

Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2020



*...making ripples for conservation*

# A letter from the Founding Directors

*Dear Supporter*

*Well, what a year that was. The impact of COVID-19 was felt in every corner of the world and experienced personally by billions of people, through travel and living restrictions, illness, death of loved ones, economic downturns, loss of jobs and more. It shook a world already in crisis. Fortunately in Zambia the number of COVID cases was relatively low, but the impact was still enormous. Tourism came to a halt, schools and universities were closed for almost half the year and the national economy tumbled.*

*We are so very grateful for the flexibility of the Chipembele staff during this highly challenging year, for the extra time all the restrictions gave us to plan far ahead and create inspiring new education sessions, for the upbeat energy of our students and for living among such a resilient community. We feel lucky indeed and are hugely grateful for all the donations and in-kind support we received in 2020. We also greatly appreciate the extra COVID related support from sponsors, donors and friends, which helped us get through the year without standing down any staff or reducing any wages - which was so very important to us as Directors and to our Board of Trustees. A very warm thank you to you all!*

*Finally, our hearts go out to all those whose lives have been severely impacted by this devastating pandemic. We look forward to a safer, more stable and brighter 2021. We also hope it is a year where everyone is motivated to act more ethically and compassionately than ever before to care for our wildlife, the environment and of course, each other.*

*With warmest wishes to you all,*



*Steve and Anna Tolan*

“ We look forward to a safer, more stable and brighter 2021. We also hope it is a year where everyone is motivated to act more ethically and compassionately than ever before to care for our wildlife, the environment and of course, each other ”

# Who we are...



## **Our Teams in 2020**

### **The Chipembele Outreach Offices**

**Administration team (5)**

**Conservation Education Outreach team (6)**

**The Chipembele Conservation Centre (6)**

**Total 17 staff**

# What we do...



## CONSERVATION & COMMUNITY

*...giving children and communities hope and wildlife a chance*

### CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Teaching conservation in schools, local community groups and remote communities



### SCHOOLS & STUDENTS

School improvements, student sponsorship, teacher allowances and computer classes



### ANIMAL REHABILITATION

Rescue, rehabilitation and release of orphaned and injured animals



### COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Support for medical treatment, food parcels, clothing etc. to the poor and vulnerable



# Where we work...

Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust focuses its core work in and around the rural settlement of Mfuwe, which borders South Luangwa National Park in Zambia. Our Mobile Education Unit also reaches the remoter communities throughout Mambwe District and in Mwanya Chiefdom, Lundazi District, a total area of over 3000 sq. km.



# The two bases...

**The Conservation Centre:** located 16km south west of Mfuwe, close to the banks of the Luangwa River, in a wild and unspoiled area of the Lower Lupande Game Management Area. It comprises a Classroom, Library, Discovery Room and the Walk of Life (representing 4.5 billion years of the earth's history). It is the site of the permanent home of Steve and Anna Tolan.



**The Conservation Education Outreach Programme:** based at the Chipembele Offices in the grounds of Mfuwe Day Secondary School, which puts the programme right in the heart of the local community. The offices are located 20 km away from the Chipembele Centre. This small campus includes administration offices, a classroom, a student resource room, the Education Team offices, a botanic garden, the Chipembele/Community Nature Conservancy and a staff house.



# HIGHLIGHTS 2020

# CONSERVATION EDUCATION



## INTRODUCING THE MENTORS AT CHIPEMBELE

Mentors at Chipembele ('the MAC') is an innovative, year-long leadership programme for selected Chipembele school leavers who have shown exceptional potential. 2020 saw our first cohort of 8 MAC immerse themselves in a range of challenging skills development lessons and activities. Over the year we helped them prepare themselves for future employment or further education in the field of conservation and empowered them with knowledge and confidence to become wildlife advocates within their communities.



The programme began with a 2-week induction course, designed and led by Corey Jeal, the Conservation Education Manager, and Australian volunteers Paris Jeffries and Cecelia Peters. Part of the induction included a tough Resilience Camp for 3 days. In addition to learning life skills the MAC also mentored some of our younger conservation students. 4 of the MAC enrolled at college or university at the end of 2020 and are now studying conservation related degrees or diplomas.

For a 3 minute video see <https://youtu.be/E7j33iHUz7o>

“ I don't feel like the same person in some ways - I've changed. I have improved my communication skills by working on my English, and I have become more resilient because of the activities we did at camp. I understand that to become a leader you need to be a role model, supportive, have good time management and be able to answer questions. ”

*Abraham Banda, MAC 2020*

# HIGHLIGHTS 2020

# CONSERVATION EDUCATION



## SCHOOL CONSERVATION CLUBS

The usual Conservation Club sessions in local schools were put on hold due to COVID restrictions from March to September. However, during that time our Conservation Education Team were able to prepare an array of interesting and inspiring new lessons and activities for when the schools reopened. The range of subjects taught in the clubs included: Sustainable Development; Adaptation in Animals; Threats to Biodiversity; Habitat Loss; Pollution; Invasive Species; Climate Change; Conservation Ethics; Overharvesting of Natural Resources; Animal Behaviour; Protected Area Design and Management.



In addition to lessons in the classroom, students in both primary and secondary school conservation clubs engaged in hands-on work and fun activities outdoors. Tree planting and team challenges were firm favourites.



# HIGHLIGHTS 2020

# CONSERVATION EDUCATION



## COMMUNITY GROUP SESSIONS



Community members attended  
conservation sessions



Community group sessions held

In addition to lessons and discussions, mainly focused on poaching and other wildlife crime, the various community groups also participated in practical activities such as tree planting and litter collection. Women's groups were by far the most participatory and keen to learn.

# HIGHLIGHTS 2020

# CONSERVATION EDUCATION



## ENERGY EFFICIENT STOVES

Working in partnership with Greenway Appliances, the Chipembele Outreach Team distributed 920 energy efficient stoves to households without electricity in the local community and at the same time took the opportunity to sensitise them about the importance of conserving trees. These stoves use 75% less firewood than traditional open fires. This not only helps reduce deforestation but also frees women up from the tiring and time consuming task of collecting large logs and branches.



## CONSERVATION RADIO HOUR

Local radio is a very effective medium for getting conservation messages out across the community, especially with social distancing restrictions in place. So in 2020 we partnered with Conservation South Luangwa, the Zambian Carnivore Programme and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife to broadcast weekly conservation sessions on a range of topical subjects via Radio Mnkhanya. Live phone-ins from listeners made 'Conservation Radio Hour' a very popular programme across the District.

# HIGHLIGHTS 2020

# CONSERVATION EDUCATION



## THE CONSERVATION CENTRE

Despite COVID restrictions for most of the year, we were able to bring 12 Conservation Clubs to the Chipembele Centre in term 3 for an all-day session on lions and lion conservation. As usual the lessons and activities were based on team-work, with prizes for the team with the highest score at the end of the day.



In September we welcomed a party of 40 visitors from the North Luangwa Conservation Project and rekindled our long-term partnership in conservation education. Pluto and Trooper, orphaned yellow baboons, joined the celebration!

# Conservation Education

## OUR IMPACT



640

School pupils on average taught about conservation each week of the school term

280

Primary school students attended The Habitat (student resource room) for conservation sessions

94

% of satisfaction expressed by teachers over the Conservation Education in Schools programme

33

School Conservation Club sessions held every fortnight in the school term

8

School teachers trained in running new Conservation Clubs

5

Field trips in the National Park for students



# HIGHLIGHTS 2020

## COMPUTER CLASSES



82%

AVERAGE SCORE FROM A RANDOM  
ACCURACY TEST PERFORMED BY TEN  
GRADE 9 STUDENTS AFTER COMPLETING  
THE BASIC COMPUTING COURSE



The majority of local schools have no or few computers and are without electricity, yet computing is part of the school curriculum at both primary and secondary level. So, our IT teacher, Japhet Shanungu, facilitates computer classes for students who are members of our Conservation Clubs. Every afternoon of the school week, 10 students attend the Chipembele Computer Room for a course of 10 classes over 10 weeks and learn the basics of computing, after which certificates are issued. They can then progress to the intermediate course. These practical courses follow the Government school curriculum help the students with their school computer classes (which are often just in theory) and their examinations. In addition, they provide them with essential life skills for potential entry into university or the world of employment.

# HIGHLIGHTS 2020

## SCHOOLS & STUDENTS



### STUDENT SPONSORSHIP SCHEME



Primary school  
students sponsored



Secondary school  
students sponsored



Tertiary level  
students sponsored



Jacob Mphasi, Meya Sakala and Benson Beza are Chipembele sponsored students who in 2020 enrolled at Mulungushi University for the start of a 4 year degree in Environmental Studies. They have been highly active participants in our Conservation Education in Schools programme since primary school and are now Zambia's conservation leaders in the making.

# HIGHLIGHTS 2020

# SCHOOLS & STUDENTS



During 2020, Chipembele provided the following to help support local schools:  
82 double desks for Mfuwe Primary School (Head Teacher Mr Mphande, left above)  
30 double desks for Kapita Pimary school

Monthly allowances for 3 teachers not on the Government payroll at Kakumbi Primary School  
Trunks, padlocks and grill doors for security of examination papers at Vinza Community School and  
Mwandakwisano Primary School

*The all-metal desks were designed by Anna Tolan, in partnership with local welder Steven Mwanza, 12 years ago to reduce the number of trees cut for furniture. The desks are much more durable than wooden ones and the design has since been widely supported by donors and adopted by schools across the District.*

# HIGHLIGHTS 2020

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT



Anna Tolan visited Mfuwe Primary School in June 2020 to find a boy shuffling around the ground on his bottom. His name is John Zulu and he was then in Grade 7. He was born severely physically disabled, though this has never deterred him from wanting to attend school for an education. Anna organised the purchase of wheelchair and provided him with toiletries, school uniform and other clothes so he could attend school more easily and with dignity. It was his first ever wheelchair.

Pictured (left) is John's Head teacher, Mr Mphande, and Besnart Manda, another of Chipembebe's sponsored students since primary school, who graduated in 2020 with a Diploma in Journalism and Public Relations. Besnart had both legs amputated from the knee down when she was a young baby. She spent time encouraging John to work hard at school - and telling him that if she could succeed in her education then so could he!

Other community support rendered by Chipembebe in 2020 included:

New house constructed for an elderly widow whose house was destroyed in the floods

Fertiliser provided to families replanting crops after their fields were flooded

3 children provided funds to attend hospital for eye problems (prescription glasses purchased), chronic ear problems and cerebral malaria

20 children without electricity at home provided with solar lamps to study at night

Mealie meal and groceries provided each month to 3 families struggling with poverty

# HIGHLIGHTS 2020

## COVID -19 INITIATIVES



### COVID-19 SENSITISATION AND FACE MASK DISTRIBUTION

Immediately after the Government put COVID-19 restrictions in place in March 2021, Chipembele implemented the advised precautionary measures of hygiene, facemasks and social distancing. Our four Community Conservation Educators then distributed information leaflets and put up posters throughout the local community to sensitise those with little or no access to public information.

Later in the year they distributed 1000 face masks to adult communities and school children and took the opportunity to offer more up-to-date information and leaflets to the recipients.



### COMMUNITY GAME DRIVES

As a result of an initiative from Conservation South Luangwa, our 4 Community Conservation Educators organised and accompanied senior representatives from a range of community groups on game drives into the National Park. The programme had the objectives of:

- Reducing the financial impact of COVID-19 on tour operators by paying out-of-work safari guides to conduct the game drives
- Encouraging community conservation by enabling community members to see our world-renowned Park and the animals within it.

