

Community Education and Upliftment

INTRODUCTION

The objective of the community education & upliftment project is to work closely with the local communities within the various regions of our conservation areas. The aim is to set basic conservation targets and goals to be achieved within the communities.

Once these modest targets are achieved, the community will be rewarded with essential necessities which they require. Our aim is to make the community feel worthy and appreciative by achieving their goals.

The idea being rather than gift something to the communities they earn and hence appreciate the donation given to them.

For instance, we currently have a project running with various village elders who are influential to prevent poaching. If their respective village have no poaching incidences throughout the calendar year, we sponsor uniforms, boots and footballs for their village soccer team.



Locally sponsored soccer team

IMPLEMENTATION

Our aim is to involve the influential people in the community to encourage and motivate their respective villagers to take part in the projects. All too often in the past donor organizations in other areas donated to the local communities and these handouts become an expectation with no obligation on the communities behalf. Our goal is to gradually change this mindset.

Our technicians to hold regular discussions with the local communities on the various criteria to be met:

- 1) Only practice cold burning (May-July) no wild fires set from August onwards.
- 2) Adequate fire breaks around respective houses, bee hives and crop fields.
- 3) No deforestation outside of designated areas.
- 4) Ensure that all crop fields are registered and used for several years before cutting new fields.
- 5) Any poachers apprehended from the respective villages will be automatic disqualification for any benefits for the year.



Distribution of meat to local communities



Donation of Sports equipment & stationery

Once other villages saw the benefits that the initial village was receiving by meeting these basic criteria they very quickly bought into this program and it's proved incredibly successful so



Construction of bridges for communities to

BENEFITS

Some of the various benefits that have been provided to the local communities to date are:

- 1) Construction of 2 schools (one primary & one secondary)
- 2) Desks & chairs provided to other pre-existing schools
- 3) Construction of a basic clinic for villages that don't have access to clinics in the major hubs
- 4) Several grinding mills donated to help local villagers process their corn.
- 5) Provision of boreholes for villagers without access to clean drinking water.
- 6) Sponsoring of the local village soccer teams
- 7) Donations of stationery & sporting equipment to local schools.
- 8) Construction of bridges allowing communities to transport their produce to market.

As an added incentive 20% of all taxes paid in conservation areas throughout Mozambique are to be paid directly to the various communities. In the past these funds sadly never reached grass root levels so the communities had little or no incentive to respect wildlife and the environment.

We have an agreement with local government and communities that the 20% of the taxes for local communities can be paid directly by into the respective community's private accounts which we have setup for them.

We are signatories on the account, and control and advise where the funds are spent within the communities to ensure there is no misappropriation of funds.

This have revolutionized the local community's outlook on the natural resources within our areas of operation.



Donation of stationery to local schools



Provision of desks for the school



Grinding Mills for processing of



Provision of boreholes for clean