

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

H5C Conservation Football Tournament, Zambia



This year the High Five Club continued to fund and organise the **High Five Club Conservation Football Tournament** in the rural game management area bordering South Luangwa National Park in Zambia. This is the tournament's second year and we are thrilled that we were able to extend its reach to include teams from all 6 Chiefdoms bordering the national park.

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

Football is a universal language in Africa and we use the vehicle of football to impart important messages to the rural youth about wildlife conservation and HIV prevention in this impoverished community.

16 teams went through to the final stages of the tournament, and the finals were attended by thousands of people from the community, along with local Chiefs and dignitaries. High Five Club is now known far and wide across the Luangwa Valley!

At the finals, talks were given on the importance of conserving wildlife and the local drama group *SEKA* performed their amusing and engaging drama on how to avoid contracting HIV and how to live positively if already infected. To cement the wildlife conservation focus each team added the name of a wild animal into their team's name.

Mnkhanya Community Resource Board was once again our local partner on the ground and co-ordinated the tournament brilliantly. They also went on the local "Feel Free Radio" station to talk about the tournament and its link to wildlife conservation and HIV prevention reaching thousands of people in the community in this way.



High Five funds were used to award the referees and linemen a small stipend for each match officiated, along with funding monetary prizes for the top 4 winning teams, the player of the tournament, top scorer and best goalkeeper. We also paid for regular slots on the local radio station throughout the tournament to update the local community on match results, along with conducting features on important conservation and development issues.

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

The winning team this year was **Mfuwe Buffalos** from Kakumbi Chiefdom shown here receiving their medals.

As a result of the stunning success of this football tournament in engaging with the Valley's youth and wider community the High Five Club also organised a North v South Park final in September this year that we have called the **SAMALANI NYAMA CUP** (means 'Look after animals' in the local language).



The winner of our H5C tournament in South Luangwa National Park **Mfuwe Buffalos** played the overall champions of the **Football for Wildlife League** in North Luangwa **Mkasanga Leopards** in the first ever all Valley championship final. The north park league, organised by the TAFIKA FUND (Remote Africa Safaris) and funded by THE BACK FOUNDATION, comprised of 8 teams from the Mwanya Chiefdom (to the north of South Luangwa) and Chifunda Chiefdom (North Luangwa). The objective of their League was to raise Conservation Awareness and allow the local people to benefit from Conservation and Tourism in their area.

We are extremely thankful to the Back Foundation (set up by one of our Zambia loving High Fivers!) and the Tafika Fund for funding the first ever all Valley match final including all the prizes and an elephant trophy made by a young talented artist out of confiscated snare wire. The Leopards came out on top of the Buffalos as nature probably intended!!

High Five Club Support: Our collective support of £892.30 funded the High Five Club conservation football tournament in its entirety with community leaders providing 'in kind' support by serving on the football tournament steering committee, and giving their time to conduct radio interviews and speak to the youth on conservation and health issues prior to each match. Our funds covered referee and linesmen fees throughout the tournament, radio air-time, promotional banners, medals, the SEKA drama performance, prizes for the winning teams and players, and a PA system, shade shelter and refreshments at the finals.

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

Eastbourne Town FC also supported our initiative by providing football kit and balls for the winning teams plus a trophy. What teamwork!!



We will keep you updated on the expansion of this initiative in 2017. For more information contact Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk