Tena. After meeting Jo Holmes, whom he later married, his business started to grow. Robin and Jo immediately decided they wanted to help support their community. In order to empower their staffs' families, they invested in educating their children. They focused on the development of Kawaza School and later expanded into the village as a whole creating the renowned Kawaza Village experience offering guests a unique chance to experience staying in a genuine Zambian village.

Robin Pope Safaris still assist Kawaza Village today where they can, however their goal was always for them to be subsistent and to keep improving themselves so the project was handed to the community to run.

Kawaza Village is open to everyone and is now a tourist attraction for any guests who visit South Luangwa. Guests go there looking for a traditional village experience. They are advised to dress like the locals and ladies encouraged to wear chitenges. Upon arrival guests are met by their local guide and tour the local clinic, school and traditional healer. They collect firewood and pound maize and they may choose to join villagers picking cotton or to see how local 'gin' is produced. Traditional food is served at lunch time and afterwards traditional dances are performed.

As well as being founding members of Project Luangwa, the brain-child of Jo Pope, and contributors to the LCCF, Robin Pope Safaris contributes to the Mfuwe community in other various ways.

-They accommodate the Zambia Carnivore Project Headquarters and provide for electricity, gas and water as well as assisting with logistics.

-They assist in paying the forestry scouts salaries. These scouts identify any need in the community that relates to conservation and ensure that it is addressed.

We can rest assured that thanks to places like Robin Pope Safaris, Mfuwe and South Luangwa as a whole will continue to be the gift that keeps on giving. 🌿



Photography by: Robin Pope Safaris



Photography by: Wilson Malamba / Isabelle Defourny

## KAFUNTA SAFARIS FOOTBALL ACADEMY

In 2007, Luke - the son of Kafunta Safaris Directors Ron and Anke Cowan, started sneaking out into the village to play football with the local kids. When his parents realised how much Luke loved the sport, they decided to transform a garden at Kafunta into a football field.

Soon after, they formed an under 12's team which in turn motivated people in the village to form teams, and every Saturday, one of the 10 new teams would compete with Luke's. These games became so popular that guests would miss game drives to watch the football matches!

By the end of 2008 the community and Kafunta came together to form the Mfuwe Soccer League. A bigger pitch, kit and balls were found and Ron funded the league prizes. As the years went by the League grew to twenty under 15's teams, and Project Luangwa, of which Kafunta is a founding member, sponsored the kit.

A new rule making it mandatory to go to school to be a part of the league motivated a lot of young boys to take an interest in their education.

In 2013, Malambo United, comprising the best players in the Under 15 league was created and in 2014 an Amateurs League for Seniors was formed. 16 teams were in this league, Malambo United being one of them. In 2015, the LSA started funding the league and the teams participating rose to 18. The games grew so popular that they would draw a crowd of up to 5000 people to watch the matches!

*Kafunta*  
SAFARIS

Not to be left out – girls and young women of the Valley competed in the Mfuwe Juniors Netball League and the under 15's girls graduated into the adults' Mfuwe amateurs' league managed by the Mfuwe Sports Association - this comprised of 16 netball teams from different chiefdoms

These games of football and netball were not

only great entertainment but a good incentive against poaching and snaring and a great way to spread the message of conservation and the value of wildlife. In 2015 the LSA became a sponsoring partner and the league transformed to the Luangwa Safari League. It is still going strongly and funding is received yearly for prizes and administration.

There are various different sponsors for the different cup competitions. The Independence Cup is sponsored by Bushcamp Company, The Conservation Cup by Manny and Cheryl Mvula, The Zambia Carnivore Program Cup is sponsored by National Geographic and Big Cats of Africa and many of the lodges and businesses in Mfuwe sponsor individual teams.

Malambo United now plays at provincial level and is a member of the Football Association of Zambia. The academy also developed Emmanuel Mphasi, a goalkeeper in the under 17's team which won the COSAFA Cup in 2016.

Who would've known something that started in a little garden space would today involve several hundred of boys and girls of the Luangwa Valley! 🌿

www.luangwa.com







The Wildlife Camp which is run by Lupande Safaris Ltd, was started in 1992 and is situated on land owned by Wildlife and Environmental Conservation Society of Zambia (WECSZ).

Lupande Safaris Ltd, or known at that time when the camp was started as Herman Miles Safaris, funded and built the camp and until 10 years ago, 60% of the income from the accommodation was given to the Society. This was later changed to a fix lease fee.

The Camp operates under the auspices of the WECSZ and the Lease fee is applied towards supporting conservation education efforts in

the Luangwa Valley and the rest of Zambia and for the support of the Chipata Branch activities.

The WECSZ uses some of the funds for the wildlife education projects through the Chongololo and Chipembele Conservation Clubs in schools throughout the whole country. They also undertake tree planting projects most recently using the 'cocoon tree planting technology' in association with The Land Life Company and Unicef ; clean-up campaigns and the promotion of local tourism through visits to National Parks as well as important advocacy work informing policy at Government level.

Funds also go to important conservation projects such as protecting the Mafinga Hills ecosystem. To promote protection of the Mafinga's Montane Ecosystem and the Luangwa River Headwaters, a medium term project was initiated in 2016 with the kind support of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund

(CEPF). It is dubbed "Conservation and Forest Management in the Mafinga Hills, Priority Key Biodiversity Area (KBA), Zambia."

There is a Youth Education Centre on the property at Wildlife Camp where school groups come and learn about wildlife and the environment and how to conserve it for the future.

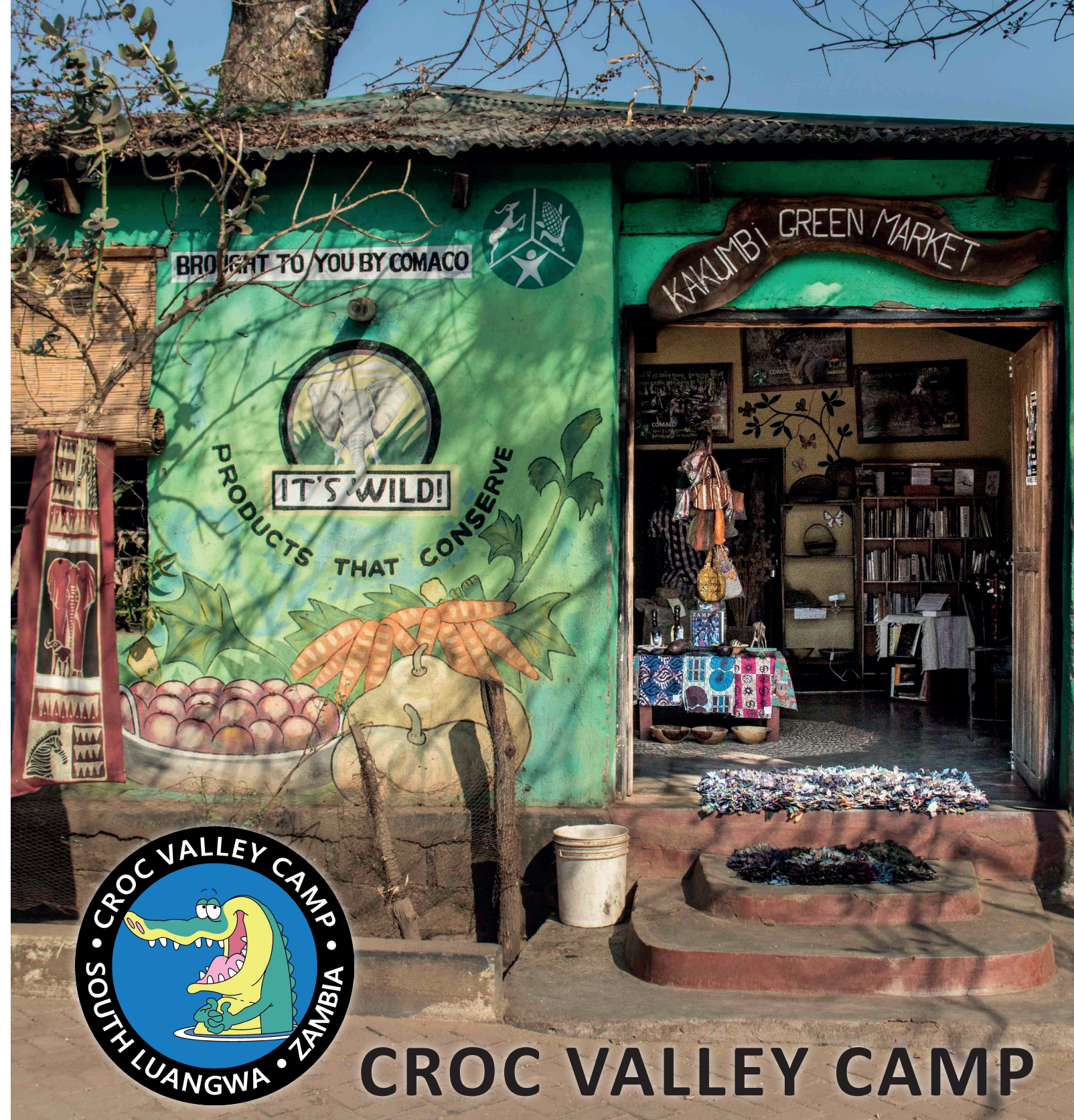
We believe that this is a fundamentally important endeavour as the future of the wildlife and the environment that sustain it is in the hands of the young generation.

To educate them and to make them aware of the beauty of the natural world and the benefits of conserving this National treasure will ensure the future of wildlife and the natural environment. This in turn will create jobs and income for the people of Zambia through tourism.

[www.wildlifezambia.com](http://www.wildlifezambia.com)



Photography by: The Wildlife Camp



## CROC VALLEY CAMP

Croc Valley Camp offers budget-friendly safari holidays on the banks of the picturesque Luangwa River.

Croc Valley Camp recognizes the importance of supporting the local community and supports by fundraising through its guests and raising awareness of Conservation South Luangwa (CSL) and Project Luangwa. Croc Valley provides the premises for the Kakumbi Green Market - a community product shop at our Oasis Filling Station that sells locally produced honey, and various other local goods. The Green Market offers these local goods for sale at affordable prices which benefits the community and encourage conservation farming methods.

Croc Valley Camp supports Conservation South Luangwa and is committed to working closely with community and conservation partners

in the protection of the wildlife and habitats of the South Luangwa ecosystem. This helps generate a viable and sustainable source of income for the local community living around the South Luangwa National Park. Through the combined efforts of CSL/Project Luangwa and the safari operators including Croc Valley Camp, the concentrations and variety of game available and being viewed is exceptional and the communities standard of living has improved exponentially.

The partnership contributes towards the symbiotic relationship between Human and Wildlife thus ensuring the continued proliferation of wildlife - our great heritage. CSL/Project Luangwa and the Kakumbi Green Market ensure the well-being of not only the local animal residents but also our whole community.

[www.crocvalley.com](http://www.crocvalley.com) / Photography by: Croc Valley Camp



# FOOTBALL FOR WILDLIFE

Inspired by David Back who, together with his wife Karen, worked in the Luangwa Valley for several years Football for Wildlife was started in 2015. The objective of the League is to build awareness and enthusiasm for wildlife conservation through soccer. The initiative is managed by Jimmy Sakala and Carol Coppinger and funded by the REMOTE AFRICA SAFARIS 'TAFIKA FUND'

The league involves 8 teams from the Chifunda and Mwanya Chiefdoms, competing for THE KAFUPI CUP (named after Karen Back, a lady small in stature).

In 2017, the ladies league was started. It includes 8 teams from Chifunda and Mwanya who compete for the SHIPIKISHA CUP, meaning "BE STRONG TO GO FORWARD".

## THE TAFIKA FUND

The Tafika Fund was set up by John and Carol Coppinger in 1998 and has been managed by Carol ever since. Donations to the Tafika Fund are used to assist the government run Mkasanga School in a number of ways; from building renovation, to the purchase and supply of stationery, textbooks, library books, desks, school supplies, additional educational material and the payment of 5 teachers' salaries.

It also offers further educational opportunities for the children of the Mwanya community by providing scholarships annually; awarded on merit, to the 4 top scoring Mkasanga grade 9 pupils writing the National examinations.

15 pupils are supported on full secondary scholarships at boarding schools further afield, to complete grades 10 to 12 every year as no local schools offer these grades. The Tafika Fund is also assisting a young girl with hearing and speech disabilities in attending a Chipata school specific to her needs. The support includes accommodation, food and transport costs, as well as school tuition fees, books and uniforms.

The Tafika Fund built an outpatient clinic in Mkasanga which officially opened its doors in 2006 and acts as a first aid centre for the 2036 residents of Mkasanga. A government medical officer oversees the clinic and tends to patients while the fund pays a monthly wage for an assistant to the officer. Periodically medical supplies are donated to supplement the clinic provisions.

## SKILLS TRAINING

The Tafika Fund now offers further sponsorship for skills training and college students every year.

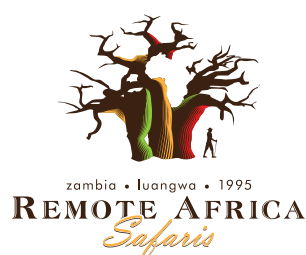
In 2018, eight students were supported. Teaching, nursing and medical officer training seem to be the most popular choices currently, with a further two students at university completing 4 year degree programs.

The Tafika Fund has supported several students through long-term degrees over the years, including a student of medicine at University of Zambia, Mr. Swedy Nkhoma, who completed his degree in 2017.

Remote Africa Safaris makes a donation of \$5 from every bed-night to The Tafika Fund and a further \$5 per bed-night is donated to North and South Luangwa National Park conservation programs. Guest donations and sponsorships add to the funds, which are topped up by Remote Africa when needs be.

Generous guests visiting Remote Africa Safaris, and the other Remote Africa Camps, may often be seen dragging a second heavy bag into camp filled with footballs, school supplies, football boots, whistles and retired phones and computers for our students. The delight these gifts bring to our villagers and students make the overloaded journey through international airports to reach Zambia well worth it.

Should you require further information on the TAFIKA FUND please contact us at [reservations@remoteafrica.com](mailto:reservations@remoteafrica.com).



Adrian and Christina Carr

Adrian was born here in Zambia and wife Christina, better known as Gid, arrived in 2000. After a combined 65 years in safaris, today, together with their team, they run Makolekole Ltd. They specialize in drilling boreholes to bring clean, safe water to the rural villages in the Luangwa Valley. Makolekole is a business, not a charity but most of their work is sponsored by Bushcamp Company's project – Commit to Clean Water. Gid and Adrian also raise funds from other donors outside Zambia to install boreholes in the very remote villages between the South and North Luangwa National Parks.

As well as raising funds for community boreholes they have also been involved with Malimba Community School since 2001. Over the years they have helped with infrastructure and have found donors including Tribal Textiles to fund four classrooms, two teachers' houses, a dining hall, a small library, a borehole, teacher training, general upkeep and maintenance, allowances for volunteer teachers and watchmen, funds for sports and academic competitions and lots of books, stationery and equipment for the school.

Gid also contributes by helping to co-ordinate the presence of a Doctor at the local health centre and is Chair of the Board of trustees of Chipembele. She helped pioneer HIV/Aids awareness raising here in the Valley. Adrian is Chair of Conservation South Luangwa.

As past owners/directors of Norman Carr Safaris the Carr family follows in the late Norman Carr's footsteps and have a long tradition of supporting conservation. They have always been deeply involved with activities which promote education, improved health and employment opportunities and continue to sponsor and mentor many students.

[www.makolekoledrilling.com](http://www.makolekoledrilling.com)

Photography by: Gid Carr

Mulberry Mongoose is a jewellery business situated by a well-trodden elephant path in Mfuwe. Employment opportunities in Mfuwe are limited, especially for women, so the jobs created for this group of skilled ladies who handcraft each jewellery item, help support them and their families. Their designs are inspired by wildlife of South Luangwa and the beautiful landscape and people of the Zambian bush. They use local materials such as guinea fowl feathers supplied by local farmers, hand carved wooden beads made by local carpenters and ivory seeds that fall from the indigenous vegetable ivory palm tree.

Their most celebrated collection is created from snare wire brought in by the anti-poaching patrols of Conservation South Luangwa. The jewellers 'recycle' the wire, and through hard work they transform it into 'one of a kind' beads. The pieces are all just as beautiful as they sound – they skillfully turn brutality into beauty.

In Mfuwe, poaching is a sad reality and it causes the maiming and/or slow painful death of animals. Countless wild animals

## MULBERRY MONGOOSE

are affected, the usual victims being elephants, giraffes, leopards and lions. Mulberry Mongoose donates a percentage of money made from this collection towards anti-snare patrols and between 2013- 2018 managed to raise \$92,000 to support the anti-snaring work of Conservation South Luangwa, Conservation Lower Zambezi and the Zambian Carnivore Programme.

Visit our website at [www.mulberrymongoose.com](http://www.mulberrymongoose.com)





# Teaching Children to Read



By Esnala Banda  
Photography by: Edward Selfe

When you drive down to Uyoba school in South Luangwa aside from the brightly painted buildings and bright red uniforms, what will hit you the most, is the innate curiosity that the children have. They will crowd around you with eager eyes whispering excitedly amongst themselves.

