

Kopa Village

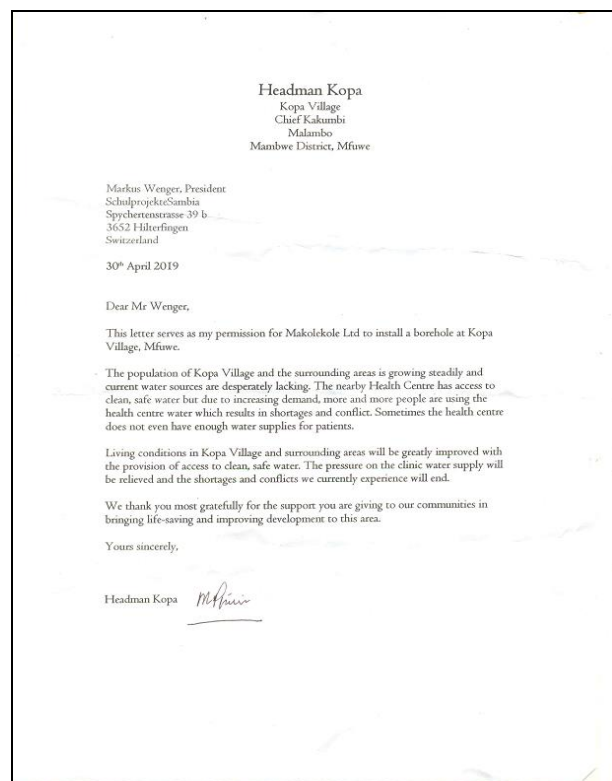
Chief Kakumbi, Mfuwe, Zambia

Sponsors – Schulprojekt Sambia. Completed drilling – May 2019

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 20,000 people live in the villages of Kakumbi Chiefdom and the population is rapidly growing. It has doubled in the last 20 years and continues to grow year on year. It is one of the most mixed communities in the Eastern Province. There are many long term residents who live in villages that have been established for at least two hundred years still relying on traditional methods of subsistence farming. But with the success of the safari industry there has been quite an influx of new residents.

Kopa is a crowded village in the central area of Kakumbi Chiefdom. It was one of the boreholes identified as being in particular need by the Kakumbi Rural Health Centre during our consultations with them in 2018 along with Nymanunga and Lubeba amongst others.



Headman Kopa (Morris Phiri) and his wife with Adrian and the permission letter.



Headman Kopa

There are at least 100 households in Kopa Village. They have one borehole but it is very over utilised and many residents have to use the water belonging to the nearby Kakumbi Rural Health Centre. This often causes big problems as the water is pumped into an overhead tank to supply the clinic. The staff keep the tank full but during the regular power cuts, local residents often empty the tank for use at their homes leaving the clinic without water which can be a grave problem for the staff and patients.

This, together with the fact that Kopa is expanding quickly made it a priority for both the clinic and the residents of the village.



Kakumbi Rural Health Centre.



Drilling underway at Kopa Village. Pump testing was done quite late hence the poor quality picture!



A nearby borehole with handpump



A productive veggie garden at the nearby borehole.

Not only will 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

"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.