

HIGH FIVE CLUB

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Human - Wildlife Conflict Reduction, Zambia



Following our previous support of South Luangwa Conservation Society in building elephant proof granaries to protect local people's crops, we recently extended a High Five Club helping hand to the community living around Kafue National Park in Zambia.

Human - wildlife conflict is a daily reality for the millions of subsistence farmers that live in wildlife areas of Africa. Across rural Africa poor communities eke out a living by growing maize, groundnuts and other staple crops at a subsistence level for their own consumption. What they grow, is what they eat – it's as simple as that.

Living cheek to jowl with wildlife can be a real hardship. Whilst we love to see wildlife on safari – the closer the better – for these communities seeing wildlife close up in their villages brings real heartache. A single elephant or hippo can munch its way through an entire farmer's field in just one night, taking away their family's food provision for the next 6 months.

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Once the crops have been harvested the problem with wildlife is still there. Monkeys, baboons and elephants can easily get to the stored harvest in the traditionally built, grass and reed granaries that are the norm in

African villages.

It is not just the people who suffer, but the wildlife too. 'Problem' crop-raiding elephants are often shot and monkeys and baboons stoned to death or much worse (see **Zambia Primate Project** on the Born Free website that Cheryl works on). People may also resort to the poaching of wildlife to secure food for their families through both hunger and to retaliate for their loss.

Mitigating these conflicts is an ongoing and challenging task for all concerned.



High Five Club Support:

We have joined hands with **Game Rangers International (GRI)** to build wildlife-proof granaries in effected villages around Kafue National Park. The idea behind the wildlife-proof granaries is simple – build low-cost, sturdy, brick granaries without roofs (which elephants and primates can easily dismantle) in vulnerable, wildlife-targeted villages. Effected villagers themselves hand make the bricks, and GRI supply the cement and the brick-laying expertise to construct the granaries, along with providing vital sensitisation workshops in the community on how to reduce human - wildlife conflict.



We have supplied GRI with £1,000 to fund the construction of 20 more wildlife proof granaries in the communities they work. It is hoped that through this intervention food security in the area will be increased and the number of poached wildlife and injured/killed elephants and primates reduced. The granaries cost just

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£50 each and our donation will hence go a long way in helping reduce human wildlife-conflict in this wildlife rich area of Zambia for the benefit of both the local community and wildlife.

For more information contact Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk

Game Rangers International (GRI) is a highly respected and growing Zambian registered NGO working in the conservation and wild animal welfare fields. GRI projects support the rescue, rehabilitation and release of orphaned elephants and primates, provide technical and logistical assistance to law enforcement operations (anti-poaching and anti-trafficking) and are active in education, community outreach and wildlife veterinary work.

See www.gamerangersinternational.org