

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

Bicycles for Change, Zambia



Background

Game Management Areas (GMAs) border National Parks in Zambia and cover vast areas of wilderness. They are remote, rural areas where local people live alongside wildlife. The wildlife in GMAs is protected by community scouts who are employed by Community Resources Boards (CRBs).

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Mnkhanya Community Resources Board borders South Luangwa National Park, and is the CRB that we partner with to deliver High Five Club projects on the ground in Zambia's Luangwa Valley.

Each CRB is made up of 10 Board Members and a Patron (the traditional Chief), all members elected by the local community. It is their responsibility to collaborate with the Department of National Parks and Wildlife in Zambia to combat the illegal trade in wildlife in their area, and to also engage with their local community to change mind-sets re wildlife conservation and to try and implement poverty reduction projects in their area, funds permitting. All Board Members and the Patron volunteer their time and are committed to serve their community in this way.

One of the greatest challenges to conservation and community development efforts in poor, rural areas of Africa is a lack of transport for those responsible to reach the communities they serve, given the vast areas involved and that it is poor marginalised community members that serve on such community conservation boards. As a result they cover huge distances on foot amongst dangerous wildlife, or have to borrow bikes from friends when they are available.

To date we have equipped Mnkhanya CRB's community scouts with bicycles (via a grant from the Olsen Animal Trust), along with the indunas (traditional community leaders) in Mnkhanya Chiefdom.

High Five Club Support: We have joined hands to provide all Mnkhanya CRB Board Members and the Patron with bicycles to enable them to more easily reach the communities they serve, along with CRB Board meetings and to fend for their own livelihoods.

The maintenance and repair of the bicycles is the responsibility of the Board Members who must ensure that the bicycles are always maintained in a good state.

For a total cost of £906.03 these 11 bicycles are working really hard for the benefit of the wider community and wildlife conservation in Zambia's Mnkhanya Chiefdom. It seems such a simple intervention, but it is having a big impact.

For more information contact Cheryl@highfiveclub.co.uk

