



Chipembele News

Apr - Jun 2011

Dear All,

10-YEAR CELEBRATIONS A HUGE SUCCESS!



May 2011 marked the 10-year anniversary of the opening of the Chipembele Wildlife Education Centre and we decided to celebrate! Read all about how the events went below. Also in this newsletter we report on the fund-raising dinner held by Chipembele Trust in the UK, some of the innovative activities in the conservation education programme in the local schools and the completion of a new and much needed classroom for Victory Community pre-School. It's all positively buzzing, so we hope you enjoy the read!



Chipembele Open Day, 28th May 2011

Chipembele opened its doors on 28th May to celebrate the opening of the Wildlife Education Centre 10 years ago that month.

In attendance were a number of distinguished guests including the Hon. Chief Kakumbi (centre left) and the British High Commissioner Mrs Carolyn Davidson (left). The Heads of School and Conservation and Chongololo Club Patrons of the 6



schools in Chipembele's catchment area were also in attendance accompanied by Conservation Club members representing their School Clubs both as guides in the Wildlife Education Centre and as contestants in a Senior Inter-School Quiz.



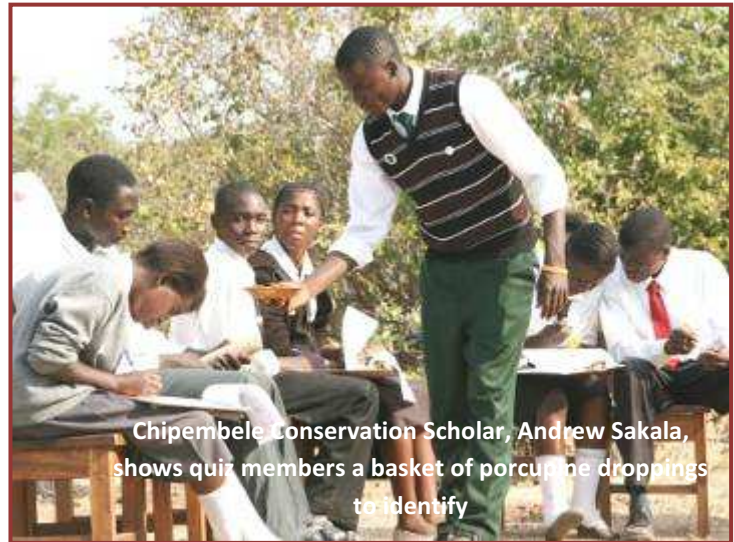
Kaye and Stanley cook bush-style over open fires

As those of you who have visited Chipembele well know, it's far out in the bush and the road is rough, so we were delighted when over 120 invited guests attended. However, 120 guests meant 120 meals! Some people had come from long distances and had had early starts but these were not the sort of numbers were used to catering for.

Fortunately Kaye Brown, one of our permanent Australian volunteers, was visiting for a holiday. As an ex-chef the cooking of vegetable curry and chicken curry and rice with flat breads in huge pots over open fires together with flatbreads and raita followed by a decorative fresh fruit platter was a breeze for her. Well not actually a *breeze*... it was a lot of very hard work but with help from Stanley, an experienced local chef and some willing kitchen hands everyone enjoyed a thoroughly delicious lunch!



The winners of the Quiz were the representatives from Kawaza Basic School, Margaret Phiri and Devson Zulu (right in picture). All the children really shone on the day by sharing their energy, passion and knowledge about the environment, wildlife and sustainability and showcasing Chipembele Wildlife Education Centre's facilities to all the invited guests. Owners and senior representatives from tourism operations in the South Luangwa Valley and their guests were also present.



Chipembele Conservation Scholar, Andrew Sakala, shows quiz members a basket of porcupine droppings to identify

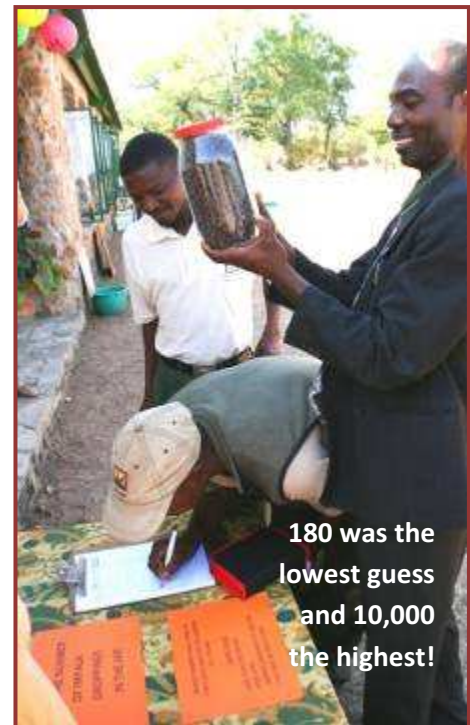


The event had traditional rhythm and soul!

Kawaza Community Dance Troupe performed wonderful and energetic traditional dances, songs and drumming.

