

# HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

**Community Conservation, Zambia**



**High Five Club is thrilled to have once again facilitated a grant during 2017/18 to fund the development and upliftment of our partner in Zambia, Mnkhanya Community Resource Board (MCRB).**

High Five Club's projects in Zambia's wildlife-rich Luangwa Valley are delivered in partnership with the Community Resource Board (CRB) in Mnkhanya Chiefdom. This is an inspiring, grass roots 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.

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 CRBs as they should and local communities benefit very 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 Support:**

During 2016 H5C facilitated a week-long visit to MCRB by the **Olsen Animal Trust (OAT)**, a UK-based animal welfare and wildlife conservation charity with a heart for the local community, to see High

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Five Club's projects on the ground in the Luangwa Valley. As a result of this visit, OAT has awarded 2 consecutive annual grants to MCRB via High Five Club. Over the last 12 months this grant totalled USD 7,050 and has funded:

- The repair and maintenance of the 15 community wildlife scouts' bicycles. These bicycles are vital in deploying the scouts onto their anti-poaching patrols. The scouts also use these bicycles for family emergencies such as transporting their children to the rural health post. This vital support has meant their bicycles have remained on the road at all times and the day patrols now cover a wider geographic area compared to before when the scouts were deployed solely on foot.
- The purchase of a camera to enable the scouts to record wildlife crime activities and to back up the evidence collected when they apprehend suspected poachers.
- Wire fencing to protect the CRB's vegetable garden from wild animals. Produce from the garden contributes towards the scouts' patrol food ration packs, the scouts' families' diet and the wider community benefit through the supply of affordable vegetables.



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- Day patrol food rations support. The scouts are now doing 5 day patrols each week, as opposed to 1-2 per week previously (due to a lack of rations). They also work longer hours than before when because of hunger they had to do shorter patrols.
- Food rations for the scouts and their families along with all CRB staff during the 4 'lean' months of the year (Nov-Feb) 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 many months.

As a result of this support, in the 9 months from January to September the community scouts have conducted 2,720 man patrols, decommissioned and collected 300 wire snares, recovered 4 muzzle loading guns and apprehended 6 poachers. The scouts and their families are no longer hungry and are motivated to do their vital anti-poaching work as they feel that someone values them and appreciates the sacrifices they make in carrying out the dangerous work of protecting wildlife each day.



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