



Chipembele News April - June 2010

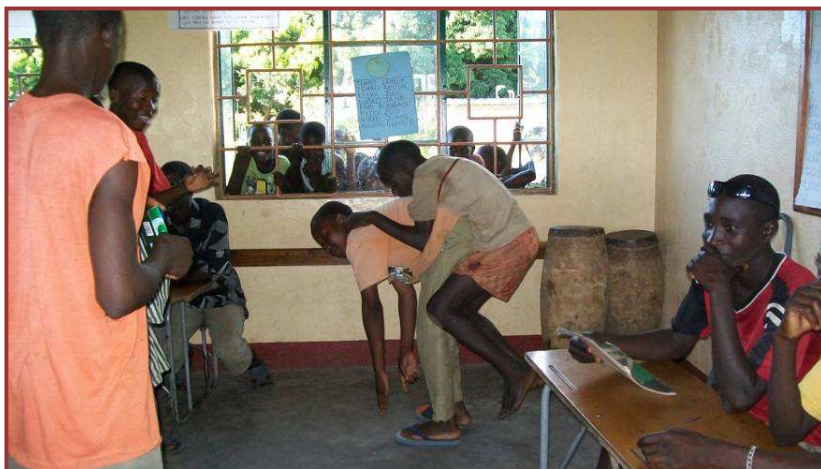
Dear All,

Welcome to the April to June 2010 edition of Chipembele News! Since our last newsletter the Conservation Education Programme in the local schools has taken off in leaps and bounds and the feedback from teachers, pupils and general people in the local community has been quite phenomenal. Several of the local tour operators have been actively supporting the programme (notably *Norman Carr Safaris* and *Mfuwe Lodge/Bush Camp Company*) and we have partnered with the *Zambian Carnivore Programme*, *South Luangwa Conservation Society*, the local drama group *SEKA* (Sensitisation and Education through Kunda Arts), *Awely.org* and the local *Forestry Department* in a range of conservation programmes and activities.

This support has enabled the programme to go from strength to strength and the conservation club members are participating fully in the activities we facilitate. It all adds up to a fun and interactive learning experience in the local schools that compliments and enhances the established and widely acclaimed conservation programme at the Chipembele Wildlife Education Centre.

*If you tell me, I'll forget it
If you show me, I might retain it
If you allow me to participate, I'll remember it*

Old Chinese Proverb



*Can you guess what these pupils from
Chiwawatala Chongololo Club are acting
out?
A leopard in a tree of course!*

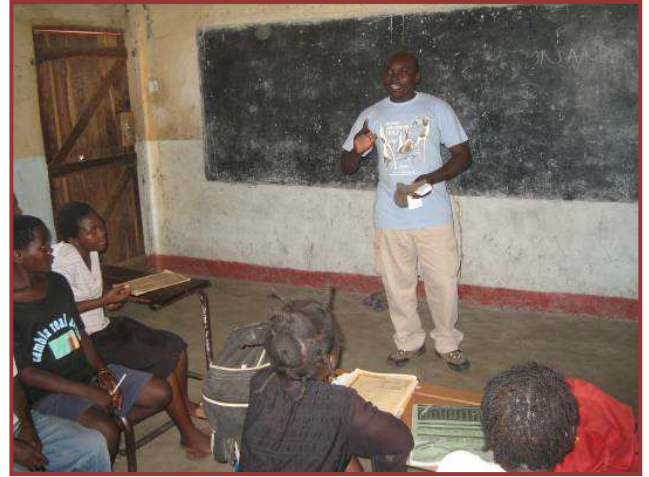


Talks by safari guides and game scouts



Benson Kanyemba talks about what it takes to be a game scout. It's not a career for the faint hearted.

Guest speakers were arranged for several of the conservation club meetings and proved hugely popular, particularly game scouts from the South Luangwa Conservation Society and safari guides from the local lodges.



Fanuel talks about a day in the life of a safari guide (Up at 0500 hrs, bed at midnight!)

