



**WILDERNESS COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
NEWSLETTER**

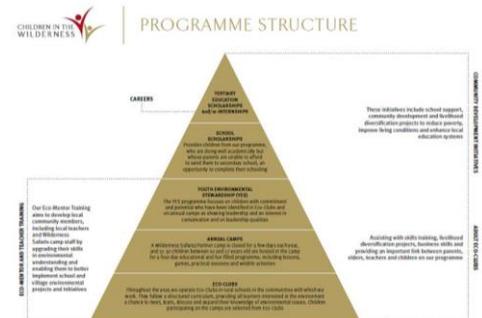
THIRD QUARTER 2017



INTRODUCTION

Our third quarter started with a bang as the Tour de Wilderness Team and Children in the Wilderness finalised plans for the annual Nedbank Tour de Tuli. This year's Tour was a huge success, and saw 255 cyclists ride a total of 248km over four days.

An element of our programme structure, is our **Adult Eco-Clubs**. These clubs focus on assisting community members with skills training, livelihood diversification projects and business skills. They also provide an important link between parents, elders, teachers and children on our programme. This quarter saw Adult Eco-Club Training taking place in the Zambezi Region, where women's groups were trained in sewing projects and small business skills. Click on the image to see the [Children in the Wilderness Programme Structure](#).



A few of our sponsors – Mother Bear, Pack for a Purpose and The Rosemary Pencil Foundation had a busy quarter, too, visiting our Regions. The quarter finished off with annual camps, Eco-Mentor training, a march for elephants and rhinos and our students graduating from the Southern African Wildlife College.



Thank you to all our donors, staff, partners and volunteers who ensure that our programme continues to grow, reaching more children, more often and more positively. A special thank you to all the cyclists and volunteers who pledged extra donations to Children in the Wilderness on the last night of the Nedbank Tour de Tuli: we sincerely appreciate it and thank you for helping us make a difference!

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COUNTRY NEWS

BOTSWANA

Eco-Mentor and Teacher Training

Children in the Wilderness (CITW) Botswana hosted 18 teachers from the nine CITW schools, for Eco-Mentor training in August. Our Eco-Mentor training aims to develop local community members, teachers, volunteers and Wilderness Safaris camp staff by upgrading their skills in environmental understanding and awareness. The training empowers and educates staff and community members, creating more environmental ambassadors and increasing mentor's opportunities to get involved in their communities. Eco-Mentor training also assists in addressing the critical teaching skills shortage in environmental education in Southern Africa.

Our Eco-Mentors volunteer their time in order to work with the children. They are important role models in their communities and are vital in the running of the various elements of our CITW Programme structure. Training included Eco-Mentors from each school reporting back on the different projects which their Eco-Clubs are running. This included projects from vegetable production and tree planting, to elephant awareness campaigns.

Mr. Ben Zuze, a CITW Botswana Board Member, facilitated a session on the National Environmental Education Strategy and Action Plan (NEESAP) and School Environmental Policy (SEP). He guided the Eco-Mentors about ways in which they could implement these policies in their schools and Eco-Clubs. Brooks Kamanakao, a Wilderness Safaris guide, presented lessons on birds and botany, giving the Eco-Mentors content and ideas to share with their Eco-Clubs. Mary Hastag talked to the Eco-Mentors about the Youth Environmental Stewardship (YES) Programme, which CITW Botswana will be implementing next year in all the schools in which it is active. Finally, an activity plan for 2018 was put together, which will help guide Eco-Mentors in its various activities in 2018.



Mother Bear brings bears and smiles to our schools across Botswana



[Mother Bear](#) recently visited Botswana, and went to many of the CITW schools. We just loved Amy Berman's, founder of the Mother Bear Project, report so much, we had to share what she wrote:

"This past week, I returned home from an incredible journey to Africa where together with Mary and Kelly from CITW and my husband Richy, we distributed and photographed over 2,000 bears with their new forever friends. We traveled to many pre-schools and primary schools in remote villages down bumpy roads, sometimes passing elephants along the way much to our delight.

What a joy it was to see how much the kids love their Mother Bears! They were so excited to hear that they could take them home and sleep with their bears, sing to their bears, and play with them—and that if they loved their bears, their bears would love them back!"

Thank you Amy Berman and all of the knitters who contribute to touching the lives of our CITW children.



'Flying high for kids' visits Maun

CITW Botswana was proud to welcome [Flying High for Kids'](#) Andrew Parker to Botswana. Andrew has been travelling through Africa by hot air balloon with the aim of inspiring children "to follow their dreams". Andrew arrived in Maun to 1 100 children at Xabara School. Children from Xabara and Shashe Primary Schools in Maun, who had the chance to take a short flight in Andrew's hot air balloon. Andrew has travelled a good 65 000km from New Zealand and says his own dream of flying a hot air balloon first came to light when he was six years old.

Before Andrew arrived in Maun and met with local school children, he had an interesting adventure through Zimbabwe. Here's what Andrew had to say about his trip from Zimbabwe to Botswana: "The 750km trip from Zimbabwe to Botswana was an interesting one. [I] only just managed to get to Maun with almost no brakes, a leaking radiator, plus a whole list of other problems. Being no stranger to mechanics, it was straight to a workshop when I arrived. The truck's had a hard time travelling through Africa, and has served me well I must say, so I can't complain too much. The good thing was the scenery was very nice."



Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) 35th Annual Conference

Maun hosted the annual Environmental Education Association of Southern Africa (EEASA) conference. The theme of the conference was 'Enhancing quality education through environment and sustainability in southern Africa'. EEASA's members are teachers, conservationists, community and development workers, and its mission is to:

- Provide opportunities for the exchange of ideas and opinions, inter-alia by means of the publication of journal, bulleting newsletters and occasional monographs;
- Promote interdisciplinary as well as multi-disciplinary Environmental Education.

The conference focused on relevant environmental degradation solutions that could help enhance the quality of our formal and informal education practices. Education practices should be able to produce capable learners who are able to contribute effectively in quality decision making, and implement strategies for achieving the goals for sustainable development. Some of the issues that integrate with the sustainable development goals were as follows: Climate change, poverty, low food security, biodiversity loss and water scarcity, population growth, energy shortage, greening the economy, political instability and social inequality. It was a wonderful opportunity for CITW to participate in the conference, and to see that our programme is on track in terms of the important environmental issues which we cover in our lessons.

CITW Joins Elephant and Rhino Conservation March in Gaborone

To ensure that our CITW children and future conservation leaders take part in promoting the greater protection of Africa's elephant and rhino, nine CITW Eco-Club Members and three Eco-Mentors from Shashe, Tubu and Beetsha Primary Schools participated in the Global March for Elephants and Rhinos ([GMFER](#)) on Saturday 7 October.

The international GMFER platform continues to grow in popularity, with 130 cities having marched in 2016 with one voice to demand an end to the trade in ivory, rhino horn and lion bone. The theme for this year's march was Justice for All and Justice for Earth. The goal was to raise awareness, generate global media attention on the crisis, and keep political pressure on world leaders to protect our endangered wildlife.

This noble cause to change this global crisis is a matter of urgency that is also close to home for Botswana, as well as to the hearts of all at CITW, as the organisation aims to facilitate sustainable conservation through leadership development. Our Eco-Club Members from Shashe, Tubu and Beetsha Primary Schools developed placards with messages on elephants, rhinos, pangolins and lions for the march – a testament to their advocacy against the plight of the planet's animals.

According to Mary Hastag, CITW Botswana Programme Coordinator, "We took part in this important march to help our Eco-Club participants gain important insights and knowledge about the plight of our wildlife and natural heritage which is a key part of our Eco-Club programme. We are fortunate in Botswana to see the Government take such a hard line against poaching and investing to protect our animals. There is so much more to be done to conserve our natural heritage and support of this mission is critical for the country and indeed the region. If we are to ensure that our pristine wilderness and wildlife areas continue to exist – in this generation and those to come – we need the children of Africa to understand the importance of conservation and its relevance in their lives", concluded Hastag.



