

# HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

## Adult Literacy Programme, Malawi



This year the World Bank named Malawi the poorest country in the world when ranked on GDP per capita and February's devastating floods displaced tens of thousands of people. It also has one of the highest levels of illiteracy in Sub-Saharan Africa, particularly among women (ca. 45%). This problem is due to the extreme poverty that many households face, forcing children to leave school early to assist their family to generate income through early marriage and subsistence farming.

Poverty and the plunder of natural resources are intrinsically linked, with biodiversity loss impacting

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human health, disaster resilience and food security. The importance of a basic education for social and economic development and for achieving a sustainable future in poor communities cannot be over emphasized.

In this vein, for the fourth year, the High Five Club has funded the delivery of an adult literacy programme during 2015 in Malawi delivered by the Lilongwe Wildlife Trust (LWT), as part of their innovative community outreach programme linking development with environmental education.

## Aims

LWT's "Adult Literacy through Wildlife" programme was established to reduce the high levels of illiteracy among adults, particularly women, in impoverished communities in Lilongwe to help them lift themselves out of poverty. Furthermore, it aims to raise awareness of, and the link between, wildlife conservation and community development as environmental issues and wildlife conservation are the subject of the learning modules employed in this programme. Learners tackle a number of wildlife and environmental issues like the importance of conserving trees and the use of alternative sources of energy.

100's of women have passed their National Adult Literacy Exams through this High Five Club-funded programme commenced 4 years ago, which is a remarkable achievement given that

these women could not read and write previously. Many have gone on to start up small-scale local enterprises or have secured employment.

## High Five Club Support

Our support this year totally £1,000 enabling learners to complete a 10 month syllabus consisting of 2 hour adult literacy classes 4 days a week. This was funded out of monthly membership fees and a £500 grant from H5C's long-standing educational benefactor **Roffey Homes**. Our support paid for the training

Women writing their exams



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of eight community patrons so that they could become adult literacy teachers for their respective communities, teacher's stipends, course literature and post course continued learning agendas for all pupils.

**For further information about this project, or to support its expansion to more communities in Malawi, contact Dr Cheryl Mvula at [cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk)**