



Masanza and Katapila School – Chief Nsefu, Mfuwe, Zambia

Sponsors – Schulprojekt Sambia, Vontobel –2023

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.

Masanza Village – Nsefu - S13.11514 E31.87264 and Katapila Primary School S13.11787 E31.87473



Masanza is another Nsefu Village encompassing at least 30 households. Masanza residents have been using the Katapila Primary School almost half a kilometre from the village to collect water which has put so much pressure and overuse on the school borehole that it has broken. We went to see if we could mend the Katapila School borehole (which supplies over 500 pupils plus resident teaching staff and families) but as well as the pump being broken from overuse, the borehole itself had collapsed. The borehole had been drilled some years previously by a drilling company from out of the area. The wrong equipment had been used ie a rig not suited to the alluvial conditions of the Valley. The surround, cap and run off were also substandard and there was no sanitary seal. The school borehole was completely unusable and irredeemable. The best plan, we decided, was to drill a borehole for the residents of Masanza to ease the situation for the residents and also take the pressure the pressure off the school AND a new borehole for Katapila School which is properly installed and won't break down from overuse.



Broken pump



Katapila pupils excited that the rig is here



drilling underway



Katapila pupils and staff with the new borehole



Trying the new pump



Drilling underway at Masazna



Celebrating the beautiful new Masanza borehole



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.