

# HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

## Community Conservation, Zambia



High Five Club is thrilled to have again facilitated a grant during 2018/19 from the Olsen Animal Trust (OAT) to fund the development and upliftment of our partner in Zambia, Mnkhanya Community Resources Board (MCRB).

High Five Club's projects in Zambia's wildlife-rich Luangwa Valley are delivered in partnership with the Community Resources 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 alongside wildlife, in tandem with conserving wildlife through anti-poaching patrols etc.

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:

H5C facilitated a grant of £6,000 from the **Olsen Animal Trust (OAT)**, a UK-based animal welfare and wildlife conservation charity with a heart for the local community, towards the work of MCRB from March 2018 for one year. Over the last 12 months this has funded:

# HIGH FIVE (LVB)

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- Day patrol food rations support for anti-poaching patrols. 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.
- 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 that their bicycles (previously supplied by OAT via the H5C)



have remained on the road at all times and the day patrols cover a wider geographic area compared to before when the scouts were deployed solely on foot.

- 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 in 18 rural, impoverished households, as the scouts and CRB staff have not received any salaries from DNPW for many months.

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- Electricity, airtime and internet access for the efficient running of the CRB office.

As a result of this support, in the 12 months from March 2018 to March 2019 the community scouts have conducted ca. 3,000 man patrols, decommissioned and collected 106 wire snares and 21 animal traps, recovered axes and hoes used in illegal charcoal production and confiscated 400 bags of illegal charcoal.

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.

For more information contact [cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk](mailto:cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk)