



# THE BUSHCAMP COMPANY

SOUTH LUANGWA  
NATIONAL PARK  
ZAMBIA



charity begins at home

friends of charity begins at home





## Luangwa Conservation and Community Fund

In 2009, the idea of a Luangwa Conservation and Community Fund (LCCF) was conceived by Andy Hogg from Mfuwe Lodge and the Bushcamp Company and spearheaded by an insightful group of photographic

tour operators in South Luangwa. These dedicated and passionate people had a long-term vision of sustainably funding the activities of Conservation South Luangwa and local community projects. They realized that without the wildlife and habitat in Luangwa, they would have no business and a special place would be lost.



They also understood that without involving local communities and focusing on education, there would be no hope of protecting Luangwa's amazing wildlife in future years. To date, the Fund has generated over \$1.5 million. The Bushcamp Company generates approximately



\$400,000 annually through the Luangwa Conservation and Community Fund and generous donors, match-funding, and additional fundraising. The funds generated are split equally between Conservation South Luangwa and community projects.

**Every day you stay with The Bushcamp Company, in one of our Bushcamps or Mfuwe Lodge, you are supporting our Community, Education, and Conservation Projects...**

**...contributing over \$400,000 a year to Community, Education, and Conservation.**

Since its inception, The Bushcamp Company has been a leader in the safari industry's efforts to provide benefits from tourism to the people of Zambia. By receiving tangible benefits, local people are encouraged to conserve their natural resources.

The Bushcamp Company currently sponsors, funds, and organizes projects to promote better education, health, and employment, as well as being a major contributor to the upkeep and protection of the South Luangwa National Park.



## Commit to Clean Water

In Zambia, around 5 million people lack access to safe, clean water and more than half of the population has no proper sanitation facilities. Inadequate water and sanitation is a major cause of death and disease, reducing a community's ability to thrive and develop.

In the villages of the Luangwa Valley, water is commonly only available from rivers, streams, or wells dug in dry riverbeds. This water is often unclean and potentially a source of many water-borne diseases. The water is often a long way from the village so women and children face laborious journeys on foot, into areas where potentially dangerous animals also drink.



The Bushcamp Company, in conjunction with generous donors, has embarked on an ambitious “Commit to Clean Water” project to provide a number of deep boreholes in

various village locations and schools, catering to hundreds of people. Over 85 boreholes have been drilled to date.



“Commit to Clean Water” is an ongoing project and will continue as long as the need exists. As the local population in the Luangwa Valley continues to grow the provision of safe, clean water becomes ever more vital to the wellbeing and future success of the community.

Around 30,000 villagers already benefit greatly from this initiative and this number will substantially increase as more sites are identified and new boreholes drilled in remote areas.





