



**Chimanga Village - Chief Mnkhanya
Kambwi, Nsambwa, Nguleta Villages – Chief Nsefu, Mfuwe, Zambia**

Sponsors – Schulprojekt Sambia, Vontobel - 2022. IN PROGRESS

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, especially for women and girls.

Mnkhanya - Around 10,000 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. There are just a few employment opportunities at the safari lodges, at Tribal Textiles and at the airport and banks.

The area is thickly forested and fertile, but there are more cattle people arriving from the plateaus of Zambia now 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 sensible.

**1 – Chimanga Village – Chief Mnkhanya – Headman Philipo Miti – S13.39281 E31.93278
Over 200 residents**

The residents at Chimanga Village have a well but it dries up by the middle of the dry season and produces very little water at best. Women have to walk 3km round trip to collect water from the Lupande River.



Google Earth view of Chimanga – the Lupande River is clear to see on the left and you can make out the path through the bush and fields the women walk at least 2 or 3 times a day for water.



The dysfunctional well at Chimanga



Chimanga ladies



Headman Chimanga in the red t-shirt with Adrian to his left with elders from the village and (far left) Mwila Banda – Head of Science at Chipako School (approx. 5km away over the Lupande River)



Children at a very early age with household chores. Young girls helping with water collection whilst young boys help with village improvements at Chimanga Village.



Collecting water in the Lupande River bed.



Drilling underway at Chimanga



Pure delight as the first clean, safe water flows at Chimanga Village – this is the ‘pump testing’ when we flush out the new borehole and pump it for a few hours to make sure there’s plenty of water.



The India Mark 2 handpump installed



Just waiting for the concrete to dry at the beautiful new borehole well – Chimanga Village.

2 – Kambwi Village – Chief Nsefu - S13.11494 E31.88663

Around 10,000 people live in the villages of Nsefu Chiefdom and the population is growing. Nsefu is situated over the Lupande River from Kakumbi Chiefdom and whilst some people in Nsefu benefit from tourism in the form of employment and enterprise opportunities, it is otherwise a marginal area where subsistence agriculture, upon which most Nsefu residents rely, is made extremely difficult by the lack of water and by the presence of wildlife. Nsefu Villages are particularly prone to elephant damage in their crops and houses. Water collection can be dangerous and often leads to human/wildlife conflict – a major obstacle to engaging communities in conservation.

There is a small group of villages near Kambwi; Katema, Seleyu, Msenje, Chiseka, Chipika, Esaya, Lumase, Mako with well over 500 plus residents.

We have been working with Conservation South Luangwa Human Wildlife Conflict (HWC) team who told us about a dreadful accident at Kambwi Village. Two young girls had been collecting water from a hand-dug well which collapsed, tragically killing one of them. Kambwi and the nearby villages quickly became a priority.



Drilling at Kambwi – with a lot of help and interest from the community.



Pump testing is always a real highlight as the first water flows! Some good news after the tragic times Kambwi residents have endured.



The new handpump – water collection at Kambwi will now be easy, safe and convenient.



Waiting for the concrete to dry at Kambwi – this pic clearly shows the ‘garden pond’ feature.

3 - Nsambwa Village – Chief Nsefu - S13.11122 E31.88188

Nsambwa village also in Nsefu is another in the area where human/wildlife conflict has an immense impact on every day life. The Headman and his advisors warmly welcomed us together with Markus to tour his village and find out about the challenges they face daily. There are more than 50 households (400 plus residents) which will benefit from a borehole including the neighbouring villages of Mako and Mwanjabanthu.



Markus with Adrian and Headman Nsambwa with his team of advisors at the village well which dries up by September leaving the residents no choice but to walk many kilometres through dangerous bush to collect water.



Hearing about the challenges of living without clean, safe water close to home.



Adrian has the ability to divine for water and is always happy to share the knowledge!



Drilling at Nsambwa



Absolute delight and excitement when the first water is pumped from the new borehole at Nsambwa!



Finally Nsambwa has their new complete borehole – just waiting for the concrete to dry – then it can be used.



Baby Thandiwe Banda with her Granny at Nsambwa Village – delighted to receive one of the beautiful hats so thoughtfully knitted and sent by a very generous friend of Markus.

Nguleta Co-operative – Nsefu Chiefdom - S13.12575 E31.88161

Also in Nsefu and once again in a very challenging area where people and wildlife try to coexist we were extremely happy to meet the Nguleta Multipurpose Co-operative; a group of Nsefu residents who have got together with the Chief and a forestry organisation to oversee the care and preservation of 2400 hectares of forest. They have started several forest based small businesses including beekeeping and are producing commercial quantities of fine quality honey from 1000 hives for which they already have wholesale buyers.



Adrian with some of the Nguleta Multipurpose Co-operative team

Nguleta Co-op told us all about their plan to build a small HQ with processing facilities. This will be based between a group of villages - Nguleta, Kapanta, Manase, Kazandwe, Nathan, Mukochoka, Mponde and Chalasa. There are around 500 households here and they are all in need of access to water. A borehole for public use at the Co-op HQ will be a great help to nearby communities. We are also in the process of installing water at Manase and Chalasa and aim to solve the water problem for this whole group this and next year.





Drilling at Nguleta HQ



Some residents at Nguleta waiting for the concrete to dry so they can use their lovely new borehole!



From dirty, dangerous river bed water.....



To clean, safe water right on the doorstep!



Proud gardeners in some of our other Village Community gardens which are irrigated with the overflow from the village borehole (in the background) growing green leafy vegetables like rape , spinach and Chinese leaves. Not only are the dangers of water borne diseases now things of the past, but now the women and children have more time for education, sports, farming and other pastimes.

The communities in which we install our boreholes create productive vegetable gardens which produce more than enough for their own needs and dramatically improve nutrition. The excess is sold locally providing a useful cash income and adding to food security.

Each borehole means that a community of at least 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.

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.'

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.