The CITW Team with Grant Woodrow (Wilderness Safaris COO), Gordon Gilbert (Soccer in the Wilderness ambassador) and Kai Collins (Wilderness Safaris Group Conservation Manager)

The march was well-attended, and Thea Khama (who sits on the CITW Botswana Board) was given the opportunity to address the participants about the walk. She encouraged participants to reflect back and start to appreciate our natural resources. Thea encouraged the participants to be the voice of our animals, as they are not able to speak for themselves.

Santawani Annual Camp

The annual Eco-Club Camp at Santawani Camp was a great success, with two camps being run back-to-back and a total of 56 children hosted between the two camps. It was a wonderful experience for the children to have had a presentation by The Wild Dog Research Group, who showed the children how they track and monitor the wild dog. The second group of campers were also visited by The Natural Habitat Group, who conduct their research from Gomoti Camp.

The camp lessons focused on learning about the Delta and its importance to Botswana's ecosystem and tourist trade. Lessons on mammals and birds, and game drives to complement them, were well-received by all of the children. Life skills lessons and team work activities are also always a highlight of our camps.



Eco-Clubs have a busy quarter

Eco-Clubs in our schools have had a busy quarter. CITW Botswana encouraged each Eco-Club to build an 'eco-bench'. This was a competition, and the winning schools were the schools that participated in the march in Gaborone. These eco-benches are made out of eco-bricks – plastic bottles stuffed with recyclable materials. The eco-bricks are placed together and plastered with natural materials.

Habu Primary School have been collecting rubbish from around their school, and have reused and recycled it to make crafts such as flowers, mats and bracelets.



GREATER MAPUNGUBWE TRANSFRONTIER NATIONAL PARK (GMTFCA)

Nedbank Tour de Tuli 2017 – Raising funds for CITW

Tour de Wilderness, the organiser of the annual Nedbank Tour de Tuli multi-stage mountain bike event, is proud to celebrate the success of its 13th Tour and 10th year of riding through the Greater Transfrontier Conservation Areas (TFCAs) of Botswana, Zimbabwe and South Africa. This year saw 255 cyclists ride a total of 248 km along challenging terrain in the three countries between 27 July and 1 August, all in aid of CITW.

The Nedbank Tour de Tuli is the main fundraiser for CITW, and all funds raised by the tour are channelled directly into our programme. This has allowed us to host over 5 600 children on our camp programme since 2001 and over 11 000 children on our Eco-Club programme since 2012.

“Cyclists from around the world joined us to take part in this remarkable event that once again saw a mix of seasoned riders and first-time participants taking part. We are privileged to be able to enjoy riding in these pristine wildlife areas, and to do so while raising funds for CITW. We are extremely proud that our efforts ultimately translate into making such an important difference to environmental education in our rural communities”, said Tour Director, Nicola Harris.

Honourable Tshekedi Khama, Botswana’s Minister of Environment, Wildlife and Tourism, set the excitement for the days to follow with a memorable address on the first night at Limpopo Valley Airfield. Along the route, highlights included breaks at beautiful viewpoints such as Cecil John Rhodes’ Baobab and Solomon’s Wall. The tea and brunch stops, set up at surprise locations along the route, are always much appreciated; while on the final day the highlight was undoubtedly viewing 200-year-old fossils on display at the Bristow’s House, discovered in the nearby vicinity.

It was a thrill for participants to be able to meet the local school children supported by CITW at Lentswe-le-Moriti school in Botswana and at Shashe Primary School in Zimbabwe. The children, all bearing their country’s flag, expressed great delight at meeting the cyclists and each received a backpack with stationery. The children enjoyed being taken on a few short rides by some of the dusty, friendly Tour participants.

Nicola Harris said “The spirit of the 2017 Tour was, as always, remarkable. We cannot thank our sponsors and participants enough for their generosity; together we really can continue to play a meaningful role in developing Africa’s next generation of environmental leaders.” Watch the 2017 Nedbank Tour de Tuli video [here](#).

