Over the past quarter, we have had the pleasure of hosting four filmmakers in our Liuwa Plain and South Luangwa field sites in Zambia.

Under the direction of Charlie Rose, the filmmakers are working with the London-based Stink Films to create a documentary about contemporary African conservation challenges while they cycle from Johannesburg to Nairobi.

In Zambia, they took time out from their primary project to compile a short introductory video about the Time + Tide Foundation, which we will showcase to our partners and guests of Time + Tide lodges. Upon their return to the United Kingdom, the team will edit a longer version of the film to include specific information about our initiatives in these two sites and our overarching objective to raise awareness about the economic advantages of non-consumptive living in protected places.
In early May, we joined the conservation managers of the Loky-Manambato Protected Area, Fanamby, and the Ministry of Environment to propose our Crowned Lemur conservation project to the Amparihirano Community and seek their endorsement.

Through this project, we will work with the residents of Amparihirano to design a tourism circuit in the nearby Bekaraoka Forest for guests of Time + Tide’s Miavana Resort and simultaneously develop a conservation plan for the endangered Crowned Lemurs in this area. Thanks to generous support from Zoos Victoria, we were able to hire two full-time rangers who are responsible for sensitizing residents about the benefits of conservation and recording unsustainable activities. Over the ten days in May, the teams administered 100 questionnaires to community members and held three focus groups to understand sources of income, local perceptions on conservation and tourism and current attitudes towards lemurs in this area. We held several information sessions with the community, after which the Chief Fokontany, on behalf of Amparihirano residents, agreed to be official partners in the project and pledged their support for lemur conservation in the Bekaraoka Forest.
South Luangwa:  
HOME-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMME

AVERAGE ABILITY LEVELS OVER THE PAST 14 MONTHS

We were delighted to invite Violet Pikiti Sitwala, an Education Programme Officer for the Archie Hinchcliffe Disability Intervention, back to the Mfuwe home-based education programme to conduct another theoretical and practical workshop on physiotherapy for disabled children. Together with the head teacher for the Bauleni Special Needs Project, Ms. Mikala Mbewe, Violet held a two-day workshop on the different functions of the brain and common causes of specific disabilities such as spina bifida, down syndrome, muscular dystrophy, cerebral palsy, bowed legs, and Erb’s palsy. The volunteer caregivers then participated in a training exercise by meeting with mothers of children in the programme and observing the children in order to develop individualized education plans. During the practical sessions, Violet demonstrated how to offer physical assistance to children based on their disabilities and then worked individually with caregivers to ensure they understood the exercises. We recruited five new volunteer caregivers over this quarter, all of whom underwent both a classroom and field-based training session, and the Mfuwe Coordinator selected a new Vice-Coordinator and Secretary to assist him in managing the programme.

“Physiotherapy is vital in the life of every child with a disability and it has to be provided as early as possible to prevent deformities. Physiotherapy intervention promotes independent living so that the children can eventually realize their fullest potential.”

Violet Pikiti Sitwala, Education Programme Officer at the Archie Hinchcliffe Disability Intervention
Lower Zambezi: CHITENDE SECONDARY SCHOOL

In the first quarter of 2017, we held focus groups and administered questionnaires for students at Chitende who are involved in the theatre and performing arts society and those who are not.

Through this data, we learned that students in the theatre programme exhibit more self-confidence, enhanced focus in school and more innovative ways of thinking than their non-theatre peers. We also discovered, however, that both theatre and non-theatre students struggle to appreciate the benefits of attending school in a wild and remote environment. Together with Barefeet Theatre, we reviewed these findings and re-structured the theatre programme for terms two and three of 2017 to have a specific focus on the unique Lower Zambezi ecosystem and the opportunities that arise from learning in a protected area. In so doing, our objective is to cultivate an appreciation for living amongst Zambia’s natural wealth and the importance of protecting these resources for future generations of Chitende students and residents of the Chiawa Game Management Area.

“With the use of Theatre as an awareness instrument, students are helped to appreciate their environments and the role they can play to bring about change. Theatre encourages students to inspire their peers and the community at large in understanding the natural wealth of their country. Through theatre, students and young local people can tell their own stories, highlight their own concerns regarding the status of the environment and develop their own strategies amongst themselves.”

Taonga Tembo, Programme Director, Barefeet Theatre
Previously, there was no support offered to students at Munde School and the vast majority of students were unable to proceed from primary to secondary school, which is when school fees become applicable in Zambia. As a result of this sponsorship opportunity, this year Munde School has 32 students enrolled in grade 7, an increase from 18 students in 2016. Moreover, there are adult students in their 30s who never took their grade 7 exams returning to Munde to complete primary school and put themselves in a position to benefit from the sponsorship opportunity. Students at Munde School will automatically be offered sponsorships to secondary school from the Time + Tide Foundation if they are accepted to the nearby Kalabo Secondary Boarding School.
Liuwa Plain:
SIBEMI COMMUNITY SCHOOL

The Foundation’s support to Sibemi Community School has contributed to a no-tolerance attitude towards poaching by providing the community with meaningful benefits that actualize the gains of successful conservation.

Over the past two months, we analysed the data collected from focus groups conducted with the Sibemi Parent Teacher Association (PTA) earlier to this year and found that the PTA is taking a proactive, community-based approach to combat poaching around Sibemi Village.

We compared this data with that of African Parks, the conservation managers of Liuwa Plain National Park, and confirmed that indeed no snares have been confiscated from Sibemi residents this year to date, nor have there been any arrests of Sibemi residents for poaching this year to date.

By supporting the operations of Sibemi Community School, our goal is to demonstrate to residents that the benefits that come both directly and indirectly through tourism are more advantageous and ultimately more rewarding than the immediate short-term gains from poaching, fishing without permits and deforestation.

For more information please e-mail: info@timeandtidefoundation.org