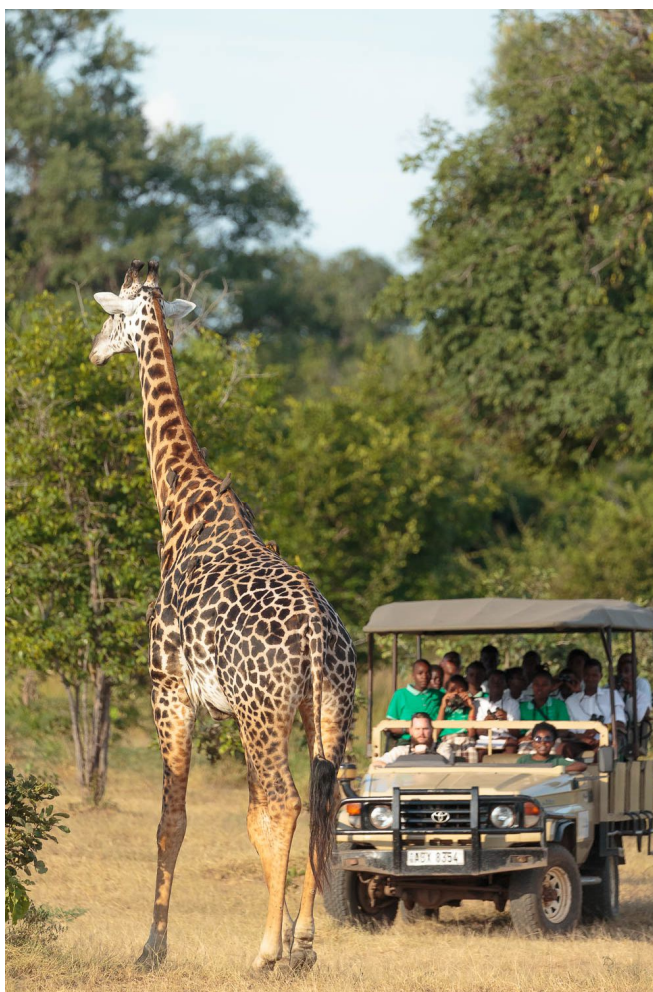


# Funding Proposal for Children in Nature

to support outdoor conservation education among the school  
children of South Luangwa, Zambia



## 1. Organisation Details

Name of organisation: Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust  
Address of organisation: PO Box 67, Malama Road, Mfuwe, Zambia  
Registered charitable trust number: 41437 (established 1998)  
Registered NGO number: 101/0046/13  
Contact: Anna Tolan (Executive Director)  
Tel: ++260 979 854944  
e-mail: [info@chipembele.org](mailto:info@chipembele.org)

## 2. Introduction

Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust (CWET) is an innovative, contemporary, dynamic and impactful conservation education organisation for the children and communities who live in the rural settlement of Mfuwe, near South Luangwa National Park in Zambia. Now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year CWET has firmly established itself as one of the leading conservation education NGOs in the Southern African region.

We run extensive, inspirational, community appropriate programmes, teaching children and communities why and how to protect and conserve the local wildlife and natural environment. This education will also help to generate sustainable development for the benefit of the local population for generations to come.

*Chipembele is the local Chinyanja word for rhino. In the early 1970's the concentration of black rhinos in the Luangwa Valley was higher than anywhere else in Africa. Within the following 20 years poachers completely wiped them out. The conservation message is clear... if we do not conserve our wildlife, other species could also disappear, just like the rhino.*



### 2.1. The Local Situation

As in most of rural Africa there is a multitude of social, economic and environmental problems in the area. The local settlement of Mfuwe however, is unique in that instead of the population migrating to the towns, people are flooding to this remote rural area in search of jobs associated with the tourism industry. The settlement is rapidly developing into a township, with uncontrolled development and all the usual associated environmental and social problems. The most serious and rapidly growing threats to the wildlife of the area include poaching, habitat loss, human-wildlife conflict, over-fishing, bush fires, waste disposal and deforestation as the local community expands and people search ever harder and further for protein, building materials, charcoal and firewood.

### 2.2. Aims and Objectives of the Conservation Education Programme

The overall aim of the Conservation Education Programme is to teach local school children and communities about wildlife and conservation in the context of their lives and the benefits that living in harmony with wildlife can bring. Amazingly, even though they live only a few miles from the National Park, many of the local people have never visited it or seen the array of animals it holds. They do, however regularly see crop-raiding animals, or know of fishermen who have been attacked by crocodiles or elephants, and therefore often have a negative view of animals,

perceiving them only as problems or alternatively as sources of meat.

The children of the area are its future and there is an urgent need for them to be taught the value and importance of wildlife so it may be conserved for future generations. The value of wildlife includes its intrinsic beauty, aesthetic interest, ecological importance, cultural significance, scientific research potential and the economic advantages arising from attracting tourists from all over the world. With tourism comes employment, income, benefits to the community, improved health and general education, security for the children and their families and conservation of the wildlife and natural environment that is their heritage.

### 3. The Children in Nature Programme

#### 3.1 What does it deliver?

One of the main components of Chipembele's Conservation Education Programme is its 'Children in Nature Programme' - a unique, inspirational, fun and impactful suite of educational programmes that get local children out of the classroom and into a natural outdoor learning environment. It involves 930 Conservation Club students in 18 schools and delivers:

- Educational field trips into South Luangwa National Park
- Zambian Carnivore Programme partnership - teaching students field ecology by conducting an extensive wildlife research project each year
- Outdoor activities during our 52 Conservation Club sessions in schools each week
- 'Nature Nights' excursions where students camp in the bush for 3 days to learn more about nature close-up and develop life and leadership skills
- Outdoor learning in the Chipembele - Community Nature Conservancy
- Experiential learning in the Chipembele Botanic Garden
- Tree planting and litter picking so children learn to care for their environment.
- An extensive student-driven annual environmental campaign in the local community (in June/July 2019 it will be 'Say No to Plastic')





### 3.2 Why the Outdoors?

Outdoor learning has been proven to promote a healthy, happy body and mind, encourage active global citizenship, result in better grades and improve an array of life-skills such as communication, leadership and self-reliance. *Research evidences that the youth who participate in Chipembele's outdoor programmes also develop a genuine love for and connection with the unique wildlife and habitats of South Luangwa.*



### 3.3 What are the Outcomes?

Our bold and progressive programmes, which strongly focus on outdoor learning, positively change young hearts and minds.

- Local children show increased support for and more knowledge about wildlife, the natural environment and conservation.
- Local children experience empathy and deepen their respect towards wildlife.
- Local children understand the benefits of conservation (employment, development of schools and other community institutions through tourism income) etc. and put what they have learnt into practice through sustainable use and/or conservation of wildlife and habitats for future generations.
- Senior students in the CWET programme develop a high level of interpersonal skills and become sufficiently informed in conservation matters to make informed decisions and become the conservation leaders of the future.
- Local youth become strong conservation leaders of the future - within South Luangwa or elsewhere in the world.
- Local communities show increased awareness/knowledge of conservation and as a result conserve South Luangwa, one of the world's premier wildlife parks.

- Our Children in Nature Programme has helped produce innumerable passionate young conservationists, stewards of their amazing natural environment and active conservation leaders in Zambia. Many of them have been inspired and encouraged to take up tertiary study and careers in the biological sciences, vet nursing, forestry, eco-tourism, environmental filmmaking, environmental education, environmental journalism, natural resource management and wildlife research. Just as importantly, their peers - who may go on to be accountants, nurses or teachers, or who continue traditional farming - are raising their own children and educating their communities to be environmentally aware.
- Chipembele becomes a leading global conservation education organisation by setting an example of encouraging student leadership and grass-roots community engagement to conserve the wildlife and natural environment of the area to everyone's benefit.



### **3.4. Long term sustainability of the Children in Nature Programme**

CWET has been running with a high level of excellence and developing for the last 21 years under the Directorship of Anna and Steve Tolan (retired UK Police Officers), which is evidence of their long term commitment and the sustainability of the project. The project will be sustainable long into the future through:

- Careful long-term strategic planning for the organisation
- Education of youth in leadership skills and provision of sufficient conservation information to be able to make informed, well-judged conservation decisions in the future.

- Education of the broader local community in the benefits of conservation and offer of practical, technologically appropriate and sustainable solutions to environmental problems that affect them daily.
- A rigorous Monitoring and Evaluation framework, overseen by our Board of Trustees, that ensures the project remains well managed, compliant with Government laws and regulations, effective in its programmes, gender aware and culturally appropriate at all times.

#### **4. The Need for Funding**

Despite the proven success of Children in Nature, funding to operate all its programmes has become increasingly difficult to source. The organisation's operational costs for 2020 are far from secure and some funding is still needed to run the Children in Nature Programme. The total budget for 2020 is £21,000.

#### **5. Other Information**

##### **5.1 Awards**

Chipembele is an international award-winning charity working at grass roots level. Our programmes have won a number of prestigious international environmental awards:

- Winner of the best entry from Zambia in the 'Educating Africa' Pan African Awards for Entrepreneurship in Education 2009
- Winner of the national award for Zambia at the Energy Globe Awards, Austria 2012
- Winner of the international award in the category of Youth and runner-up overall (out of more than 1000 applicants) at the Energy Globe Awards, Austria 2011
- Winner of the European Parliament STOA 'World Prize for Sustainable Energy' 2012
- Joint winner of the Zambian national 'Quest' Youth Drama competition in 2013 and 2014.
- Joint second place winner in the David Shepherd Foundation 'Global Canvas' art and poetry competition 2015

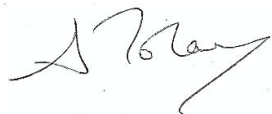
##### **5.2 Learn more about Chipembele**

- Video: <https://youtu.be/8i5PAq7E5eA>
- Website: [www.chipembele.org](http://www.chipembele.org)
- Facebook: [www.facebook.com/ChipembeleWildlife](https://www.facebook.com/ChipembeleWildlife)
- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/chipembelewildlife/>
- *Kalata!* Email newsletter (three times a year), sign up: [eepurl.com/Ff8u1](http://eepurl.com/Ff8u1)



## 6. Conclusion

A request for funding is therefore sought to support the operational costs of CWET's Children in Nature for the sum of £21,000 for 1 year from the date of the grant award. If successful I would fully comply with any reporting conditions of the grant. Thank you.



**Anna Tolan**

Executive Director, 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019

