

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

Community Conservation, Zambia



High Five Club is thrilled to have facilitated grant provision to fund the development and upliftment of our partner organisation in Zambia during 2016, Mnkhanhya Community Resource Board (MCRB).

All of our projects in Zambia's wildlife-rich Luangwa Valley are delivered in partnership with the Community Resource Board (CRB) in Mnkhanhya Chieftdom. This is a community-based organisation whose remit under the Wildlife Act in Zambia is to bring about "community conservation"; that is poverty reduction and development in local communities living with wildlife, in tandem with conserving wildlife. This is at the root of High Five Club's own ethos, and MCRB is therefore the perfect delivery vehicle for our project work in Luangwa.

The work of the CRB's in Zambia is funded through trophy hunting. Through the Wildlife Act the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) is mandated to distribute to CRBs 50% of the license fees trophy hunters pay to hunt wildlife. The sad truth is, however, that these funds are not reaching the

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

CRBs as they should and local communities benefit little from wildlife. This, coupled with human-wildlife conflict issues, has led to high levels of poaching in the Luangwa Valley and throughout Zambia.

High Five Club Help:

H5C facilitated a week-long visit to MCRB by the **Olsen Animal Trust (OAT)**, a UK-based animal welfare and wildlife conservation charity, to see High Five Club projects on the ground. As a result of this visit, OAT awarded a grant of ca. USD15,000 to uplift our partner organisation in Zambia.

OAT's support has funded:

- Uniforms, boots, kit and bicycles for the 15 community scouts in MCRB, enabling them to carry out anti-poaching patrols in a much wider geographic area and giving them a major morale boost. The uniforms have given them a renewed sense of pride in their job in conserving wildlife. Previously the scouts carried out their patrols on foot in the African bush wearing just flip flops!



- The drilling of a borehole and the provision of a water tank complete with electric pump and taps for clean water provision and storage. This water source provides safe drinking water to the scouts' village, the neighbouring CRB office and the community's income-generating vegetable gardens (the latter being fenced for protection from animals). This is a major advancement for the CRB.
- Food rations for the scouts and their families along with all CRB staff during the 4 'lean' months of the year when food is in scarce supply in the Valley. This has literally saved lives, as the scouts and CRB staff have not received any salaries from DNPW for they report 6 months of this year.

As a result of this support, from January to August 2016 a total of 633 wire snares have been removed from the bush by the scouts compared to ca. 250 during the same period last year. Seven *Muzzle Loading* guns have also been recovered from their day patrol operations. The scouts are no longer hungry and they feel that someone values them and appreciates the sacrifices they make in carrying out the dangerous work of protecting wildlife each day. **Many thanks to OAT for this support.**

For more information contact cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk