



Chipembele News July - Sept 2010

Dear All,

Welcome to the July to September 2010 edition of Chipembele News!

It has been an eventful three months for us here at Chipembele with the pupils engaging in lots of fun and interesting activities. We have had the added bonus of meeting many visitors from different backgrounds and from all over the world. However, the highlight had to be the visit from His Excellency Dr Kenneth Kaunda, who led Zambia to independence in 1964 and served as Zambia's first President until 1991. He is now aged 86, but is remarkably fit and active (he is one of the very few African vegetarians we know and apparently exercises every day).

Since retirement from politics in 1997, KK (as he is affectionately known) has been involved in various charitable organisations. His most notable contribution has been his zeal in the fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS. One of his children was claimed by the pandemic in the 1980s. In addition to his international acclaim as a 'wise old statesman' KK is now a hugely popular figure within the general Zambian population. It was an honour and a privilege to meet such a charismatic figure and to receive his support for our conservation projects in the local schools.

Dr Kenneth Kaunda inaugurates tree conservation project

We were therefore thrilled when KK visited Mfuwe in September and inaugurated the Tree Conservation Project that has been facilitated by Lisa, the Chipembele Conservation Education Manager. The project, which has been carried out in partnership with Norman Carr Safaris and is sponsored by Aardvark Safaris (UK), is rapidly becoming a model for other schools in the area and we hope to replicate it next year.





On the day, the ceremony included speeches, conservation poems by some of the Yosefe School Tree Guardians and traditional singing and dancing. After a tour of the school grounds to see all the different aspects of the project, KK planted a tree seedling outside the Head Teacher's Office. He encouraged us to replicate the programme in schools all across Zambia... a simple challenge in his eyes, but then again he never got where he is today by not being ambitious!

Yosefe School received a huge morale boost from his visit and the day is likely to be etched in the memories of the pupils for many years to come.

28 pupils awarded Chipembele Junior Rangers badges

25 members of the Chongololo Club at Kawaza Basic School passed the first stage of the Chipembele Junior Ranger Scheme in September and after reading out the *Rangers conservation pledge* they were all awarded badges. They have now progressed to intermediate level and have some slightly more difficult assignments to complete.

Kawaza is one of the more remote schools in the Chipembele programme and pupils have to

walk 4 miles (7 km) through the bush to reach the tar road before they are collected in the truck for the 15 mile (24 km) journey to Chipembele Wildlife Education Centre and walk another 4 miles on the way home. Now that's enthusiasm for you!



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Anti-litter campaign sweeps through Mfuwe!



60 pupils from Yosefe Basic School participated in a (much needed) Anti-Litter Campaign in the area that stretched over several months. The culmination of the campaign was a rally along the main tar road from their school to the market area of Mfuwe.

The pupils wore **KEEP MFUWE TIDY** t-shirts, carried home made banners and distributed leaflets to people in shops, homes and businesses along the way.

There were speeches, an anti-litter drama performance, singing and dancing and informational displays for people to see. Some warthog droppings with a plastic bag in them proved to be the exhibit that people showed most interest in, a sad indictment on our community where domestic as well as wild animals are becoming increasingly harmed by litter. The free issue and use of plastic bags is not yet as stigmatised as it is in the Western World but things are beginning to change!



An *nduna* (adviser to the local Chief, pictured in the red cap) stood and publically gave his support for the project on behalf of Chief Kakumbi.

Since the campaign ended the school has been keen to continue keeping the grounds clean and tidy and so Chipembele has provided Litter Monitor badges for 10 selected pupils. Again, we will be replicating the model in other schools next year.

Many thanks go to Lisa (Chipembele) and to Graph Phiri (Conservation Club Patron, pictured left in black t-shirt) for all their hard work in facilitating the project and encouraging the pupils. Thanks also to all the local lodges and businesses that sponsored the t-shirts.



SOUTH LUANGWA SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR SALE

Chipembele has partnered again this year with the Bushcamp Company and the U Foundation (UK) to produce a high quality calendar from pictures drawn by pupils at Chiwawatala Basic School. The theme of this year's calendar is *'On Safari in South Luangwa National Park'*. The drawing competition was organised by Chipembele, the calendar was kindly designed free of charge by Sarah Solomon (who once lived in South Luangwa), they were printed without charge through the U Foundation and everything was co-ordinated by the Bushcamp Company... a great team effort! The rear page of the calendar is shown below.