A competition to guess the number of impala droppings in a jar provided much interest. The answer was 2975 (and yes, Anna did spend several hours one night counting them all out!).

Representatives from local and international conservation and community organisations that partner with Chipembele including South Luangwa Conservation Society, the Zambian Carnivore Programme and Project Luangwa also presented displays and spoke to guests throughout the day.



180 was the lowest guess and 10,000 the highest!





Conservation students with their prizes sit alongside Stave and Anna and some of their colleagues working in other conservation NGOs in South Luangwa

The Land Rover was generously donated by the Chipchases (Australia) through Painted Dog Conservation Inc. for use in conservation activities by Chipembele, the Zambia Carnivore Programme and the South Luangwa Conservation Society. A huge thank you to all involved in its long journey to the Luangwa Valley. It is enormously appreciated.

World Environment Day celebrations

250 children and young people put their *'Hands Up for Conservation'* on Saturday 4th June to celebrate World Environment Day.

The day began with a parade of 250 Conservation Club students walking 3 km along the road from Yosefe Basic School to the heart of Mfuwe. Each student carried a card with a painted hand print and the words *Hands Up for Conservation!*



The 4 metre long banner with the hand prints of all the people who attended the Open Day was front and centre of the parade. The pupils sang conservation songs the entire route, which made the people they passed by stop and take note. It was quite moving to watch!





At the event arena there were display boards with environmental and anti-litter messages, information about Chipembele's diverse conservation programmes and 100 give-away tree seedlings with information about each particular species.

The Inter School Conservation Quiz drew lots of attention. The participants were a boy and girl representing each of 5 Basic Schools in the Chipembele programme. The winners were Nshanga Mwale and Thomas Daka from Kakumbi Basic School, and they each received a Chipembele t-shirt and tote bag. All the contestants (including the winners) received a fabulous adventure story book from the *Ranger in Danger* series 'Diablo's Doom', an interactive story that includes decision making, anti-poaching and African wildlife themes.



Crop raising baboon impersonations were spot-on!

There was a fantastic performance by SEKA (Sensitisation and Education through Kunda Arts), the local professional drama group, which was watched by a huge crowd from the local community. The skilful antics of the players were accompanied by much laughter.

The message of the play was *'The environment has much to teach us...'*

<http://www.seka-educational-theatre.com/index.htm>



Each of the 6 Conservation Club Patrons were presented with an established shade tree seedling , then the remainder of the seedlings were handed out to a mass of over-excited youngsters!

The trees were supplied with a generous discount by Fil Hide, who runs the local Chunyu Tree Nursery.

By the end of the day the goal of taking Chipembele’s conservation message to, and celebrating the environment with, the local community had been achieved and bucketfuls of positive feedback over the ensuing days confirmed that the students enjoyed it immensely.



Sincere thanks to Jude Price and Kaye Brown for organising the event, to Chipembele Conservation Education Manager Rochelle James, Eunice Nakucinda, Anne Thompson, Brooke Munday and Pippa Howard for getting stuck in with anything and everything on the day, to all the Chipembele staff for working hard over long hours, to SEKA drama group for such a wonderful performance and to all the sponsors of the event (see below) who made it possible.

10 year celebrations proudly supported by



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NORMAN CARR SAFARIS

With thanks for their ongoing support to:
The pupils, schools and communities of Mfuwe and surrounds, South Luangwa Conservation Society, Zambian Carnivore Programme, Mfuwe Lodge/Bushcamp Co, Africom, Murray Katz, Africa Hope Foundation, Elefence International, our many individual friends and supporters.



ROBIN POPE SAFARIS

Chipembele Trust (UK) fund-raising dinner



Trustees Paul Norley and Nigel Morgan make a great team geeing up the bids!

In April, the trustees of Chipembele Trust (a registered charity in the UK) organised a fund-raising dinner in Oxford. Anna was able to attend and presented a talk with slides on behalf of Chipembele in Zambia. A number of donated items were put up for auction including art pieces young pupils involved in the Chipembele programme.

The pieces included wire animals crafted from recovered snares and framed paintings of animals using paints made from natural local materials such as earth, ochre and charcoal. The money raised from the sale of these items was split 50/50 between Chipembele and the students who produced the pieces. On her return to Zambia Anna was able to purchase them each a brand new bicycle.

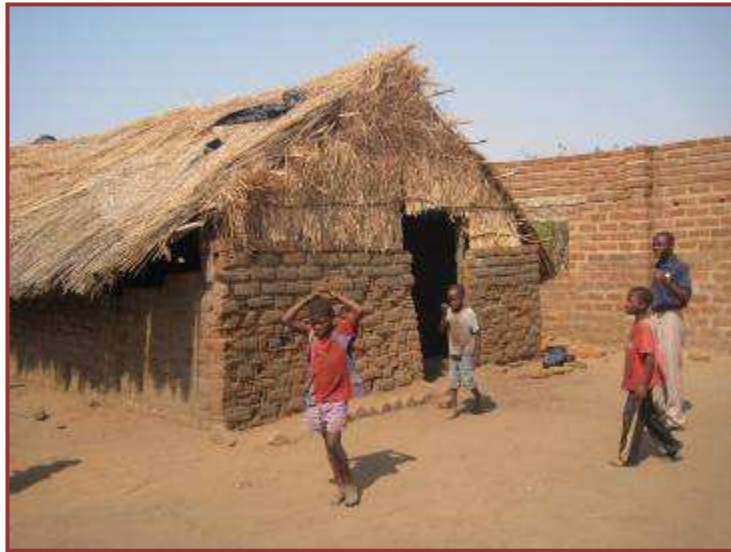
The total raised from the dinner for Chipembele was £2282. Fantastic!



Our sincerest thanks go to the Trustees of Chipembele Trust(UK) for all their hard work in organising such a memorable and enjoyable evening, to all the donors of the wonderful sponsored gifts for auction, to those who generously purchased items in the auction and of course to everyone who attended the dinner and helped make it such a success!



New classroom block for Victory Community pre-school



Before.....

and after...



Schulprojekte Sambia (Switzerland) has been supporting Victory Community pre-School in Mfuwe through Chipembele for several years and pays the wages of the sole teacher there. The founder and school manager/administrator/stand-by teacher is the Rev James Msenje (pictured). Incredibly he has remained unpaid yet totally committed to the school's development since its inception over 5 years ago. This year, when the old classroom started to quite literally fall apart, it became unsafe for the children to even go anywhere near it. So Schulprojekte Sambia quickly came to their rescue and provided the funds for Chipembele to organise the construction of a new classroom with an adjacent office. The enrolment is now 89 and rising and morale is at an all time high.

See www.schulprojektesambia.ch



Conservation students learn rugby



Rochelle tries to outrun her conservation students

St Helen's Rugby Football Club in the UK kindly donated 16 rugby shirts for students in the Chipembele Conservation programme... on the understanding that the recipients all learnt how to play rugby! Fortunately it wasn't hard getting them to turn up every week, they simply loved it.

The project was organised by the management of Flatdogs Camp (thanks Ade and Ed!) and every Monday for the last two months other employees from different lodges in the area would also turn up to help teach the students how to play rugby and participate in an energetic game of the sport which is completely new to the school.

After the Chipembele World Environment Day celebrations on 4th June, 8 of the students were selected to participate in the Johnny Ambrose Cup that same afternoon. This is an annual fund raising event held in memory of the late Johnny Ambrose who was killed by an elephant while guiding tourists on foot in South Luangwa National Park. It was an important and hugely memorable day for the students.

Conservation students set camera traps to record wildlife

Field trips organised between Chipembele and their partner in conservation education, the Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP), have been taking place every Friday afternoon throughout the year. Recently they have been placing camera traps in the bush to take pictures of animals that walk past them, including at night. The pictures were later downloaded and the information recorded and analysed by them on Excel spreadsheets on the computers in the Chipembele Student Resource Room.



Eli from ZCP hides a camera in the bushes





www.zambiacarnivores.org

This is what Samson Lungu, Grade 11, also a Chipembele sponsored pupil, had to say about the activities:

I am involved in a programme which is the most important I have ever had and it is interesting to everyone who wishes to do so. Since we started the programme of research in the park it has been very successful to us. As conservation pupils we learn about animal researching. To research the animals we have set up camera traps in the park which record animal habitat and behaviours. We then put the photos on the computer and can see the times animals are active. We all have a research question as part of our group which we are studying. Our research question is 'Do puku like woodland edges, woodland or floodplain habitat to live in?'



Many thanks to the Zambia Carnivore Programme for organising the trips and providing the students with such inspiration and knowledge about scientific research that is not touched on in their school education.

Pupils benefit from donated clothing and uniform

Over the last 3 months Chipembele has been fortunate enough to receive a large quantity of donated new school uniform from the UK, and several donors have sent good quality second hand clothing which they have kindly collected from friends and relatives in their respective countries. The pupils have really benefitted from the clothing and appreciate it immensely.



We are hugely grateful to Adrian Palfreyman in the UK for donating the large quantity of new school uniform and for Operation Sunshine (UK) for transporting it to Lusaka. We would also like to thank John and Ange Lemon (Painted Dog Conservation Inc., Australia.) and Paul and Daphne Kamphuis (Holland) for the other clothes. You have made a lot of impoverished children very happy!



Children of all ages and sizes from the very tall to the very small benefitted from the clothing



And finally we will leave you with a picture of dear Betty, the orphaned yellow baboon, who at only 6 months old has become yet another of the Chipembele conservation prodigies...



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

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

Contact

**Steve and Anna Tolan
Directors and Founding Trustees
Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust**

email: info@chipembele.org
web: <http://www.chipembele.org>
phone: ++-260-(21)6-246108



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Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust – Winner of the best entry from Zambia in the EDUCATING AFRICA 2009 Pan African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education



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