



ABOUT US

African Bush Camps Foundation began operating in 2006 with the vision of creating opportunities that empower rural communities located in vulnerable wildlife areas. The Foundation's mission is to partner with these communities to improve their quality of life and achieve long-term conservation through programs focusing on;

- Education
- Conservation
- Community infrastructure
- Community empowerment.

By directly linking these benefits to tourism, these communities learn to positively value wildlife and nature as resources for improving their well-being and empowerment.

We identify needs, skills and resources within communities and forge meaningful partnerships amongst the stakeholders, creating opportunities to empower the communities and their members to become self-sustaining and independent, whilst also promoting conservation and community spirit.

MAMBANJE COMMUNITY AND PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mambanje has been identified as being a community in need of support due to them being so remote, their proximity to the national park making the empowerment of this community crucial to conservation of the game that the co-exist with and the fact that out of all of the 14 villages in the area, they receive the least amount of formal and informal assistance.

Mambanje Primary School is 15km from the town of Dete, however it takes 1 hour to negotiate the bush track to this remote community which lies less than 2km from the Hwange National Park boundary. The community at Mambanje relies mainly on subsistence farming which does not provide reliable or profitable income. The School has 120 students enrolled in 2015 and we currently support 79 orphans and vulnerable children* at the school (43 girls



and 36 boys), providing assistance to the parents and guardians who are unable to cover the school fees of \$18 fee per term (\$54 per year).

1. EDUCATION AT MAMBANJE

Our programs support education and skill set development with a particular emphasis on orphans and vulnerable children. We strongly believe that education is an integral part of sustainable development; it is valuable for developing the attitudes, skills and knowledge that allow communities to make informed decisions relating to their own and the community's benefit.

Through our efforts we are increasing access to quality education for Zimbabwean children. These efforts include;

- ❖ Student sponsorships
- ❖ Teacher sponsorships - Rural Schools in Zimbabwe and Africa in general are often understaffed and Primary Schools from pre-school to grade 7 will have anywhere from 3 – 4 teachers which that composite classes are very common and teachers really struggle to cover the materials. We provide the salary for one additional teacher for the school at \$500 a month, the community have risen to our challenge and have now matched that to fund their own additional teacher.
- ❖ Life skills and leadership training - run by our partners Family Impact, is a comprehensive behavior change approach that concentrates on the development of the skills needed for life such as communication, decision making, thinking, managing emotions, assertiveness, self-esteem building, resisting peer pressure, and relationship skills. It also teaches individuals to show how to be leaders in their roles in their communities using the leadership tree model. The Life Skills approach is completely interactive, using role-plays, games, puzzles, group discussions, and a variety of other innovative teaching techniques to keep the participant wholly involved in the sessions.
- ❖ We also assist the school to organize fundraising events
- ❖ Providing school materials, stationary, books and text books as well as Happy Readers(books written and published in Zimbabwe with characters/stories applicable to Africa) to improve literacy.

SECONDARY EDUCATION

The African Bush Camp Foundation currently supports 41 orphans* and vulnerable children with High School Scholarships. Since the inception of our scholarship program in 2008, our top graduating Primary School Scholarship students from Hwange Main Camp and Mambanje Primary Schools compete for four full scholarships to the best boarding school they can gain entrance to in Zimbabwe each year.

Because of the challenges the families caring for the orphan's and vulnerable students face, many of these students would have completely dropped out of school by now without this assistance. The students attend the best school that they can gain entrance to and embark on stringent scholarship conditions to stay in the program. We also aim to provide them with guidance and support in all areas of their lives, positively influencing their physical and mental wellbeing and therefore performance at school.



The students also become mentors to those students in the program younger than them and they are expected to participating in the organization of our community events; by “paying it forward”, they are learning to be role models and leaders in their own communities. We assist students to find work experience over their holidays which is proving to be a great success and broadens the students’ horizons as well as inspiring them.