Meet the artists from Chiwawatala School!



Smart Banda
Smart lives in a village called Chivimba. He enjoys drawing and reading which will assist him in his goal of being a journalist. He lives with his grandmother and 3 brothers.



Misael Phiri
15 year old Misael is very proud to be Head Boy. He lives with his parents, brother & 6 sisters in a village called Muthowila. He enjoys English, science and reading and hopes to be a Doctor.



Andrew Nkhoma
Andrew lives with his mother, 2 sisters and 3 brothers. He was very happy to have his drawing in the calendar. When he leaves school he would love to have a job as a tour guide.



Misheck Mwanza
Misheck is in his final year at Chiwawatala, and would like to study for a job in engineering in the future. His parents have passed away and he lives with his siblings.



Charles Mwanza
Charles's favourite subject is maths. When he is not at school he likes to play football. He has 4 sisters and 1 brother and when he is at home he helps look after their chickens and ducks.



Noah Banda
Noah lives in a village called Tumbwe and walks to school each day, he enjoys studying English and maths and would like to be a driver.



Agnes Njobvu
13 year old Agnes lives in a village called Ndimbwa. She enjoys school - particularly English, maths and science and would like to become an accountant.



John Banda
John enjoys learning about conservation, and playing football. He lives with his mother and 3 sisters and they farm rice. He would like to be a Tour Guide.



Emmanuel Mwanza
Emmanuel lives with his mother who farms. He enjoys reading and is excellent at drama, he would like to train to be a Doctor.



Robert Phiri
Robert enjoys playing football and says that Chiwawatala are the best team in the area! He looks after the family's chickens and pigs. He is keen to be a Doctor when he is older.



Eunice Banda
Eunice was very happy to have been included in this calendar and enjoys drawing. She lives with her grandmother and her favourite subjects are science and English.

Calendars cost £6 or \$10 each and are available postage free from the U Foundation. Contact Sarah Elton via

sarah@thefoundation.org

100% of the proceeds will be shared equally between the Bushcamp Company's school project (supporting Chiwawatala School) and Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust. Please order early while stocks are available. Thank you!



Mfuwe pupils receive donated uniform

Our sincere thanks go to Operation Sunshine (UK) for the donation of 10 large sacks of second hand primary school uniform from British schools. The pupils at Victory Community Pre-School were some of the lucky recipients. Emma Banda (pictured) is the sole teacher responsible for 80 pupils of varying ages and grades, and has her wages sponsored through Chipembele by a Swiss non-profit organisation, Schulprojektesambia

<http://www.schulprojektesambia.ch/>



Pupils proudly wear their new t-shirts and sweatshirts. The school building is in the background.

All-metal desks save trees!

When Markus Wenger, the founder and organiser of Schulprojektesambia contacted us with funds to provide much needed desks to local schools our hearts initially sank. The standard Zambian school desks have the desk tops made of wood, the wood comes from locally purchased planks... and the planks come from locally cut trees. With deforestation one of the major environmental problems in the area and with Steve being an active Honorary Forestry Officer, we decided we simply had to find some desks that are wood-free. However we were unable to source them anywhere in Zambia so Anna worked with a local welder to design all-metal ones that were not only more eco-friendly but were stronger and longer lasting too.





So far 58 double desks have been made and distributed to local schools. However, there still remains a desk crisis in all the schools and many pupils, both secondary and primary, sit on the dusty floor or stand at the back of the classroom. Many more desks are still needed and cost £35 each (\$56, €41).

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of a double desk (as shown) please contact Anna via info@chipembele.org

Volunteer Educator from Perth Zoo helps the project

Lindsay Fairclough, an educator from Perth Zoo, Western Australia, spent two weeks volunteering for Chipembele in September. We already have strong connections with Perth Zoo which we hope to develop further in the future.

Lindsay spent a week at Chipembele assessing the wildlife education programme there and a week with Lisa, the Conservation Education Manager in the local schools. She facilitated new conservation activities at the some of the clubs involving the use of paper plates, hula hoops, blindfolds and sticky dots on their foreheads. You needed to be there to appreciate it! Lisa also left us with a range of ideas to develop the programme in the future.



Many thanks for all you did Lindsay, you were a real star and the children loved you!



Finally, this is what happens when a wide awake, cheeky squirrel wants to play with a very sleepy monkey...



Goodbye to you all until next time, stay well, 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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