

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

Adult Literacy through Wildlife, Malawi

Last year the High Five Club funded the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre (LWC) to deliver a 1-year women's adult literacy programme in five urban poor communities located adjacent to the Centre. LWC is Malawi's primary wildlife rescue and rehabilitation centre and recently became the first wildlife sanctuary in the world to be awarded PAW (People & Wildlife) accreditation by the Born Free Foundation. This was in recognition of its high animal welfare standards and ethics, coupled with its commitment to working in partnership with local people to further wildlife conservation goals in Malawi and in uplifting the lives of neighbouring communities.

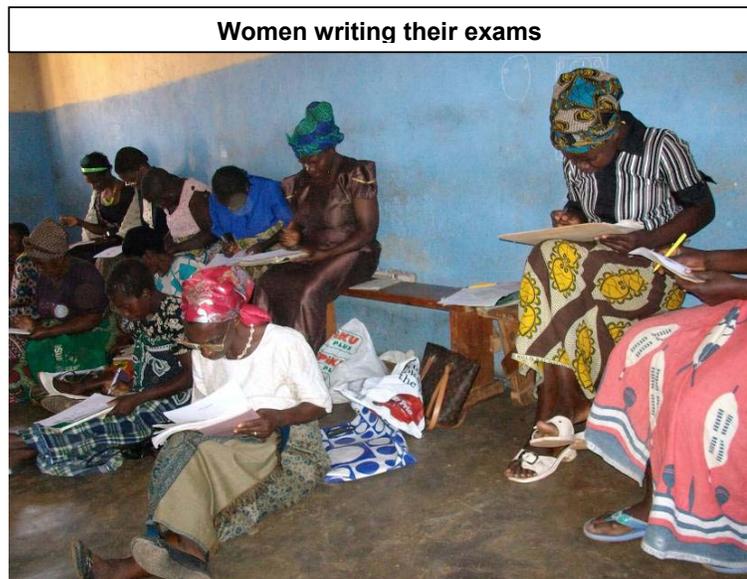


Aim

The adult literacy project aims to provide reading and writing skills to marginalised Malawian women, who had no previous opportunity to go to school due to poverty and early marriages. As part of the adult literacy learning modules, learners also tackle a number of wildlife and environmental issues like the importance of conserving trees and the use of alternative sources of fuel to firewood.

Outcome

The 2011 programme was a great success with over 100 women enrolling, 8 volunteers from the community being trained to deliver the programme, teaching and learning materials distributed to all learners, and 4 community-owned literacy classes established. To date 11 women have gained enough skills in reading and writing to have passed their exams and have been awarded a National Adult

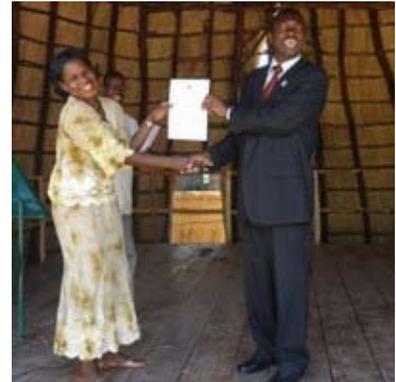


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Literacy Certificate. The other women are still being trained in the basics of reading and writing and are waiting to complete their course and write the national exams this year.

The first graduates were awarded their certificates at an official ceremony to mark their achievement at the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre in October, and they could not have been happier. These are women who were never given the chance to complete school and it was overwhelming to see their joy at receiving their certificates - the first of their lives. Every one of the women actually danced on to the stage and even guest of honour, Minister Shadreck Jonas, MP for Lilongwe City Central, reciprocated with a rousing and inspirational speech and some dancing of his own!



Importantly, some of the graduates have secured jobs already as a result of the reading and writing skills that they gained through this project, enabling them to become economically and personally empowered and reducing their dependence on their husbands to support their families.

High Five Club Support:

This remarkable adult literacy programme costs just £600 per year to operate and the High Five Club is very happy to be continuing its support this month with a new grant of £600 to enable this inspirational programme to run in 2012 and change the lives of another 100 women in Malawi.



See www.lilongwewildlife.org & www.bornfree.org.uk/news/news-article/?no_cache=1&tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=887

For further information about this project, or to support its expansion to more communities in Lilongwe, contact Dr Cheryl Mvula at cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk