

HIGH FIVE CLUB

changing lives in Africa, £5 at a time

Community Conservation, Zambia



High Five Club is thrilled to have facilitated grant provision to fund the development and upliftment of our partner organisation in Zambia over the past year, Mnkhanya Community Resources Board (MCRB).

All of our projects in Zambia's wildlife-rich Luangwa Valley are delivered in partnership with the Community Resources Board (CRB) in Mnkhanya Chiefdom. This is a 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.

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The work of the CRB's in Zambia is currently supposed to be funded via trophy hunting. 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 little from trophy hunting. This, coupled with human-wildlife conflict issues, has led to high levels of poaching in the Luangwa Valley and throughout Zambia.

High Five Club Help:

The **Olsen Animal Trust (OAT)**, a UK-based animal welfare and wildlife conservation charity, has partnered with us to support the conservation efforts on the ground of Mnkhanya Community Resources Board (MCRB) since 2016 after OAT visited and stayed within the community in Mnkhanya to see how they operated anti-poaching patrols at first-hand. Since that visit, OAT has been a loyal supporter of community conservation in the Luangwa Valley, having a real heart to see wildlife, and those impoverished community members that protect it, flourish.

Over the last year OAT's grant of **£8,568** towards the work of MCRB has:

- Funded the rations needed to enable the CRB's wildlife scouts to conduct patrols throughout the year. This has protected the area's wildlife from deadly wire snares (which the scouts remove) and poachers (whom they apprehend), along with disrupting illegal logging and charcoal production.



- Provided emergency food supplies for the families of the CRB's 15 wildlife scouts and 3 staff members (Executive Officer, Book Keeper & Natural Resource Officer) during the 4 'lean' months of the year (Nov-Feb) when the rains hit hard and food is in scarce supply in the valley. This has quite literally prevented malnutrition and starvation, as the scouts and CRB staff have not received their salaries from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife over the past year.

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- Funded the on-going maintenance of the 15 bicycles that OAT originally purchased for the wildlife scouts back in 2016. This has enabled the scouts to carry out their vital anti-poaching patrols over a wide geographic area.
- Supported financially the 15 wildlife scouts during times of emergency as a response to their salary uncertainty. This has been particularly pertinent during this last year of the COVID pandemic in addition to the lack of payment of their salaries.
- Funded the maintenance of and fuel for the OAT-supplied motorbike that enables the CRB's Executive Officer to be mobile and travel around the Chieftom to conduct wildlife conservation and community development programmes.
- Contributed towards the running costs of the CRB office, including electricity, airtime and internet access – without which the CRB could not administer its operations.



As a result of this vital support, over the last year hundreds of wire snares have been removed from the bush by the scouts along with the recovery of guns and ammunition, bushmeat, animal parts, illegal charcoal and, critically, the apprehension of dozens of poachers. It is wonderful that the scouts are being supported to carry out their dangerous work of protecting wildlife in this way, along with lifting them and their families out of extreme poverty. **High Five Club would like to thank OAT for their on-going support.**