Mompati Tlhankane, writer for Mmegi Newspaper in Botswana, writes about the Nedbank Tour de Tuli. Read the full story [here](#). “Two local youngsters [from Botswana] were among the participants in this year’s tour. In an interview with Mmegi, 21-year-old Bakang Ebudilwe said she received a sponsorship through the help of the Ministry of Environment, Natural Resources Conservation and Tourism. She said as a cyclist who started cycling at the African Youth Games in 2014, she takes part in various competitions and tours. “It was nice riding with the slow riders, stopping and taking pictures of animals; it was great,” she said.”



New SA & GMTFCA Programme Coordinator Bokang Shopane visits schools and communities

Bokang Shopane, CITW’s South African and GMTFCA Programme Coordinator, joined us in July this year. Bokang filled this position when Janet Wilkinson became CITW Regional Programme Manager.

Janet has taken Bokang to the communities with which he’ll be working as a Programme Coordinator where he met teachers, community members, children and other stakeholders in the Tuli Region. Mary Hastag, CITW Coordinator in Botswana joined in too!



Eco-Mentor Training in Tuli

Bokang Shopane and Lisa Witherden (CITW Environmental Education Resource Developer), together with Calvenia Makgosa (CITW Eco-Club Coordinator – Tuli, Botswana) and Portia Phokela (Modikwa Primary School Eco-Club Coordinator, South Africa) ran Eco-Mentor trainings in the Tuli area in the GMTFCA.

Eco-Mentor Training took place in the three villages in the Tuli area with which CITW works – Mathathane, Mothlabaneng and Lentswe-le-Moriti Villages. The invitation for this Eco-Training was open to the community. The CITW team was thrilled to have not only teachers who run the Eco-Clubs in each of these village’s schools attend the training, but also other important stakeholders from each village. From the Chief, to a Village Community Development member, to representatives from the Parent-Teacher Association, the trainings were well-attended, and the outcome exceptionally positive.

Training focused on how our programme works and how the community can get involved in our programme through environmental projects. We showed the communities how CITW works in the Eco-Clubs in their schools, by conducting lessons from our Eco-Club Resource Book. The participation from each community was incredible. Our lessons on Respect and Climate Change in particular were a huge success, and trainees got stuck into the debates and learning involved in these activities.



Happy trainees from Lentswe-le-Moriti, Mothlabaneng and Mathathane

NAMIBIA

Pack for a Purpose and make a big impact

Recent Wilderness Safaris guests at Serra Cafema Namibia, generously donated to the local community schools. Guests, Laszlo and Rozalia, together with their guide Liffius, as well as Fanus, Future, and Harry (who is the Marienfluss Conservancy Manager), dropped off the donation at the Otjinungua Mobile School in Marienfluss.

Through our partnership with Pack for a Purpose, guests travelling to Wilderness Safaris camps throughout their areas of operation are encouraged to bring a package of school or other supplies for the surrounding communities with which CITW work. Find out how these small donations make a big impact on these vulnerable children's lives – [read more here](#).



Beyond the Desert

We are honoured to be the beneficiary of Mountain Bike Routes SA and Beyond the Desert Edge's epic fundraising mountain bike ride through north-western Namibia. Jacques Marais describes this adventure as "a human-powered expedition from the Angola border – via the Skeleton Coast, Hartmansns Valley and the Namibian hinterland – all the way to Walvis Bay".

Supported by Wilderness Safaris Namibia, CITW Ambassadors and Nedbank Tour de Tuli stalwarts, Peter Van Kets – Inspired for Life and Jacques Marais, are raising awareness and funds for CITW as well as focusing on sustainable solutions for conservation of wilderness areas. Follow their incredible journey on Facebook [here](#).



Photos© by Jacques Marais and Peter van Kets

MALAWI

CITW Malawi partners with Pack for a Purpose

CITW Malawi and Central African Wilderness Safaris (CAWS) recently partnered with [Pack for a Purpose](#) to help travellers make a meaningful contribution to the CITW projects in Malawi. Mvuu Camp and Lodge, Chitheche Inn and Chelinda Camp and Lodge have been listed as participating accommodations in Malawi on the Pack for Purpose website.

Pack for a Purpose is an initiative that allows travelers to make a lasting impact to the communities in countries to which one travels. If you save just a few kilos of space in your suitcase and take supplies for the projects we support, you'll make a priceless impact in the lives of our local children and families. [Click here](#) to see the supplies you can bring in your luggage to help CITW Malawi projects.



Gillian Rose celebrates an eleven year partnership with Children in the Wilderness Malawi



Gillian Rose, Founder and President of the [Rosemary Pencil Foundation](#), and a long-standing supporter of CITW Malawi, recently concluded her annual visit to Malawi. Gillian's steadfast belief that all children have the right to an education inspired her to found the Rosemary Pencil Foundation in 2005, and she has been working tirelessly alongside CITW

to improve the educational prospects and make a meaningful difference in the lives of underprivileged children across southern Africa ever since.

Flying High into Malawi

[Flying High for Kids](#) Andre Parker flew through Malawi, stopping at Nanthomba Primary School near Liwonde National Park. Over 300 children and 100 adults gathered to watch the hot air balloon land in the school grounds. The aim of this incredible project, of which CITW has been lucky to be exposed to, is to raise funds for UNICEF projects. It aims to draw attention to the plight of children in developing countries, particularly those in need to help them realise their rights to health, education and freedom, and the importance of following their dreams.

Eco-Club and YES Club members keep their trees going

Both Eco-Club and YES Club members were busy working at Chintheche Root to Fruit and Nanthomba CITW tree nursery centers.

Master Banda, the Root to Fruit manager and forestry expert, has committed himself to making sure that children and youth get the ethics of reforestation and put them into practice.

He is combining the theories and practical work when teaching the Eco-Club and YES Club members.



Eco-Mentor training with Design Squad Global

CITW Malawi learnt about the Design Squad Global ([DSG](#)) through Gillian Rose (founder of the Rosemary Pencil Foundation USA). CITW Eco-Mentors and teachers have been involved in training of with DSG in order to apply the knowledge they've learnt to CITW activities. The teachers participated in a two day training at Chintheche Inn, and training was facilitated by Vicky Frantz, the representative of DSG in Malawi. At the end of the training, the teachers had gained understanding and technical knowledge about:

- The Design Process which included: Identifying problems; brainstorming a possible solution, developing a design/plan; developing a solution/tool; testing the solution/tool; sharing the solution/tool; then, if possible, considering re-designing and repeating the process in order to get achieve/develop the best solution/tool.
- Guiding children through this process
- Relating the innovation and design skills to problem solving and being a productive citizen in one's community.



CITW Annual Camp at Chelinda, Malawi

Twenty Eco-Club members from Chelinda and Thazima Primary Schools in the Rumph District in Malawi, attended the Annual CITW Camp at Chelinda.

The general theme for the camp was “We will manage a poacher-free generation”, and included lessons on natural resources and wildlife, waste management and recycling, planning for my future, and general sports activities. A few highlights from camp:

- Making earrings out of bottle tops and reused fabrics;
- Lessons focused on conservation of wildlife and natural resources, like skills, leadership development, health and nutrition, and included sports activities;
- The 'planning for my future' session, where mentors involved in wildlife management, teaching, medical fraternity and tourism and guiding each had a station. The children rotated and had the chance to chat with the professionals.

On the final day of the camp, a special activity called 'My pledge to our Earth' was organised, where every camper was called to share what they learnt and will take away from the camp and how they will implement those lessons and teachings in their daily lives and communities.



Open Day in Chintheche

The annual CITW Open Day in Malawi, gave CITW learners the chance to exhibit the programme's activities, successes and challenges, and provided a platform for the voice of our learners. Eco-Club and YES Club members from Chihame, Bandawe and Liwonde, accompanied by Eco-Mentors joined together for two days in Chintheche, and interacted with the Chifira community.

Each Eco-Club and YES Club was given the chance to showcase their Club's projects. Members of the YES Clubs went into the communities to talk to volunteers about what they do in their CITW programme, and to interview the community members on their knowledge and understanding of environmental issues.

Guest speakers addressed the gathering – from the District Agricultural Development Officer, District Environmental Officer, Central African Wilderness Safaris (CAWS) General Manager of Chintheche Inn and an honourable guest from the Traditional Authority. They spoke about the importance of projects like CITW, and how we should work together to bring about change and protect our environment.

On the whole, the Open Day was a huge success, and gave our CITW participants the chance to share their knowledge and expertise. Community members were exposed to how we work, and important stakeholders pledged their support of our programme.



SOUTH AFRICA

The Great Wilderness Knit-Off in Celebration of Nelson Mandela Day

In celebration of Nelson Mandela Day, Bongani Baloyi (CITW Regional Programme Coordinator and Wilderness Safaris Culture Coordinator) drove a knitting project in the Johannesburg Wilderness Safaris offices.

Nelson Mandela Day is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on 18 July, Mandela's birthday.

By devoting 67 minutes of their time – one minute for every year of Mr Mandela's public service – people can make a small gesture of solidarity with humanity and a step towards a global movement for good. The office was encouraged to pick up a ball or two of wool and a pair of needles from Bongani, and had a good month to set to work on knitting scarves for the children at a day care centre in Alexandra Township.

On the 18th July, the Wilderness Safaris Lounge was buzzing with budding knitters. A few experienced knitters helped the novices cast their wool onto their needles (or, as was heard in said lounge "put the string on the sticks"). The idea was to celebrate together on Mandela Day, and it was wonderful to have a constant flow of knitters throughout the day. We even had a few gentlemen join in who took the task very seriously.



In the end, 115 scarves were knitted – an incredible show of kindness, generosity and love by all those involved. On the 19th July, Bongani Baloyi, Bokang Shopane (CITW), Christina Schaddach (Wilderness Safaris) and Lisa Witherden (CITW) visited Ntataise Day Care Centre and Mafube A Hosasa Orphanage Home in Alexandra to hand over the boxes of scarves. Patricia runs both of these centres, and is making a real impact by caring for the children in her community. Patricia, her team and the children welcomed us through singing, and were overjoyed with the beautiful scarves. There was great excitement as the children called out all the different colours of the scarves as they came out of the boxes! Bongani said that "The children and their teachers loved the scarves – they did not want us to leave!"



REGIONAL

CITW students graduate from The Southern African Wildlife College

In 2016, CITW partnered with the Southern African Wildlife College (SAWC) to provide opportunities for CITW participants to build on their environmental education by attending a bridging course, entitled: "Youth Access Conservation and Environmental Education". This course exposes school-leavers to theory and practical application of environmental education and the life of a field ranger in a conservation area. Learners attend the SAWC for three months, following which they are work-placed with host conservation organisations in nature reserves for two months, for post-training experiential learning. This provides them with first-hand experience and a real understanding of a career in nature conservation.

This year, we had four students from each of our Regions (Botswana, Malawi, Namibia, Zambia and Zimbabwe) attend the bridging course. The students arrived at the college in Hoedspruit at the beginning of July to begin the theory component of their course. Janet Wilkinson (CITW Regional Programme Manager) and Lisa Witherden (CITW Environmental Education Resource Developer) from CITW Johannesburg attended the Learner Certification Ceremony which was held on the 27th September. They spent time with the students, chatting to them about their time at the college.

Kaone Samakata from Botswana on his favourite part of the course:
"What I liked the most was this course of leadership. I like leadership. And in my dream, I want to carry on leadership where I come from. That was my point of interest on this course." Kaone received the award for overall achiever in Environmental Education.

Tracey Snewe from Namibia talked to the CITW team about the first thing she'll do when she gets home: "The first thing that I will do once I arrive home is greet my friends, and tell them how life was this side, everything about SA. So I have experienced a lot and I've learnt a lot. I will share everything I've learnt here with them."

The Certification Ceremony started with a well-oiled parade from the students. Corporal Walker Makgoka led the 'passing out parade', with CITW student Abiollus Haneb leading his fellow students as the 'counter'. What an incredible job he did, keeping everyone in time and coordinated. Abiollus has wonderful leadership skills, as we saw in 2013 when he attended a CITW Camp in Namibia as an Eco-Mentor.



