

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

Adult Literacy through Wildlife, Malawi

The Lilongwe Wildlife Centre is a 'People and Wildlife' initiative, the first of its kind in the world. Not only does it serve as Malawi's primary wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre, it is also a centre for its people.

The Centre provides sanctuary space for rescued, confiscated and orphaned wildlife, releasing animals back into the wild wherever possible. It shares the ethos that wildlife conservation can only be achieved in partnership with local communities. It hence runs an active community outreach programme that addresses the problems faced by people living in Malawi as well as improving awareness around the importance of caring for wildlife and our shared environment.

The High Five Club is working with the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre to provide an adult literacy programme in 5 poor urban communities based around the Centre in Lilongwe.

Project Goal: Even though primary education in Malawi is free, it has amongst the highest illiteracy rates in Sub-

Saharan Africa, particularly among women. This problem is directly linked to poverty as many children here have no choice but to leave school at a very early age to assist their family in generating income for their survival through means such as early marriages, farming, hawking and casual labour. However, the importance of a basic education for social and economic development and for achieving a sustainable future is essential. Education is the key to ending the cycle of poverty.



Project Concept: This project, developed by the local communities living around the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre through the Centre's People and

Wildlife (PAW) community clubs, will provide nationally recognised and certified reading and writing classes to hundreds of illiterate adults within six impoverished local communities in Lilongwe, Malawi. The 10-month courses will use issues affecting people and wildlife in Malawi, such as HIV/AIDS, poaching, deforestation and poor domestic animal welfare, as the topics used to teach people to read and write.

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As an integral part of the Centre's "Learning through Wildlife" programme, the Adult Literacy project will change lives and raise up those people who have to date been disadvantaged and excluded by their inability to read or write. In addition, as people acquire these essential and fundamental life skills, they will also be learning about critical issues affecting people and wildlife in Malawi and hence become more aware of the inherent bond between themselves and their



environment, the importance of wildlife conservation and how to live well with HIV/AIDS.

The expected outcomes at the end of the 10-month courses are:

1. 100s of adults gaining the ability to read and write;
2. 100s of adults gaining an awareness of issues effecting people and wildlife in Malawi;
3. 5 community patrons trained by the Ministry of Education as national Adult Literacy Facilitators and appointed as volunteer adult literacy teachers for their respective communities;
4. Allocation of all course literature and post course continued learning agendas for all adults attending the courses;
5. Generation of small fiscal incomes for each community through a small attendance donation collected from each of the learners;
6. Improved community well-being and increased hope for the future;

Project Sustainability/Replicability: Long-term project success is considered high as the project builds capacity in the community by teaching community patrons to teach others in their own community. This approach will also allow other communities to replicate similar projects in the future at a relatively low financial cost, most of which is likely to be financed from the course small attendance fees collected. The project has been developed with full consultation and agreement with community members.

High Five Club Support: This remarkable adult literacy programme will cost just £600 to implement – the High Five Club is contributing £500 and the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre £100 – and the programme begins in July.

See www.lilongwewildlife.org