



Dear All,

There has been a change of Government in Zambia after 20 years of the MMD party holding the reins. On 23rd September Michael Sata of the Patriotic Front was inaugurated as the new President of the Republic of Zambia during a peaceful handover ceremony. It spells a time of change for the country. We welcome the new President and hope that he will both support the eco-tourism industry and strengthen the relevant authorities that are mandated to conserve our wildlife and forests. There is much to do!

The last President, Rupiah Banda, was a great supporter of Chipembele and visited the Centre twice. The last time was a surprise visit by helicopter at the beginning of July when there was a party of school children in class. It was a wonderful experience for us all, particularly the children (see article below). His visit marked the start of a particularly busy quarter for visitors to Chipembele and we have been honoured and delighted to have received people from a wide range of backgrounds and professions from around the world. We would like to thank those who showed interest and supported our project financially, materially, logistically or morally. They are too many to mention but here's a sincere *Thank You* to everyone... our project is greatly enhanced and strengthened by it all and meeting so many interesting people has been inspirational.

President Banda visits Chipembele

President Rupiah Banda landed unexpectedly in his gold helicopter in the Chipembele car park on 6th July. Anna was teaching a class of students from Kawaza Basic School at the time. The children could hardly believe what they saw! Rupiah Banda spent 3 hours with us, meeting and talking with the students and even completed a word game at the back of the class. During his visit, the President distributed gifts to the children and to our staff - but that was not the end of his generosity.





The children had been accompanied by 2 untrained teachers, Chilembwe Chibwana and Eunice Phiri. Chilembwe was once a student at Chipembele and was sponsored through our organisation to Hillcrest in Livingstone, one of the best schools in the country. Sadly, after completing his schooling he failed to find sponsorship to college and for the last 4 years has been working at Kawaza School for a very small allowance. When the President learnt of this he immediately offered to sponsor him, but as he was very gender sensitive he also offered to sponsor Eunice, who had only been working at the school for 3 months.

Eunice and Chilembwe were of course thrilled and went away to research the colleges and courses available. They then submitted budgets which Anna forwarded to the President's aide. We are very pleased to report the funds for the 2 years arrived in the Chipembele account last week, just ahead of the elections (phew!). We will act as intermediary in allocating the funds and supervising their performance and attendance on the 3-year teaching diploma courses. Good luck Chilembwe and Eunice! *(pictured far right but both to the left of Anna)* and a huge thank you to the President for giving these young people a better chance in life.



Betty the orphaned baboon – an update

Remember playing 'tag' as a child? Well it seems animals love to play it too. Every evening, after 'Changa the bushbaby' emerged from his diurnal sleeping place in our house roof, he and Betty, the orphaned baboon, would play-fight, each scoring points off each other for successful tags or pulling each other off various perches. Often our dogs would join in too, and they all remained the best of friends! It was joyful to watch. But Betty was now weaned and needed to be with other baboons. It was time for her to become part of a proper troop and to forget her human-influenced ways. After a great deal of research we realised that it was extremely difficult to rehabilitate single baboons to the wild (especially females as there is a strict female hierarchy) and decided it would be best for her to join the Zambia Primate Programme in Lusaka. More of that story soon but for now just enjoy these pictures of the fun-filled evenings we always spent with her.





Pictures courtesy of Richard and Bookey Peek.



It is the policy at Chipembele to rehabilitate all animals that are reared or nursed there wherever possible, in accordance with ZAWA's permission. In August Betty underwent a series of veterinary tests and vaccinations which meant she didn't need to go into quarantine and could go straight in with a surrogate mother, Tibi.

Tibi is 6 years old and has never had babies, as she came from the illegal pet trade, but quickly 'adopted' Betty. Betty readily adjusted to her new home and only after a few hours began being accepted by the other members of the troop in the adjacent enclosure. They were all fascinated by her and all touched or groomed her through the dividing fence. After 25 days with Tibi they were both released into the main enclosure with the remaining troop of 15 yellow baboons. She was accepted by the entire troop, including the alpha male who that same day picked her up and warmly held her close to his chest.

The plan is to integrate the troop back to the wild into an approved release site with permanent water in Kafue National Park in April 2012.



Betty foraging for food with her new mum, Tibi



Betty being groomed by Tibi (new young playmate Peter in the background)



Betty with alpha female Mirra on her first day in the main enclosure, a wonderful indication of acceptance by the troop



Betty (right) with Tibi carrying Peter (Betty tried, but couldn't quite get the hang of riding on her back!)

Photos courtesy of Zoe Laphorn



We are all thrilled that after being cruelly orphaned at 2 weeks old, Betty now at 10 months, is back where she should be, with others of her own kind.

Our warmest thanks go to Zoe Laphorn, the Manager of the Zambia Primate Project, for all the wonderful Betty Blogs and for caring for all the primates with such commitment and passion. The world is a better place for people like her.

