New Strategic Direction: FY19-21

In October 2018, the senior Time + Tide Foundation team underwent a strategic planning workshop to refine our vision and identify the impacts we would like to achieve over the next three years.

With guidance from the Foundation Council, we decided our strengths as a team are best suited to offering academic and social support to vulnerable children, prioritizing girls and disabled children across all four sites. Please visit the Mission and Vision pages on our website to learn more about our FY19-21 trajectory.

On the 22nd of November, we held our first fundraising event in Sydney, Australia, generously hosted by Council Member Mark Carnegie. In accordance with our strategic plan, our objective was to raise sufficient funds to expand our home-based education programme to Liuwa, the Lower Zambezi and Nosy Ankao. Throughout the evening, we presented the programme’s impacts, shared personal stories from children and parents in the South Luangwa and showcased the breathtaking beauty of the protected areas in which we work. Thank you to the donors, attendees and members of the extended Time + Tide family who made this event a resounding success. We will now be able to officially launch the programme expansion in early 2019, offering consistent support to handicapped children in our nine focal communities.
Remarkably, two days later, twin lemurs were born to the other translocated female. Now that they are just over two months old, the lemur pups are exploring in close proximity to their mothers and are easily visible to our environmental team and guest at Time + Tide Miavana. While infant lemurs are vulnerable for the first year of their lives, we are cautiously optimistic that the three babies will thrive on the island, where they are safe from predators and now have plenty of food in the rainy season. We look forward to welcoming back the Madagascar Biodiversity Partnership in early 2019 to re-collar the adult lemurs and collect data on the three infants.
Over her ten day visit, Ann’s objective was to collect sponge specimens and process them in order to determine if any sponge species are commercially viable as bath sponges. In Zanzibar and Micronesia, farming sea sponges to be used as natural bath sponges has become an alternative livelihood industry that takes pressure off local fishing. Natural bath sponges are in high demand internationally as they are renewable natural resources and an eco-alternative to synthetic sponges or loofahs. In the process of harvesting live sponges, divers ensure that the bases of the sponges remain intact so the sponges can re-grow to their original forms. We will continue to experiment with the collected sponges to see if we can find an ideal species for sponge farming.

In mid-December, we invited sponge researcher Ann-Kristin Becker to evaluate the species of sponge that live on the coral reefs around Nosy Ankao and in the protected marine zone.
By FY21, we want to see 70% of the disabled children who have been involved in the programme for three consecutive years enter into formal primary schools. We know we are on track to achieve this impact since 50% of the children in our 2016 intake and 25% of our 2017 intake are already enrolled in primary school. This past quarter we re-surveyed the neighbours of handicapped children in the Kakumbi Chiefdom and saw a remarkable indirect impact of the programme: in 2017, 88% of neighbours said they tried to avoid the disabled children next door and 22% said they were afraid of these children. In just over a year, we saw these percentages drop substantially with now only 6% of neighbours reporting avoidance tactics and 4% expressing fear. The programme does not tackle widespread community education, but neighbours observe the weekly visits from the volunteer caregivers and see the children more frequently than they did in the past, which in turn has lessened their feelings of discomfort.

The primary objective of the home-based education programme is to prove to parents and members of the community that handicapped children are worth their investment.

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**South Luangwa:**

**HOME-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMME**

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**PERCENTAGE OF CHILDREN IN THE HOME-BASED EDUCATION PROGRAMME ATTENDING FORMAL PRIMARY SCHOOL**

- **2016 Intake:** 50%
- **2017 Intake:** 25%
- **2018 Intake:** 19%
- **2021 GOAL:** 70%

**NEIGHBOURS’ PERCEPTIONS TO CHILDREN IN THE PROGRAMME**

- **2017**
  - Sympathy: 100%
  - Desire to help: 100%
  - Avoidance: 100%
  - Fear: 100%

- **2018**
  - Sympathy: 90%
  - Desire to help: 80%
  - Avoidance: 15%
  - Fear: 10%
Specifically, we were interested in measuring the ecological knowledge of students in the club against a control group of students who were not involved in conservation activities. We found that 100% of conservation club students at Mugurumeno were able to define conservation compared to only 60% of their non-conservation club peers; 90% of conservation students were able to give an example of a carnivore compared to 35% of control students; and 80% were able to define tourism, while only 65% of control students could explain the term. In 2019, we plan to expand our involvement with Mugurumeno Primary School by basing a full-time Programme Officer in the village to lead four initiatives: female empowerment for primary school girls, a sponsorship programme for secondary school students, the home-based education programme for disabled children, and environmental education with CLZ.
Inonge Liboma, our new Home-based Education Manager, led what we call the ‘child find process’ in Liuwa, identifying 65 disabled children between the two villages, with one of the most common disabilities being epilepsy. She learned that in Liuwa there is a strong reliance on traditional healers to intervene with disabled children so many of the parents said their children are already being treated. The methods of traditional healers are secretive in nature and Inonge wasn’t able to find out exactly what kind of ‘treatment’ they had received. We will recruit and train volunteer caregivers in Liuwa starting in April 2019, replicating the home-based education model in the South Luangwa.

In December, we began our home-based education programme in Munde and Sibemi Villages by identifying handicapped children and recording their ages, disabilities and previous interventions.