Following their parade, the students sang their way to ceremony. Janet Wilkinson spoke to the students about opportunity by reading them a story from Geoffrey Aupiti, fondly known as Uncle Bones, an inspirational and deeply loved Coordinator from Botswana, with the hugest personality who sadly passed away in 2014. The story is about using the opportunities that you have been given "for your life success". Janet encouraged the students to make the most of both their opportunity with SAWC, and to take home all that they have learnt to their communities – to pass on what they have learnt, and to use this experience to move them forward in life. Janet also thanked Theresa Sowry (SAWC CEO) and her incredible team at the Southern African Wildlife College for their influence in the lives of our students.

The students are currently completing their three month practical training in relevant conservation organisations. We look forward to monitoring their progress through this portion of the course, and are excited to see where this incredible opportunity takes them.

ZAMBIA

Henny's Kids donates soccer balls to Twabuka Primary School, Zambia

Thanks to Candyce Stapen of FamilyTrips and Henny's Kids the children of this Zambian village near Toka Leya Camp received a thrilling donation of soccer balls! You can see the children's happy faces on receiving their donation, by watching the video on our Facebook page [here](#).

Candyce's mother, Henny (Henrietta), was an elementary school teacher in the United States. She was completely dedicated to the value of education and its importance for young minds. In honour of her memory, Henny's Kids was formed with the intention of bringing education through collaborative learning to rural schools in Africa. Candyce is a travel journalist in the US and as such she has had the opportunity to visit Africa on many occasions.



CITW and Epiphany Schools partner for a week of learning

In order to prepare students for a rapidly changing environment and to meet our goal of sustainable conservation through leadership development, CITW Zambezi and Epiphany School of Global Studies in North Carolina partnered for a unique week of learning. The idea was for children from Twabuka Primary School in Sinda Village to interact with students from Epiphany (known as The Lazy Lizards), creating the chance for all children to gain experience and knowledge from different communities, cultures, traditions and walks of life.

During Epiphany School's visit in the Zambezi region, CITW Zambezi organised a number of activities that focused on tourism, environmental learning, and partnerships and teamwork in general. Some of the activities that took place included a computer lesson with grade sevens at Twabuka primary given by The Lazy Lizards; poems and traditional dances presented by Twabuka learners; donations of educational materials and soccer balls by the Lazy Lizards group; a visit to the rhinos in the Mosi-Oa-Tunya National Park; recycling activities with the local people and CITW; a talk with the doctor about malaria and the experiences of the early explorers and missionaries; canoeing and rafting on the Zambezi River; a visit to the Livingston Museum and a tour of Chobe Game Lodge.

The partnership between CITW and Epiphany School of Global studies enhanced the cultural, traditional, economic, skills and knowledge, as well as gave the children a chance to share their life experiences. CITW Zambezi hope to keep this partnership going to ensure that this cultural exchange continues to benefit both parties, and ultimately helps in achieving our aim of sustainable conservation through leadership development. Watch the video of this special experience on our Facebook page [here](#).



Cardinal Health visits CITW in Sinda Village

Cardinal Health is a global, integrated healthcare services and products company, providing customised solutions for hospitals, health systems, pharmacies, ambulatory surgery centers, clinical laboratories and physician offices worldwide. Earlier this year, Cardinal Health partnered with CITW Zambezi, to be support education and empowerment programmes in Zambian schools and communities based in Mumbwa and Livingstone. In September, 20 representatives from Cardinal Health visited Zambia, in order to give back to the community in the hopes of uplifting and empowering. Cardinal Health volunteers visited Livingstone's Twabuka Primary School based in Sinda Village.

They team painted two classrooms, and painted a beautiful big five mural on the outside of a classroom wall. 20 schools desks were repaired and ten indigenous trees were planted. After the donations of school books, stationery and clothes were handed over, the volunteers joined in dancing with the children and community. Watch the video on Cardinal Health's visit [here](#).



CITW Zambezi celebrates Arbour Day

In support and celebration of arbour Day, CITW Zambezi ran various programmes across Zambia. From planting trees, to identifying birds along environmental trails, poems and plays, children were given well-rounded lessons on why trees are vital to plant and protect. Over 60 trees were planted between seven schools.



