The Time + Tide Foundation had a fulfilling year in 2016: we established a home-based education programme for disabled children in the South Luangwa, sponsored a full-time teacher and the operations of a community school in Liuwa Plain, initiated a theatre and performing arts society in the Lower Zambezi, developed a marine research and education exchange on Nosy Ankao, and much more.

Thank you to all of our donors, supporters and partners who have contributed to our projects and made these successes possible. In 2017, we will strive to sharpen our focus as we continue to promote sustainability for these remarkable protected areas and all of their inhabitants.
Nosy Ankao:
CORAL REEF MONITORING

In partnership with the University of Antsiranana and the Department of Environmental Affairs in South Africa (DEA), the Time + Tide Foundation recently launched a coral reef monitoring programme in the marine reserve around Nosy Ankao.

Thanks to funding from the Marine Conservation Action Fund, we were delighted to host Dr. Maya Pfaff from DEA and Dr. Amelie Soambola from Antsiranana, who together designed a long-term survey that will be implemented by local marine biology students. Over the course of ten days, Drs. Pfaff and Soambola trained three MSc students from Antsiranana how to assess reef health by installing settlement plates to monitor coral larval recruitment, identify reef fish species using baited remote underwater videos, and how to evaluate the differences in coral reproduction between shallow and deep reef sites. The students will analyse the data collected from this initial survey and return to Nosy Ankao in 2017 for follow-up monitoring, with a particular interest in the effects of rising ocean temperatures on coral health and reproduction.

“This project reinforces my classroom knowledge of marine biodiversity, and it is important to me because we need to know the types of coral reefs here and whether or not they are damaged in this region of Madagascar.”

Solomon Daviela, first year MSc student at the University of Antsiranana
In October, a team from the Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership (MBP) departed for three weeks of exploring protected tracts of forest in the Daraina region of Madagascar, where Crowned Lemurs are endemic and highly threatened.

Following a catastrophic poaching event in July 2016 in the Bobankora Forest of Daraina, during which 62 Crowned Lemurs were poisoned, the MBP team discovered only three surviving individuals. They then moved on to the neighbouring Bekaraoka Forest, where they were able to locate 8 distinct family groups of Crowned Lemurs as well as the Golden-crowned Siafaka, the Daraina Sportive Lemur and other nocturnal species. Thanks to support from Zoos Victoria, in 2017 the Time + Tide Foundation, MBP and the conservation managers of the region, Fanamby, will work with the Amparhirano community around the Bekaraoka Forest to develop a conservation and development project that safeguards the lemurs of this area and brings tangible, economic benefits to the fokontany (local community).
South Luangwa: FIELD-BASED EDUCATION CENTRE

As of July 2016, the Time + Tide Foundation supports the running costs of a Field-based Education Centre in the South Luangwa, which is managed by the conservation-education non-profit Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust.

In the final academic term of this year, 440 students from 6 local schools attended lessons at the centre to learn the history of the Luangwa Valley, with a focus on elephants, climate change and nocturnal animals. At the centre, classes alternated between emphasizing local conservation challenges and more general lessons on wildlife ecology. At the end of the term, Chipembele awarded Student of the Year certificates and prizes for the junior and senior conservation clubs at each school involved with the centre, as well as certificates and prizes to 25 students as Chipembele Champions. Through incentives, encouragement, rewards, and friendly competition, the students who attended the Field-based Education Centre learned why conservation knowledge and action at the individual level is essential for the protection of the environment as a whole.

“Being a member of Conservation Club and coming to the Centre really helped me because we learnt a lot that we didn’t learn at school, like about forests, climate change and savannahs. At the Centre, we had practical exercises and we would see real life examples of what we were learning about as well as photographs and videos, which made the subjects come to life.”

Kings Chimungu, Conservation Club member from Grade 6 - 12, is now studying Animal Science at the Natural Resources Development College in Lusaka, Zambia.
Lower Zambezi: AERIAL CONSERVATION

In remote and often inaccessible national parks such as the Lower Zambezi, having ‘eyes in the skies’ is a vital component to effective and holistic anti-poaching.

Last year, Conservation Lower Zambezi (CLZ), a non-profit that assists in protecting the wildlife and habitats of the Lower Zambezi, spotted 60% of all elephant carcasses in the park and surrounding buffer zones from their Cessna 172, which allowed them to mobilize ground teams to assess and patrol these specific areas. Additionally, poacher camps, drying racks and other illegal activities are more easily identifiable from the air. In October 2016, the Time + Tide Foundation contributed to the refurbishment of the plane’s engine, which should last 8-10 years and allow CLZ approximately 2,000 hours of aerial surveillance. This surveillance also helps CLZ to determine if and how poaching patterns are changing, which they can then compare with other conservation areas in Africa.
Currently, Sibemi Community School has one full-time teacher and one volunteer teacher to oversee grades 1 – 6. Next year they would like to incorporate a grade 7 class, sparing students the 2 hour walk to the closest school with grade 7 facilities. Gerald Namuchana, the Sibemi resident who is studying at Solwezi College to become the first qualified head teacher at Sibemi, will work with the current teachers over his term break in December and January on incorporating the grade 7 curriculum. He will also act as the liaison between Sibemi School and the local Ministry of Education office to ensure that the school is properly equipped with 2017 lesson plans and exam materials.

With support from the Time + Tide Foundation and Norman Carr Safaris, in November the Sibemi Community School Parent Teacher Association (PTA) was able to construct two teachers’ houses in anticipation of expanding the school in 2017.