Access to secondary education for students at Mambanje, not only do families struggle to afford the school fee’s, but the distance that the children have to walk to the nearest school, Makwandara Secondary School is up to 14km one way, not only is this extremely time consuming and tiring for them as they often only eat 1 meal a day and have to contribute to the households work force when they return home of looking after the livestock and working in the fields which the families depend on for their livelihoods. Walking in this area is extremely dangerous with dangerous game such as lions and elephant being prevalent as the community is less than 2km from the National Park Boundary.

2. CONSERVATION

Our programs are designed to reduce human impact on the environment, teaching communities to conserve the land while implementing sustainable land-use practices. We also support numerous community events tied into conservation themes and activities that bring people together to celebrate, build and enjoy community spirit while positively and proactively impacting their surroundings. The Mambanje children are involved in all our Zimbabwean Events being;

- World Environment Day
- Tree Planting Day
- Heroes Soccer Tournament
- The 10km Fun Run - The 2014 Fun Run raised enough money to provide Mambanje Primary School with Happy Readers and curriculum educational books

3. COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

We support multiple infrastructure projects ranging from repairs and additions to existing school buildings to the construction of new schools in under-served areas. We also install solar power and boreholes in these communities, repair roads, and improve access to water for the elderly.

- At Mambanje we have drilled the existing borehole deeper as it was not producing sustainable water for the community. We have also had it turned from a manual pump to a solar pump. This water is the only nearby source of clean water for the community.
- We have also placed solar electricity in each classroom and the teachers house on site.
- With the increased water availability we created a vegetable garden at Mambanje that will benefit the Children and give them the nutrients that they need to focus on their education and grow tall and strong. As well as provide income opportunities for the school.
- We have added classroom doors, repaired broken windows and furnished the classrooms with furniture.



- At the end of 2014 one hundred children and community members from Mambanje did a sponsored walk to raise funds to have their only access road fixed so that the community is less remote and inaccessible. They reached their target and we will start work on the road this in 2015.

4. COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

SANITARY PAD MAKING

For many young women around the world, menstruation is more than the sign of a growing body: it's a major limitation that affects every aspect of her life. Vast numbers of girls and women lack access to menstrual hygiene products or safe and sanitary toilets. As a result, girls miss days of school, women's income potential is reduced. The UN estimates that one in ten girls in Africa will drop out of school as a result of missing days during their period.

The Sanitary Pad Making is a 2-day program aimed at the women in the community and is run by our partners Family Impact. The women learn to make sanitary pads and each woman makes 12 sanitary pads during the training. The 2-day interaction leads to improved reproductive health through workshops on sexual reproductive health targeted at rural women, taught by a trained nurse. Giving women and girls access to sanitary pads means that girls do not miss school during their periods and that all the women can stop using the un-hygienic, uncomfortable, impractical and dangerous methods they have used in the past.

BIRTH CERTIFICATES

One of the consequences of living in remote rural areas is that many births are not recorded, or that fires or floods destroy important papers. In lieu of those papers, affidavits of family members and village officials are needed. In order to be admitted to school, a student needs a birth certificate. Many of the rural primary schools will allow exceptions, but the birth certificate is a mandatory document for admission to secondary school and for applying for an ID card or a job. We worked with the local registrar's office to familiarize them with the issues facing this community and to have them hold a registration clinic which allowed not only our students but many community members without a birth certificate to obtain one.

Our Income-Generating Projects stem from expertise within the community and are nurtured and developed locally. Our aim is to assist community members to develop skills to run relevant, viable, and environmentally sustainable trade projects. We work with them to create a practical business plan, provide no-interest start-up loans and follow this up with ongoing business analysis and training to ensure the long-term success of the venture. These endeavors secure much needed income with which to buy necessary food and pay for school fees.



We Currently have Two Income- Generating Projects at Mambanje:

- Kubhudlila Chicken Project – Rearing Chickens for resale.
- Tuckshop – a committee made of parents from the school opened a tuck shop which is now successfully running and the school is benefitting every month from the shop's profits.