We are encouraging Conservation Club members to pursue careers in conservation, with the programme at Mfuwe Day Secondary School specifically geared towards that. This term we have even started computer lessons for some of the club members (the pupils at the school are largely computer illiterate). As pupils from the towns generally benefit from more advanced education, Chipembele is attempting to redress the balance so that when our local pupils leave school they will be better able to compete for jobs in conservation or for places in further education in science subjects.

First Chipembele Junior Rangers awarded badges and certificates

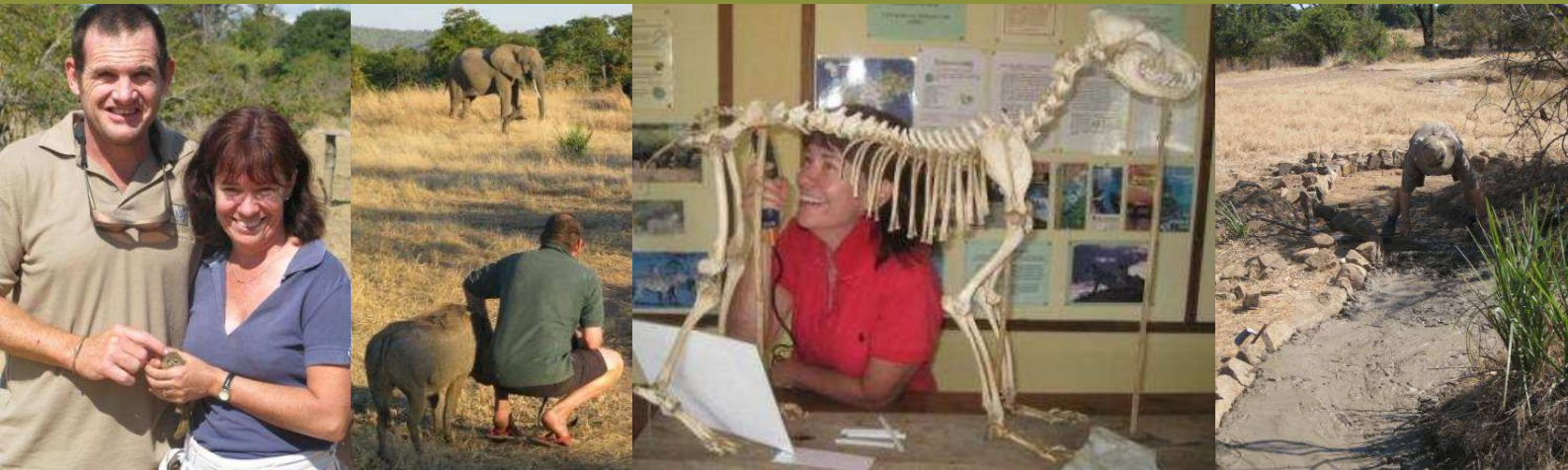


In May, Lisa (the Chipembele Conservation Education Manager in the schools) and Anna attended Kawaza Basic School to award pupils their Chipembele Junior Ranger certificates and badges. They had to attend a certain number of club meetings per term, record all their activities in a folder and carry out a number of conservation assignments. They then had to read the Chipembele Ranger pledge. The marking was strict and not everyone made the grade, making the Chipembele Rangers status something to strive hard for and be proud of once achieved. Well done to all those who passed!

The first ever Chipembele Junior Ranger receives his badge and certificate



Allison and Michael lend a big hand at Chipembele



Allison Holley and **Michael Whiting** from Brisbane, Australia volunteered for 6 weeks at Chipembele in April and May. Allison is an adult educator in the health sector and put her considerable computer skills into revamping many of the displays and information boards in the interpretive room and creating some very professional looking Power Point presentations for some of our lessons at the Centre. She is a trained radiographer so the only challenge in fixing up the wild dog skeleton that had collapsed was finding appropriate glue that would withstand the intense heat of the room (when the windows are closed it can soar into the 40⁰Cs). Finally, after a lot of trial and error, her and Michael wired the main part of the skeleton together and glued it for extra support. Hurray! Allison also raised money in Australia for game drives for children to go into the National Park and view the wildlife they so often learn about in class but rarely see. Thanks to everyone who contributed. We are committed to taking pupils from all the schools in the Chipembele programme on game drives before the dry season is over.

Michael is a medical technician by profession but pastel artwork is his passion. His first job using his artistic talents was to repair the massive crack that had appeared in the mural of the interpretive room during the floods of 2007. After filling the crack he re-painted the picture, mixing the paints to just the right colour. It is impossible to now see where the crack was! Michael also has a wide range of practical skills which are so useful in the African bush and amongst other things he designed and built an outside feature where the pupils have to guess what animals have come down to drink from the tracks they left, built a 30-metre long dam wall so we can have permanent pool for animals to drink at during the dry season, put up a water tower, replaced termite-ridden poles in the playground and fixed all sorts of broken equipment. He led a team of general workers but always got stuck in himself mixing cement or digging holes, despite a bad back.

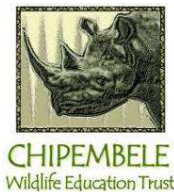
Finally, Allison and Michael raised a tiny orphaned squirrel in the bush house they stayed in who they named Ellie (see picture, left above) and we know that caring for her was one of the most memorable experiences of their stay. Ellie is now doing just fine in the main house and enchanting everyone with her delightful ways.

Our heartfelt thanks for all your hard work Allison and Michael... you are welcome back to Chipembele any time!



Tree Conservation Project Launched at Yosefe Basic School

Chipembele has partnered with Norman Carr safaris (<http://www.normancarsafaris.com/>) to carry out a **tree conservation project** at Yosefe Basic School. The project has been funded by Aardvark Safaris UK (<http://www.aardvarksafaris.com/>) and is part of their ongoing commitment to carbon offsetting on behalf of their clients.



The project is being managed by Lisa, our Conservation Education Manager. Initially 600 Natal mahogany trees (*Trichelia emetica*) were purchased from the local tree nursery (*Chinuyu Nurseries*) and transported to the school. Some were planted for aesthetics, landscaping and shade in the school grounds and the remainder have been given to pupils to take home to plant in their villages with an information sheet for all to read. Unfortunately the school borehole broke down just prior to the trees being delivered but this did not faze the pupils. We had purchased 15 watering cans for the project... so every day they walked to the nearest river bed several hundred metres away, dug holes in the dry, sandy river bed and collected water for the seedlings, in addition to normal water collections for drinking and washing at the school. They are amazingly keen for the project to be a success!

Twenty of the pupils who worked hardest at watering have been selected to be Tree Guardians for the school and have been presented with Tree Guardian t-shirts. In fact the pupils themselves had to vote for those who watered the most, so they couldn't blame the teachers for favouritism! The t-shirts were donated by Norman Carr Safaris and the colourful patches by Tribal Textiles www.tribaltextiles.co.zm/.



The next phase is for the planting of a permanent indigenous woodland in the school grounds that will act as a nature reserve for the pupils and a place where they can learn more about their native trees. Finally, there will be a woodlot planted with fast growing seedlings that can be coppiced regularly when mature for firewood or poles and thereby relieve some of the pressure on the natural woodlands.