For some of the community members it had been decades since they had been in the Park and for others it was their very first time.



# HIGHLIGHTS 2020

## ANIMAL



## REHABILITATION



During 2020, the following orphaned baby animals were rescued and brought to the Chipembele Conservation Centre for hand rearing and rehabilitation back to the wild:

- 7 vervet monkeys
- 3 yellow baboons
- 3 dwarf bitterns
- 3 genets
- 2 bush pigs
- 1 bushbuck
- 1 squirrel



# HIGHLIGHTS 2020

## ANIMAL REHABILITATION



All of Chipembele's animal rehabilitation work is carried out with full authority and support from the Zambian Department of National Parks and Wildlife

# Donors and Supporters

Chipembele is a donor reliant charitable trust. Our work is only made possible by the generosity of those who cherish wildlife, believe in conservation education and wish to support local communities in South Luangwa. We are enormously grateful to a wide range of organisations, companies and individuals around the world who contributed to making 2020 such a success for Chipembele despite all the unprecedented challenges. A huge thank you to everyone!

## THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR DONORS



## THANK YOU TO OUR MAJOR INDIVIDUAL DONORS

Alicia Hosking

Bernie and Sharon Peters

Carol van Bruggen and Steve Kuhn

Jacob and Ilse Mwanza

Julie and Adam Bates

Linda Geery

Mark and Julie Mills

Mark Turner

Nick and Biddy West

Philip Greenhill

Simon and Marianne Verhallen

Viola Clausnitzer

## THANK YOU TO OUR SPECIAL SUPPORTERS FROM THE LUANGWA COMMUNITY AND CONSERVATION FUND



## THANK YOU TO OTHER SIGNIFICANT DONORS AND FOR DONATIONS IN-KIND

Africa Hope Fund  
Bio Carbon Partners  
Canterbury Inner Wheel  
CCG Trust  
Hidden Gems  
Jude and Kaye Brown  
National Police Aid Convoys  
Sarah Lindsay  
Vero Beach Clinic  
Walk Luangwa  
Wildlife Crime Prevention

## THANK YOU TO OUR BOARDS OF TRUSTEES

Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust (Zambia)  
Chipembele Trust (UK)



## THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS

Conservation South Luangwa  
Department of National Parks and Wildlife  
Game Rangers International  
Ministry of Education  
Project Luangwa  
Wildlife Crime Prevention  
Zambian Carnivore Programme  
Zambian Primate Programme

## THANK YOU TO OUR TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP SUPPORT

Hon. Senior Chief Nsefu  
Hon. Chief Jumbe  
Hon. Chief Kakumbi  
Hon. Chief Malama  
Hon. Chief Mnkhanya  
Hon. Chief Msoro  
Hon. Chief Mwanya

Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust was registered in 1998 as a Zambian charitable trust, registration number 41317. It is also registered as a Non-Governmental Organisation with the Zambian Ministry of Community Development, certificate number RNGO 101/0046/13.

Chipembele is registered in the UK as Chipembele Trust, registered charity number 1107698



For further information about the organisation  
or any of the programmes mentioned above please contact:

**Anna Tolan, Executive Director**

Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust

PO Box 67, Mfuwe, Zambia

Landline: ++260 216 246108

Cell/WhatsApp: ++260 979 854944

E-mail: [info@chipembele.org](mailto:info@chipembele.org)

[www.chipembele.org](http://www.chipembele.org)

[Facebook.com/ChipembeleWildlife](https://Facebook.com/ChipembeleWildlife)

[Twitter.com/Chipembele](https://Twitter.com/Chipembele)

Instagram @chipembelewildlife

*Photo credits: all photos taken in-house or by [www.edwardselfephotosafaris.com](http://www.edwardselfephotosafaris.com)*