

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

Bicycles for Rural Chiefdoms, Zambia



Background

Game Management Areas (GMAs) bordering National Parks in Zambia cover vast areas. They are remote, rural areas where local people co-exist with wildlife. Mnkhanya Chiefdom in Lupande GMA bordering South Luangwa National Park, like in other rural areas in Zambia, is governed traditionally by a tribal Chief. HRH Chief Mnkhanya, Shadrack Zulu, meets every week with his *Indunas* (local advisors) who represent the various villages across this remote Chiefdom.

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The Chief and the Indunas are key in bringing development to their Chieftom for the benefit of the community. Chief Mnkanya is an excellent Chief, putting the needs of his people first (unlike some other Chiefs we know!) and is the reason why as High Five Club we have chosen to focus our interventions in the Luangwa Valley in this Chieftom – quite simply things get done as they are supposed to without issues like corruption raising their head!

One of the greatest challenges to development in poor, rural areas of Africa is a lack of communication between local leaders. Good communication between the Chief and his Indunas is key to achieving development along with resolving issues and conflicts in the community quickly before they take root. Chiefs in GMAs in Zambia are supposed to receive a share of revenues from trophy hunting in their areas, but because of corruption this money is not trickling down to the community. Because of this Chiefs are not able to provide local transport for their Indunas to attend to community business in an effective way.

High Five Club Support: One of our High Five Club members, Lynn Shaw, visited the Luangwa Valley with Cheryl and Manny where there was an opportunity to visit H5C projects and sit down to discuss development priorities with Chief Mnkanya and the Indunas.

The issue of poor communication was raised and on her return to the UK Lynn gifted the provision of bicycles to the Chief's 12 Indunas on behalf of us all at the High Five Club.

For a total cost of £1,259.39 these 12 bicycles are working really hard for the benefit of the wider community in Mnkanya Chieftom.



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On subsequent visits we can confirm that as a result of this provision, communications between the Chief, the Indunas and the wider community has greatly improved leading to more timely decision making and visits by these leaders to the remoter parts of the Chiefdom to resolve community issues. It has also resulted in less conflict with elephants which were frequent threats to the lives of the Indunas as they went about their business in this bush area previously on foot. The bikes are also used to move sick community members to the rural health posts when needed.

For more information
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