For information on the Zambia Primate Programme, (supported by the Born Free Foundation), or to make a much needed donation, please contact Cheryl Mvula, Project Director, Cdmvula@aol.com

Chipembele Girls Club

After many years of observing the girl sector of pupils within the local schools it became very apparent to us that generally they lack confidence. In addition their participation in any intra-curricular or extra-curricular activities is minimal, particularly at mid-teens onwards and when compared with the boys in their own peer groups. The reasons for this are many and complex, but include a range of cultural and social issues, some of which may be beyond our remit as a conservation education NGO to address. However, we very much wanted to involve girls more in the Conservation Clubs, especially all the educative and fun activities they can engage in as members.

So, in line with the Government policy on encouraging girl education and addressing gender issues, we have recently set up a Chipembele Girls Club. It is open to any Chipembele sponsored pupil or Conservation Club member from Mfuwe Basic and Secondary Schools and meets every third Friday of the month (frequency to be increased if need demands). The club is led by our Administrative Assistant, Eunice. Initially, to get girls through the door, we have been alternating whatever activities they chose with conservation activities.

Movie and popcorn afternoons and handing out of second-hand donated clothes have been alternated with watching wildlife documentaries and a night game drive in the Park. A visit to some of the tourist lodges to meet some of the female staff is planned very soon. We hope to encourage them all further and support them in their general schooling in whatever way we can. The door will always be open for help and advice.



Most girls love a trying on of clothes session!





Rochelle (Conservation Education Manager) and Eunice (Admin Assistant) accompany 20 girl pupils on a game drive into the National Park. They had a great drive and saw, amongst others, saw lions, hyenas and a leopard.

Many thanks to Croc Valley for facilitating the drive and for the great vehicle that comfortably seated everyone! <http://www.crocvalley.com/>

We are also seeking to 'star' some of the seriously interested and committed girl pupils through *Chipembele Conservation Scholarships* for 2012. Please contact Anna if you are interested in learning more, info@chipembele.org

Wildlife Art Classes

In July, Pam Guhrs-Carr held a series of 8 Wildlife Art lessons, in partnership with Chipembele, for 8 selected pupils from Mfuwe Day Secondary School (*sadly, no girls appear in the picture as none applied or showed interest*).



Pam is a professional artist who grew up and has spent most of her life in South Luangwa. Her work is largely influenced by its history, indigenous cultures and biodiversity.

See <http://www.pamguhrs-carr.com/>

The course was facilitated by Rochelle, the Chipembele Conservation Education Manager and covered the basics of art techniques with an emphasis on wildlife. Pam encouraged self expression and each student had produced two pieces of original acrylic on canvas by the end of the course; they were then presented with a certificate.

4000 English dictionaries finally arrive in Mfuwe!

Some of you will remember the dictionaries... 4000 of them in fact, kindly donated by Oxford University Press last year as they were an out-of-date edition. The Police National Aid Convoy generously shipped them from the UK. There were the usual African delays and logistical frustrations in actually getting them to this remote and distant rural area, but they finally arrived in August after a year in transit. Hurray! The dictionaries have a mini-encyclopaedia at the back and a CD-rom (...with the lack of computers in the area, we are wondering what inventive uses might be found for them!).

The project is a partnership between Chipembele and Project Luangwa www.projectluangwa.org/. We have begun distribution to every Grade 8 to Grade 12 pupil in the area and to every teacher (regardless of Grade). The first session was at Mfuwe Day Secondary School and was raucous. The pupils were very hyped up and the noise outside in the queues was deafening, but inside the Chipembele office we maintained order and calm, as every pupil reported to provide their personal details and sign for their personal stamped copy. It is a marvellous project and we hope the educational level of the students, whose lessons and exams are all in English, will now increase.

We are particularly happy for the girls, who are often last in the line at home for any educational resources that may be provided by the family. We are also encouraging all students to keep them safe and not to let anyone else take them off them.... a dictionary is a precious resource that cared for properly, can stay with you for life.





Our sincerest thanks go out to all those who contributed financially to the transport, to OUP, PNAC, and to Robin Pope Safaris www.robinpopesafaris.net who are kindly storing the dictionaries while we distribute them across the District.

Marula moves in



After a month's break of no primate in the house we are now rearing an orphaned baby vervet monkey named Marula. A group of local children were playing with him in the village when one of our casual staff found them and seized him off them. Sadly the troop was nowhere to be seen so he phoned Chipembele.



Marula is very precocious (in the best sense of the word) – active, alert and, unusually for a monkey less than 2 weeks old, wants to eat all the food he sees. We have to be very careful about that and try to keep him largely on powdered baby milk for at least a few more weeks. I guess we need to be putting all our ornaments away again soon too!

The aim is for him to be rehabilitated back to the wild as soon as possible, ideally soon after he is weaned.



That's all for this time, with all our best wishes from Anna and Steve and the rest of the Chipembele Team, take care

Anna and Steve

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Chipembele... teaching Zambian children the value of wildlife

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