

Gesani Village, Chief Mnkhanya, Luangwa Valley.

Sponsors – Schulprojekt Sambia - completed drilling – May 2022

The Challenge – to bring clean, safe water to the villages and schools of the Luangwa Valley in a way that enables them to avoid human/wildlife conflict and ensures that the communities benefit from and engage with wildlife conservation as well as improving health, school attendance, productivity, all round well-being and quality of life.

Around 12,000 people live in the villages of Mnkhanya Chiefdom and the population is rapidly growing. It has doubled in the last 20 years and continues to grow year on year. The communities are mixed, most of them farming close to subsistence level depending on growing their own food, mainly maize and sorghum. The area is thickly forested and fertile, but there are more cattle people arriving from the plateaus of Zambia which is not good news for the forests of Mnkhanya so it is very important to work in collaboration with the Chief, conservationists and planners to ensure we only put water where it is sustainable.

Gesani Village is the remote home to a community of around 175 men, women and children. They are farmers and herders. The nearest school is a 10km round trip.



Adrian discussing the dire water situation at the village with Headman Gesani. This muddy pool is the water supply, washing up station, laundry and bathing area as well as domestic stock drinking place.



Washing the dishes is a task for the young girls of the village.



Domestic stock sharing the same water.



Headman Gesani watching the drilling team



Headman joined by an ever-growing group of interested onlookers!



Great excitement as the first clean water is pumped during the 'pump test'



Headman Gesani delighted as the first water is pumped from the brand-new hand pump – no more dirty water for his community!



Markus visiting Gesani Village and sampling the beautiful fresh and plentiful water.



UNICEF millennium development goal.

'In order for children and families to benefit from clean water and sanitation, water points and sanitation facilities must be accessible. Distance is critical because the shorter the distance to clean water, the more consistently it will be utilised. Furthermore, as fetching water is a task most commonly assigned to girls and women, shortening the distance between households and water supply is essential to reduce the time girls spend in fetching water, which in turn will provide them with more time to attend school.'

Schulprojekte Sambia, Makolekole and the communities of the Luangwa Valley – working together to being clean, safe water close to homes.

Each borehole means that a community of at least 150 - 200 men, women and children, instead of travelling miles to dangerous rivers or scooping dirty water from shallow wells, can access to clean, safe water - for life.



And in many of the villages in which we install boreholes, the community takes advantage of our unique 'garden pond' design to make vegetable gardens which help with food security, improve nutrition and create opportunities for small scale commercial veg growing as well as providing domestic stock with safe drinking water which helps against predation and 'human/wildlife conflict'.

“One of the most important aspects of wildlife conservation is to get the co-operation of the local community. It has been shown that this is not possible unless they can receive material benefit from their wildlife.”

Norman Carr 1958 Luangwa Valley.