They have all the makings of good learners but life in rural Zambia is tough. Education is expensive and facilities are limited. This is why Raise-a-Smile, a small NGO, operated by Marula Lodge has partnered with Uyoba School to build a library well stocked with books, reading aids and toys.

The main focus is to teach children to read and to see children with few opportunities, poring over books and playing educational games in a safe and inspiring environment.

The results were so positive that, Raise-a-Smile have built a 1x2 building, consisting of a library and a 'model' classroom at Chiutika Primary School. Classes take it in turns to occupy the special classroom and the neighbouring librarians often assist the teachers. During English lessons the librarians take half the pupils into the library next door which helps to reduce the usually large class sizes of 80 plus to a more manageable 40.

In the library, pupils are divided into groups by reading abilities. Those who are more advanced have the opportunity read for longer and have access to lots of interesting books to read and those battling with reading receive more concentrated reading assistance and practice.

Marula Lodge and Raise-a Smile, believe that the best way to create a better reading culture is by helping the children fall in love with the experience of reading.

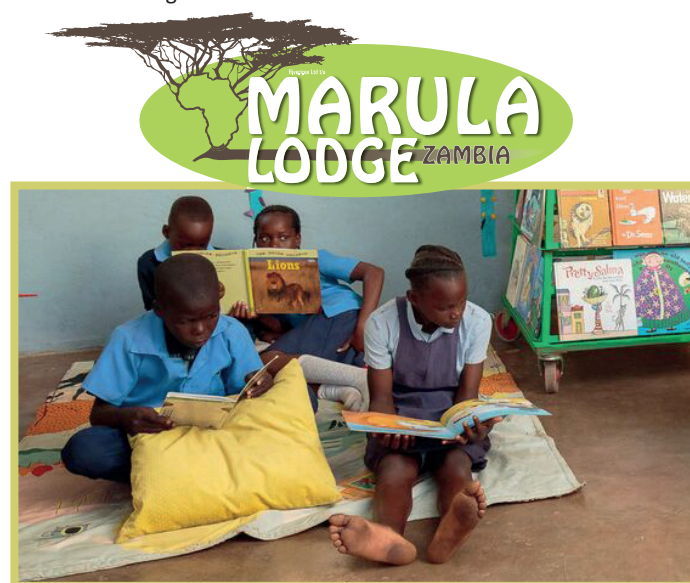
They look forward to renovating another model classroom to keep the momentum and enthusiasm going.

Both the communities at Chiutika and Uyoba have been very forth-

coming - with the community at Chiutika immediately offering bricks for the project and the women of Uyoba readily accepting the Ladies Clubs at the library where they learn to read and write as well as making crafts to sell.

The reading programs have been running at Chiutika for four years and six years at Uyoba. At the inception of these projects, many of the children hadn't even held a book before. The reading classes and library books are now second nature to them. 🌱

[www.marulalodgezambia.com](http://www.marulalodgezambia.com)



The stART Foundation Mfuwe – Creativity, inspiration, education and self-reliance.

Inaugurated in Lusaka in 2011 by Claire Chan and a group of like-minded individuals, the stART Foundation seeks to promote and encourage creative talent among young, disadvantaged Zambians.

Funded by the Foundation from the commissions from their now famous art exhibitions in Lusaka, renowned Kakumbi artists Pam Carr (stART Trustee) and Godfrey Bished have brought the concept to Mfuwe and run creative workshops with 110 young people agreed between 8 and 17. All the stART students are from the Kakumbi Chiefdom and all are single or double orphans. The group is an equal split of girls and boys.

The original and innovative works are then sent to Lusaka and sold at the Foundation's Gallery. The proceeds come back directly to the students who put the funds towards their education costs.

The project has not only enabled 110 young

artists some independence in funding their own schooling but has also inspired local schools to rejuvenate their art departments. stART encourages creativity for enjoyment, a means of expression and a possible career.

One of the original stART students is now at University in Lusaka and it is hoped that many will follow in his footsteps. The students have access to 14 Edupads to help with homework and after school study which they will soon

be using at the newly built studio in Kakumbi.

This combination of encouraging and rewarding creativity has proved a novel and innovative way drastically to improve the young peoples' chances in life. To date ALL stART students have passed their exams!