Michael gets a new wheelchair

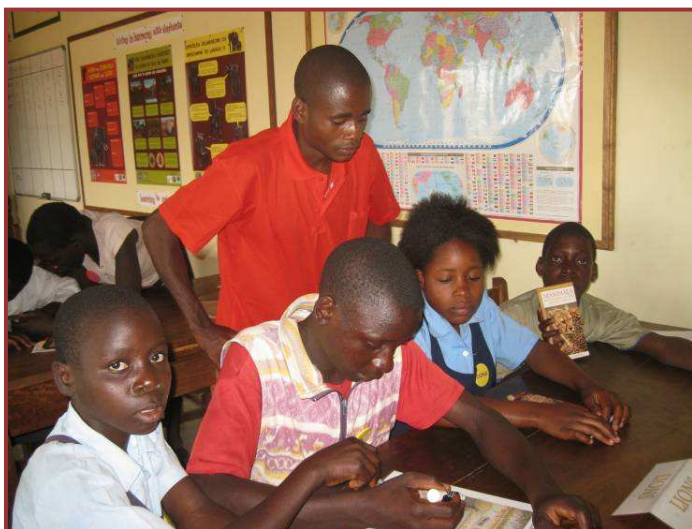


Michael is a 13 year old orphaned boy who lives in a simple village in Mfuwe with his extended family. He is very much loved and cared for but has physical and mental disabilities and none of his family is working so are unable to buy him the medical aids he needs. He is unable to walk but the second-hand wheelchair that Chipembele gave him in 2008 had worn out some months back and as it was an unusual make the spare parts to repair it could not be found.

An appeal on Facebook for a new wheelchair for Michael was launched at the beginning of June and before the month was out the target was reached (exceeded in fact!). A new wheelchair was ordered from Lusaka and it was delivered to Mfuwe and presented to Michael in late June. *Now that's what we call a successful appeal!*

Our sincerest thanks go to all those who contributed to the fund and to Jude and Kaye in Australia for organising it. We were also able to buy Michael a warm blanket (it is now the Zambian winter and nights can get very chilly) and some new clothes. He is much happier now he can whizz around the village in a chair instead of shuffling on his bottom and it has restored some dignity back into his life.

Ex-Chipembele pupils return as trained teachers



We were thrilled when two former Chipembele pupils returned in June to Chipembele with classes of pupils themselves! Kevision Zulu and Sam Nkhoma are now fully trained primary school teachers. They were also Chipembele sponsored pupils during their final years at Mfuwe Secondary School.

We are very proud to see our efforts in conservation and wildlife education coming full circle and we wish them every success as they pursue their careers as teachers.

Former Chipembele pupil Kevision Zulu supervises children where he once sat



The Todd family donate a vehicle in memory of Jane Todd

Jeff Todd and his family have very generously donated a brand new Ford Ranger for the Conservation Education Programme in memory of Jane Todd, his wife. Jeff is originally from the UK but lived with Jane for several years in Zambia and is now living in Jordan. Jane very sadly passed away last year after a long and brave battle with cancer. Her and her family were frequent visitors to South Luangwa and have been long time supporters of Chipembele.



The family made the donation of the vehicle in Jane's memory for use in a conservation project in the area she loved so much. It came at a time when the old vehicle that Lisa was using was on its last legs and constantly breaking down and was a constant worry and drain on financial resources. The Todd family have also sent money to equip the vehicle as a mobile education unit, including a flat screen television and a DVD player to show the pupils wildlife films, plus a mobile generator for use in the schools without electricity. They have also pledged support for the annual upkeep of the vehicle.

Lisa is hugely proud to drive around the community in her new vehicle, knowing she doesn't have to worry about breakdowns in remote areas or having to make cancellations of school visits while we waited for the arrival of spare parts from Lusaka. We appreciate the donation enormously.

Our sincerest and warmest thanks are extended to all the Todd family.

Soongani the injured and sick baby civet



Soongani, an orphaned civet, was brought to Chipembele in early June suffering from severe dehydration and diarrhoea, an infected eye, wounds to her side, a broken rear leg and an injured foot. Soongani means 'to nurture' in Chinyanja, the local language. She has recovered remarkably well, though remains with an injured foot. We are hoping she will one day be well enough to be rehabilitated back to the wild.

Soongani receives a milk feed every 3 hours



Chipembele on the World Wide Web

Our volunteers from Australia – **Kaye Brown** and **Jude Price** - help us with a range of activities from their home in Adelaide, South Australia. With their web skills and fast ADSL service we have launched a range of new initiatives to share Chipembele with the World Wide Web audience. We have a **Facebook Fan page** with an extensive online photo album of the orphan and assisted animals of Chipembele, videos and notes about our activities and updates about appeals, our projects and animals. Jude and Kaye wrote a report on their visit with us here in March and posted it online. To date we have 650 'fans' from all over the world. Visit us at <http://www.facebook.com/ChipembeleWildlife>

On 1 June the **Chipembele Wildlife – You Tube Channel** was launched with a 3 minute short introduction about our Wildlife Education and Conservation in Schools programmes. The video, in High Definition (HD), was produced by Kaye. There are extracts from interviews with Anna, Lisa, Matt Becker (Zambian Carnivore Programme) and with Andrew – one of the Chipembele Senior Rangers. Please visit <http://www.youtube.com/user/ChipembeleWildlife> to watch our first 'video'! Over time more videos will be added to highlight our various projects and programmes.

