

Sapulani Village , Chief Mnkhanya

Sponsors – Schulprojekt Sambia.

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 8,000 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.

Sapulani Village is situated near the Lupande River. There are two villages close together; Sapulani Village overseen by Headman Jonathan Banda and Zakeyo Village looked after by Headman Richard Phiri. Around 180 people live in the two villages.

The communities collect water and do their laundry in the Lupande River which becomes dangerous and crocodile infested during the rainy season.



Laundry in the Lupande River



Mrs Chulu from Sapulani explains the water situation in Sapulani



Adrian with Headman Zakeyo – Richard Phiri



Headman Sapulani Jonathan Banda showing us the well in the village which is contaminated and dries up each year



Drilling underway at Sapulani



The new borehole at Sapulani shared with Zakeyo – thank you from the residents. Our unique ‘garden pond’ design. Residents use the overspill water from the borehole run off for vegetable gardens, domestic stock – chickens, ducks, goats – rather than the water just going to waste.



Productive vegetable gardens give food security as well as improving nutrition and enterprise

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.