For more information visit - [www.thestartfoundationtrust.org](http://www.thestartfoundationtrust.org) 🌱



Photography by: Robert Banda

The Nsefu Wildlife Conservation Fund was set up in 2015 by the owners of Zikomo Lodge in the Nsefu Sector of the SLNP. They and their partner organization in California raise awareness and funds for anti-poaching, environmental and community work.

They learned that that a proportion of the illegal poaching is committed at a subsistence level and is simply done to provide meat and cash in the local villages.

They started their community projects in order to try to address this problem. They have built a classroom for Chabwera Community School as well as providing desks and equipment, and they are currently building toilets and pay the allowances for four volunteer teachers. They take schoolchildren on game drives in to the National Park and plan eventually to include all nine schools in Nsefu in that programme.

The NSCF sewing project has started with six women who are being taught by an experienced tailor over a 6 month course, the aim is for the women to be able support themselves with their new found skills.

## The Nsefu Wildlife Conservation Fund

The beekeeping program, based on Dr Lucy King's Kenyan bee-fencing project, has 27 participants so far. The idea is to erect lines of poles with bee hives on them so when elephants come toward crops the agitated bees will keep the elephants out. It is hoped this may help by reducing human/elephant conflict.

The honey harvested will bring a source of income and will help reduce burning and deforestation by the participants wanting to keep the bees safe.

They have so far built 26 beehives and have erected several lines of poles.



In addition to this, in order to tackle poaching in the area, NWCF employs ten anti-poaching rangers to patrol and discourage poachers.

Learn more about Zikomo Safaris and the NWCF at [www.zikomosafari.com](http://www.zikomosafari.com) 🌱





# Chunyu Nursery

By Esnala Banda

“It’s a lovely thing to put a seed in the soil and watch it grow into a tree,” says Fil Hide, owner of Chunyu Tree Nursery which was started in 1998 and offers indigenous trees and shrubs for sale at below cost, and extremely affordable, prices.

“We all need trees, they are life-giving in so many ways,” she says, and over the years she has propagated and supplied many thousands. She aims to grow as many different indigenous species as possible – currently about 100 – and avoids exotic varieties because she believes they can change the soil making it more difficult for indigenous plants to thrive. She encourages everyone to grow and plant Zambian trees. She has run training sessions in schools showing students how to propagate and nurture young trees; and has given, or reduced the price of, plants for community projects.

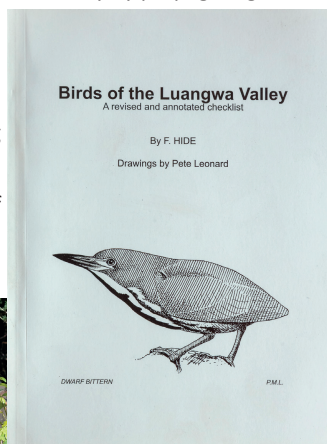
In addition to running the nursery Fil Hide is an avid bird watcher and has, for nearly 20 years, been the local representative of BirdWatch Zambia (formerly the Zambian Ornithological Society – ZOS) the NGO whose purpose is to promote the study, conservation, and general interest in birds

and their habitats in Zambia, as well as supporting important species and their habitats. Fil encourages everyone involved with wildlife and tourism to become a member, and has taken the responsibility of keeping records of bird sightings in the Valley, reporting anything of interest to the society, or checking for verification. She has also hosted annual bird ringing and data collection sessions at her Chunyu plot.

In 2008 Fil completed the ‘Birds of the Luangwa Valley, a revised and annotated checklist’ for ZOS, and has just issued an update sheet - “There are currently 501 bird species recorded in the Valley. This book tells you what birds are here, where you’ll

find them, and how frequently they are seen. It’s designed particularly to help guides and other birders,” she explains.

In her own special way, Fil is contributing towards the re-foresting of the Valley by propagating and supplying many thousands of indigenous trees, and has been at the forefront of awareness raising and knowledge sharing of the myriad of birds of the Valley. 🌿



Photography by: Edward Selfe



## Making Conservation of Wildlife Habitat Valuable to People

At BioCarbon Partners (BCP), we work hand-in-hand with rural communities to protect our forests in order to combat climate change and conserve biodiversity. By keeping trees in Zambia standing, both people and wildlife benefit.

The Community Forests Program, implemented by BCP and funded by USAID, is designed to support the Zambian Government’s REDD+ strategy by protecting over 1 million hectares of threatened wildlife habitat.

