

# HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives, £5 at a time

## Adult Literacy “Learning through Wildlife”, Malawi

Although primary education in Malawi is free, the country 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 means such as early marriage and taking part in farming, hawking and temporary employment. The importance of a basic education for social and economic development and for achieving a sustainable future cannot, however, be over emphasized.



For the past two years the High Five Club has funded the delivery of an adult literacy programme in Malawi via the Lilongwe Wildlife Centre (LWC), as part of their innovative community outreach programme linking development with environmental education.

### Aims

LWC’s “Learning through Wildlife” programme was established to reduce the high levels of illiteracy among adults in neighbouring communities. The programme also aims to achieve social and economic development in these communities. The first step to achieve this is through the provision of basic skills in reading and writing to disadvantaged people. The programme also aims to increase awareness amongst the local community of the importance of wildlife and environmental conservation. To date 100’s of previously illiterate people are now able to read and write, and the existence of the adult literacy project has also enabled 100s of adults to become more aware of wildlife and environmental issues and has encouraged many to take part in conservation activities. For example, all the adult learners in Kauma have joined the LWC’s ‘People and Wildlife’ (PAW) Club and are now involved in the creative use of waste to make alternative fuel briquettes. Furthermore, people now understand the importance of, and the link between, wildlife conservation and community development. 32 women have also passed their National Adult Literacy Exams, which is a remarkable achievement given these women could not read and write when they embarked on this programme.

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## High Five Club Support

We are thrilled to announce that we have extended our support of this adult literacy programme for the year 2013/14, thereby empowering more marginalised women to lift themselves out of poverty through education.

Learners will complete a 10 month syllabus consisting of 2hr adult literacy classes 4 days a week.

During this learning period, the

women will acquire skills in reading, writing and numeracy and will be better able to understand critical issues concerning wildlife and the environment through the learning resources that are employed.

Responding to feedback from the previous 2 years' programme delivery, the High Five Club has increased its support this year to not only fund the teaching and learning materials, along with the examination fees and graduation ceremony, but to also fund the training of volunteer community teachers to deliver the programme in more communities along with, for the first time, monthly stipends to reward them for their efforts. In this way we are looking to extend our reach to 180 new adult learners across 6 communities this year. LWC's aim is also for at least 10% of the initial enrolled students to secure employment and for a significantly increased number of community members participating in existing community development projects and those wishing to implement new projects in their communities.

Out of monthly membership fees and a generous donation from our long-term educational benefactor **Roffey Homes** we have gifted a new grant of £1,192 to Lilongwe Wildlife Centre to enable this inspirational programme to change the lives of more women in Malawi. We have also this year raised £3,990 for LWC's on-going community development work by promoting their charity Sky Dive on the High Five Club website. **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](mailto:cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk)**

