



## **Simuponda Village, Chief Nsefu, Mfuwe, Zambia** **Sponsor – Schulprojekt Sambia – 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.**

Around 15,000 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 homes. Water collection can be dangerous and often leads to human/wildlife conflict (HWC) – a major obstacle to engaging communities in conservation.

**Simuponda – S13.15767 E31.91228 – 27+ households, 230+ residents**



The residents of Simuponda were using a quite distant well which was getting overcrowded and also, dries up by the end of the dry season. As mentioned previously, Nsefu residents experience a great deal of 'human wildlife conflict' so collecting water from a far well could sometimes be dangerous as well as time consuming and gruelling.



**Adrian and Markus discussing the community water challenges with the water collectors of Simuponda**



**The well in use – it dries up by September each year. The water isn't clean and has to be boiled for drinking.**





Drilling

underway at Simuponda



Excitement and happiness as the first clean water is pumped at Simuponda



**Headman Simuponda cools off at the new hand pump.**



**Fidelis with some of the residents at Simuponda undertaking some WASH training and explaining how to maintain the borehole. Each community forms a borehole committee and receives detailed information and advice on upkeep and usage.**



The Chair and vice Chair of the Simuponda borehole committee receive their training and handbook



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.**

***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.’***

**Thank you!**