At BCP, we understand that to protect Zambia’s forests and iconic wildlife, we must form trusted community partnerships. We do this through community engagement and creating incentives to conserve forest through long term performance based habitat protection agreements. Only if people benefit directly and have a stake in the survival of their natural resources will they protect and conserve them.

The aims of the Luangwa programme;

**Protection** of 1,000,382 hectares of forest

**Community protection** of resources and community management of forests

**Income** from natural resource enterprises, increased market access and job creation

**Improved livelihoods** from social services such as honey production, conservation farming, clean drinking water and infrastructure

**Habitat protection** for precious wildlife, in particular elephants, wild dogs, leopards, lions and thornicroft giraffe

**Conservation** of forests spanning the vital Luangwa Valley ecosystem linking South Luangwa, Luambe, Lukusuzi and Lower Zambezi National Parks

**Reduction of emissions** by 1,251,896 tons of carbon dioxide per year

Together with the communities with whom we work to protect the forest and make investments into local livelihoods, we aim to improve infrastructure, education, provide training and deliver other benefits that can be linked to forest protection. Our community investments are funded through the sale of verified Forest Carbon Offsets.

www.biocarbonpartners.com 🌿



Beekeeping Farmer in South Luangwa. Photography by: BCP

Luambe National Park is located in a core area of Zambia’s Luangwa Valley, it forms a crucial part of its entire ecosystem being part of the corridor between the North and the South Parks. The main objective of Luambe Conservation is primarily to conserve the habitat and biodiversity of this previously neglected but important National Park.

**Our efforts in contributing to the conservation of this unique ecosystem and its surrounding communities include:**

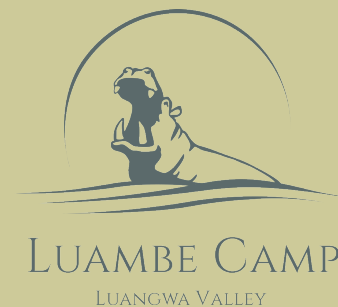
Working towards the reduction of poaching issues by assisting the DNPW scout units in their efforts to protect the park on the ground, and by frequently monitoring the area with the help of Conservation South Luangwa’s aircraft.

Funding the Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP), in order to get a better understanding of the distribution and behavior of carnivores in Luambe National Park, particularly the endangered African Wild Dog.

Supporting Luambe’s surrounding communities; to date we have provided nine fresh-water boreholes in Chitungulu, the area to our North, as well as implementation of new/improved farming methods, again, in collaboration with Conservation South Luangwa.

Re-establishing the tourism facilities, and thereby generating profit through sustainable safari tourism. All profits from our newly built safari camp on the banks of the Luangwa will be used by Luambe Conservation Ltd. to ensure the future protection of Luambe National Park and the sustainable development of its surrounding communities.

www.luambe.com 🌿



## LUAMBE CONSERVATION



Photography: Marcus Westberg



Photography by: Daniel Rosengren/FZS

Ed Sayer and Claire Lewis

The oldest section of Africa’s Great Rift Valley extends into North-eastern Zambia. Here, the Luangwa River has shaped a unique landscape over millennia. The ecosystem, a pristine wilderness area with the North Luangwa National Park at its heart, is Zambia’s elephant stronghold, home to the country’s only black rhinos, and one of the highest lion densities in the region.

The North Luangwa Conservation Programme (NLCP) is a partnership between the Frankfurt Zoological Society and the Zambia Department of National Parks and Wildlife to conserve 22,000 km² of the North Luangwa ecosystem. Founded in 1986, the partnership

focuses on protected area management and law enforcement.

NLCP is working with the local communities to strengthen their participation in conservation and their benefits from protecting wildlife: The initiative aims to build capacity for natural resource management and for community engagement in conservation enterprise opportunities, particularly tourism. Furthermore, FZS continues to facilitate community conservation banks, small scale village savings and loans schemes that enable members to engage in conservation compatible business enterprises. Diversification of their livelihood options helps to build the resilience of individuals and drives socio-economic development.



## FRANKFURT ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NORTH LUANGWA CONSERVATION PROGRAMME

**Programme focuses**

- Protected area management
- Law enforcement
- Conservation education
- Community based natural resource management
- Endangered species conservation (black rhino)
- Ecosystem, Park and GMA land use, policy, management, conservation and business planning
- Ecosystem and species monitoring and evaluation 🌿

www.fzs.org/en/projects/north-luangwa



# LSA

## The Luangwa Safari Association & The Medical Fund

The LSA started as a small group of safari operators who saw the need to share ideas and information and to represent their businesses as a unified group.

Membership has grown over the years, as has the scope and these days, any business or organisation whose existence is connected to the safari industry here in the South Luangwa, is welcome to join.

LSA members now include not only safari lodges but NGOs and companies like Tribal Textiles and Makolekole Ltd whose businesses depend upon the existence of the safari lodges – the survival of which ultimately depends on our precious wildlife.

LSA members have access to information about industry developments, employment and tax law; they are able to ask advice and support from fellow members and are represented at local and national level at events such as travel shows, traditional ceremonies and industry events. Most of the organisations you will read about in this brochure are members of the LSA.

The LSA is also an important lobbying body and is on hand to advise government or raise concerns when government policy may harm the tourism industry or the wildlife of the Luangwa Valley upon which our economy depends.

One of the most important achievements of the LSA is the LSA Medical Fund. Started in 1998 by Jo Pope who realised the importance of having a Doctor in Mfuwe for the rapidly growing population and visiting tourists, the Fund arranges for fully qualified and very experienced Doctors to come and volunteer at the Kakumbi Rural Health Centre

(KRHC). The Doctor is available to the entire community working in full co-operation with the District Health Department and the staff at KRHC and is fully licenced by the HPCZ. The doctor is also available for emergencies outside the clinic overseeing medical evacuations. The Doctors have saved hundreds of lives in the 20 years that the scheme has existed both in our local community and of our visiting tourists.

The clinic has been completely renovated, water and sanitation installed, staff houses built, a sustainable asthma reaction kit provided and countless gifts of medical equipment and supplies donated. The Outreach Clinics which deliver essential medical care to the more remote areas is supported by the LSA Med Fund who provide the transport and an extra pair of hands in the form of the Doctor and each volunteer Doctor brings training, sponsorship and mentoring.

It is a challenging task to bring high quality health care to Mfuwe. Recruitment, licensing, permits, flights, transport, housing, food, equipment and upkeep of the Doctor costs around \$40,000 per year. The Fund is supported financially by the lodges and by donations from those who can afford to contribute. It is run entirely by volunteers.

The last words must go to Likando Sililo and her great team at Kakumbi and Dr George Mshanga – Mambwe Director of Health, without whose co-operation none of this would be possible; and we have had the privilege of meeting some wonderful, selfless and inspiring Doctors who give their time and skill for no financial reward – just the adventure of being in one of the World's greatest wildlife areas, but mostly the chance to help a community who otherwise would have to travel many miles to find the nearest Doctor. 🐾



Luangwa Leopard - © Ed Selfe



# Thank you!

This publication is meant to be an overview of some of the community and conservation activities happening here in the Luangwa Valley over and above the everyday running of businesses providing local employment and opportunities .

There are too many people to thank individually for all their hard work and commitment and many of them are already mentioned in the articles, but we would like to take this opportunity to say a special thank you to a few who go the extra mile for our community and who might not have been featured in the preceding pages – in no particular order.....

🐾 Our traditional leaders – the Kunda Chiefs for their support in conservation and community matters as well as their wise counsel.

🐾 Theresa Ngoma – Madam DEBS – who has been a stalwart supporter of Education in Mambwe District and our efforts to raise education standards for so many years.

🐾 The DCs, Council Officers and Leaders, Police, Office of the President, Airport and Banks Management and staff.

🐾 Department of National Parks and Wildlife.

🐾 Jo Pope and Andy Hogg, who, after the death of Norman Carr, were the main drivers carrying on the commitment to conservation and community in the Luangwa Valley.

🐾 Wilson Malambo and the Mfuwe Sports Association for all their hard work promoting sports and conservation to the young people of the Valley

🐾 Edward Selfe – for his wonderful photos which he generously gives free of charge in support of conservation and community efforts.

🐾 Ade Coley for all his work with the LSA.

🐾 Phil Berry for his long service to conservation and all the ethical safari guides who maintain high standards and pass on their wisdom to upcoming Guides.

🐾 Sjeff Snijders – the local dentist who offers subsidized dental treatment to our community.

🐾 Proflight for donating free flights to the Valley Doctors.

🐾 All the volunteers who give their time to sit on the Committees or Boards of the many different conservation and community organizations.

🐾 The CRBs, Forest Guards, HWPOs, VAG members and all those volunteers working to save our habitats.

🐾 All the teachers - especially the volunteer teachers of our District, and conservation club leaders.

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