## **Meal-a-Day Program**

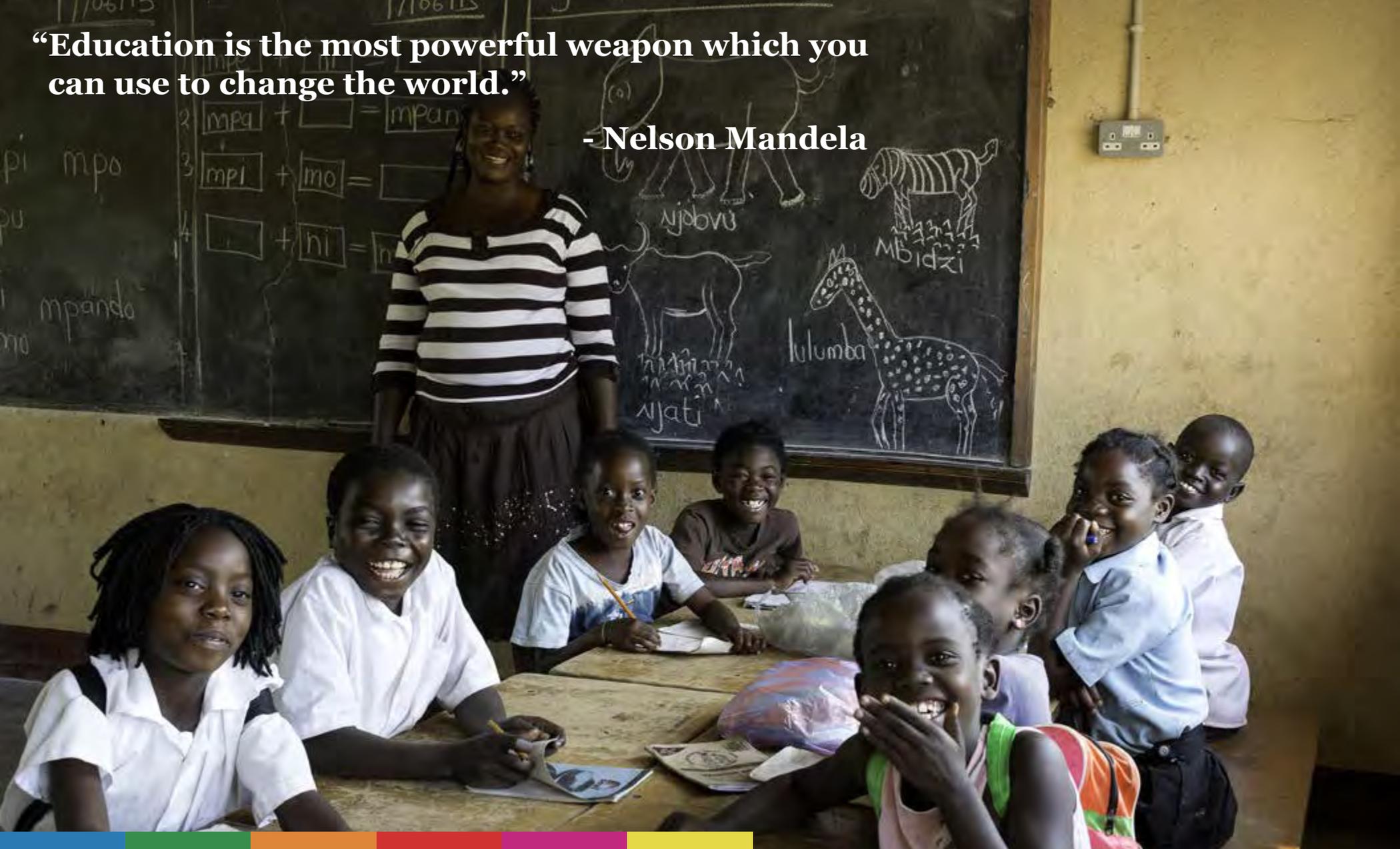
The Bushcamp Company provides children with a nutritious daily meal at three local schools. Over 2,500 children benefit from this initiative which has had a very positive effect on levels of general health, mental alertness, academic results, and attendance throughout the schools.

Some students have to get up at 5 am to walk 15 km to school, do a full day of lessons, and then walk home with nothing to eat. The mental and physical challenges facing the pupils are obvious, as focus, energy levels, and concentration decrease. There is no doubt that correct nutrition is a vital part of children's development.



**“Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”**

**- Nelson Mandela**



## **Schooling and Education**

The Bushcamp Company, through its own charity (Charity Begins at Home) supports projects at five local schools providing buildings, furniture, equipment, meals and individual pupil sponsorship.

The Bushcamp Company supports local schools including Chiwawatala Primary School in Mfuwe Village and Chilongozi Primary School by sponsoring students, paying teachers' salaries, building classrooms and staff houses, ablution blocks, an assembly hall, and hosting game drives for students.



The Bushcamp Company has also raised funds for the Mfuwe Day Secondary School which has allowed the school to build six classrooms and offices, four dormitories, social areas and refurbished the existing girls' dormitory.

Around 350 children receive individual sponsorship to pay for school fees, books, equipment, uniforms, food, etc. This project extends up to the college and university level.



The Bushcamp Company strives to assist with projects that help conserve precious resources, support education and generate a sustainable source of income to those who live around the national park. Mathematics has been identified as a school subject where many Zambian children are

failing. “Edulation” is a new approach to helping these children improve their math skills by using trained coaches. The company is currently funding 350 children to receive this extra important training in addition to their normal school work.



## **Aunt Mary's Academy**

Mfuwe's latest educational establishment is a small pre-school called "Aunt Mary's Academy". We are particularly pleased to see the development of this school for such young children, because its founder, Mary Phiri, was a member of Mfuwe Lodge's staff before successfully

embarking on a teacher training course. She has now started her own school and we are very happy to see her ambitions come to fruition. This is a very worthwhile and much needed venture. The children are now benefiting from the Meal-a-Day program, and the school has received furniture and materials. A new playground is planned and more equipment will be provided.