Our **website** www.chipembele.org recently had a bit of a makeover and we are about to add new pages to include our new education initiatives and projects. The worldwide web provides new opportunities to present our work here to the world and increasingly to the online African community. ***Please share our sites with your friends and family.***

Without the help of donations from our supporters from all around the world we would not be able to carry out the work we do for the wildlife and community of South Luangwa. Our sincerest thanks for particularly generous donations in the second quarter of 2010 are extended to:

Murray Katz (Canada)

Nick West (UK)

Elizabeth Erskine (UK)

Schulprojekte Sambia (Switzerland)

Allison Holley and friends (Australia)

Jude Price and Kaye Brown (Australia)

Africa Hope Foundation (US)

John Utting (Canada) -Happy Retirement John!



Chipembele Snippets...

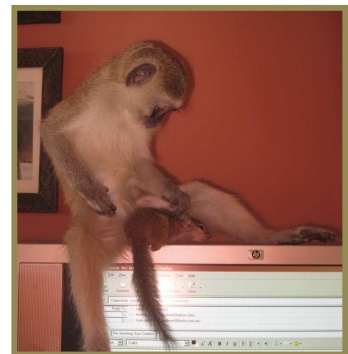
● ● ●
One of the semi-wild warthogs at Chipembele (a daughter of Ruby) narrowly escaped an attack by a pride of 7 lions one afternoon in June. Some casual workers heard the scream of the warthog as a lioness grabbed her round the throat in some bushes just 20 metres from the house. They ran up to see what was happening and the lions all ran off. If domestic cats have 9 lives then warthogs and other African prey species must have so many more!

Mildred, the blind student who is sponsored through Chipembele to teacher training college, has just successfully completed her first teaching practice at Magwero School for the Blind and Deaf in Chipata. Her sponsors, June and Richard Chapman, sent her a talking watch and Mildred asked me to set the alarm at 0330 hrs, which is the time she gets up to study.
Now that's what I call dedication!

Just before dark one evening in June Steve watched a leopard closely stalking a honey badger on the track only 1km from Chipembele. An unusual sighting indeed!

Don't forget to order your copy of *Bulu, African Wonder Dog*, now available on Amazon. It is the true story of our dog that lived at Chipembele (1999 to 2008) and all his exciting adventures. Written for younger readers, it has received excellent reviews from both children and adults across the globe.
<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Bulu-African-Wonder-Dick-Houston/dp/0375847235>
Some of the proceeds of the sales are to be donated to Chipembele.

Work has at long last started on major repairs to the 16 km long access road to Chipembele. This is something we have been waiting for since we arrived here 12 years ago. *Whoo-hoo!*



There are many different distractions when working on the computer in the bush: an orphaned monkey grooming an orphaned squirrel being just one of them!

The Minister of Tourism and the Environment, the Minister of the Eastern Province and other VIPs flew into Chipembele on 8th June in a Zambia Air Force helicopter for a general visit. That same day I took minutes at a meeting of the South Luangwa Conservation Society meeting in Mfuwe, collected a number of Chipembele Rangers and ex Chipembele students in the truck and drove them to Chipembele in time for a visit from a delegation of 15 representatives from WWF Netherlands, and managed to feed 2 monkeys, a squirrel and a sick civet with milk in between.
And people ask if we ever get lonely or bored!



That's all for this time, with all our very best wishes from us and the team at Chipembele,

Anna and Steve

Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust is a Zambian registered charitable trust, reg. no. 41317.
It is supported by Chipembele Trust, a registered UK charity, no. 1107698.
Chipembele... teaching Zambian children the value of wildlife

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