## Calendar Project

For several years children from local schools have provided artwork to illustrate a calendar which is then sold to raise additional funds for school projects. This project has been in place for nearly 10 years, and for the last few years, Mulenga Chafilwa, a prominent Zambian folk artist, has

come to Mfuwe Lodge and assisted the budding artists with their final submissions. This initiative also serves to involve the children, and raise awareness of issues affecting their communities. The 2017 calendar illustrated the benefits of having safe, clean water, whilst the 2018 calendar focuses on the conservation of the local wildlife.





## Building for a Better Future

With the Mfuwe Community growing rapidly, there is always a need for better facilities to serve the needs of the local people. The Bushcamp Company has concentrated many of its efforts into providing better school buildings, equipment and materials.

Currently five schools have benefitted from the construction of buildings ranging from classrooms to assembly halls. Furnishings and educational equipment have been bought or donated by our partner charities. Many guests bring school supplies, books, toys etc. with them when visiting our camps. These materials are often used as prizes for good school performance.



## Fundraising Through Local Crafts

The poaching of animals using wire snares is a constant conservation problem. Funds to assist anti-snaring patrols are raised through the sale of curios made from the snare-wire that is retrieved from the bush.

Local craftsmen are extremely skilled at fashioning the wire into intricate models of animals, and even game-viewing Land Rovers.



## Ele Collection

These unique hand-crafted pendants have been specially crafted to celebrate the elephants of the South Luangwa National Park. Their sale will raise funds to support the anti-poaching activities of Conservation South Luangwa

and our own Commit to Clean Water campaign in the local community. More details can be found at [www.elefricollection.com](http://www.elefricollection.com).



National Geographic ‘World Legacy Awards’: Engaging Communities - Recognizing direct and tangible economic and social benefits that improve local livelihoods, including training and capacity building, fair wages and benefits, community development, health care, and education.



The Educational Travel Community ‘Sustainable Tourism Showcase Awards’: 1st Place Honouree.



World Travel and Tourism Council ‘Tourism for Tomorrow Awards’: for having made a direct and tangible contribution to the preservation of nature, including the protection of wildlife, expanding and restoring natural habitat, and supporting biodiversity conservation.



Partners Guide ‘Golden Ribbon Award’: for innovation, or social, or environmental contribution to Zambia.

## Awards and Recognition

At a time when world tourism is encouraged to become more sustainable, our conservation and community projects have attracted considerable attention, both at home and internationally.

We have received awards from a variety of world tourism organizations.



## Tree Planting

The Bushcamp Company supports additional community projects that focus on reducing deforestation and encourage tree planting and market-gardens, as well as looking at alternatives to firewood use - supporting solar cooker and 'rocket' stove projects. The company runs a

number of tree planting initiatives at local schools each year, and these programs provide fun and motivation for students, while simultaneously teaching them the importance of concern for the environment, focusing on the issue of deforestation. The students take great pride in "their" trees, and the programs have been very successful in educating them (and helping the environment as well).



## Conservation South Luangwa

The Bushcamp Company firmly believes that community support and conservation of wildlife go hand in hand. The natural resources of the Luangwa Valley provide the tourism opportunities that ultimately allow communities to develop and thrive.

Conservation South Luangwa is a privately-funded charitable organization that works alongside the Department of National Parks and Wildlife and other community partners, to protect resources and reduce human/wildlife conflict. CSL provides vital technical and logistical support to reduce illegal activities, as well as providing valuable monitoring and veterinary services.



The Bushcamp Company has always been a major supporter of CSL's activities providing regular funding and also donated a light aircraft which is used for aerial surveillance and monitoring.

More details of CSL's valuable work can be found at [cslzambia.org](http://cslzambia.org).



## How You Can Help

All of our guests help support our projects through contributions to the Luangwa Conservation & Community Fund, but if you would like to offer further support, here are some suggestions of how else you can help.

### Bringing Gifts for Student Prizes

If you are coming on safari with us, and you have space left in your suitcase, you might want to bring out a few small items with you to donate. We use these gifts as motivational prizes at the end of each term for the teachers to award to the top performing students at local school.

## Monetary Donations

Monetary donations of any amount are greatly appreciated. When appropriate, individual donations are pooled in order to fund more extensive projects or programmes, especially three of our most critical programmes: Education Fund, Meal-a-Day Programme, and Commit to Clean Water Fund.

If you would like to donate to any of these projects, please see our [Donate Now](#) page.



**Photography Courtesy of:**

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“If you want to go fast, go alone.  
If you want to go far, go together.”  
- African Proverb

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