ZIMBABWE

Melusi Ndlovu, a CITW scholarship student says ‘the world is not the same’ since he started his studies

Melusi, an orphan from Kapane Village in the Tsholotsho area of Matabeleland North, Zimbabwe, lives with his grandparents who are both subsistence farmers, joined the scholarship programme in 2008 while in primary school. He caught the attention of Ron Goatley, MD for Wilderness Safaris, Zambezi Region who was assisting his wife with a delivery of text books to CITW schools. Despite his size, Melusi was first in line to help with offloading the boxes of books and Ron immediately identified a worthy soul who needed support in order to guarantee him a brighter future. A pledge was made to provide funding for Melusi through his primary school education.

In his final year of primary schooling, Melusi met a dynamic, young American girl, Kristina Testa, who was with her parents on a Wilderness Safaris school and village trip. Kristina undertook to sponsor him through CITW. So began Melusi’s secondary education which he has just completed in June 2017 at the age of nineteen. As Melusi has a passion in agriculture and currently runs a small poultry project at home which helps to subsidise his family’s living expenses, CITW, with further assistance from Kristina have enrolled him at Sizinda Agricultural College. Melusi will be studying and broadening his knowledge in all aspects of agriculture, thus equipping him to fulfill his dream of becoming a farmer.

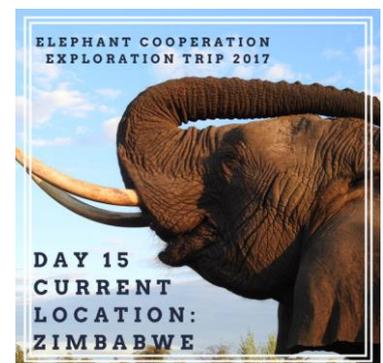
He started his training in agribusiness a month ago. CITW Zambezi Assistant Community Development Liaison and Assistant Programme Coordinator James Mwanza, made a visit to find out how he was doing. Says Melusi: “The world is not the same since I started my training. I will establish a business in gardening and poultry, and hope become one of leading supplies in Hwange’s Ttsholotsho District.”



Elephant Cooperation’ visits the village of Ngamo

[Elephant Cooperation](#) is a non-profit devoted to raising awareness of the African elephant crisis and supporting existing NGOs who embrace their cause. Elephant Cooperation recently spent some time in Zimbabwe, and took some time to learn all about CITW Zimbabwe. Here is their short report back on the day they spent Ngamo village:

“Today we went to the village to see the community projects from CITW. We were able to visit the Ngamo School and gave pencils to some children, what an experience seeing the things that can bring these children such joy. We then met the headman of this village and were able to talk frankly about the problems these communities face with human elephant conflict and the better interface they now have with wildlife due to the work from CITW. The human elephant conflict has been another big issue in the decline in elephant populations alongside poaching. Elephant-human conflict is a result of habitat loss and fragmentation. When elephants and humans interact, there is conflict from crop raiding, injuries and deaths to humans caused by elephants, and elephants being killed by humans for reasons other than ivory and habitat degradation.” Elephant Cooperation is on a mission to end any bad situation and find new ways to grow these conflicts into something positive for humans and wildlife.”



Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle – The 3 “Rs” of waste management put into practice in the Zambezi Region with aluminium pots

Tendai Mdluli reports from our Victoria Falls office, where Sue Goatley and the CITW Zambezi team is located: “Litter collection and recycling has been a major concern in our Zambezi Region Eco-Clubs.

The biggest theme is Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle, where the ladies from our surrounding communities have embarked on collecting aluminium cans which they recycle. These are melted down and poured into moulds to create the three legged cooking pots that are greatly valued in communities and go a long way in reducing waste, reusing material and recycling of metals.” You won’t believe the number of orders they’ve already had from staff and residents alike!



CITW Adult Eco Clubs – Empowering Women in the Zambezi Region

A recent series of workshops for members of CITW Adult Eco-Clubs saw over 130 ladies participate in a programme that aims to teach and empower women through skills and business awareness. The workshop was facilitated by Annie Johnson and Coleen Ryan, long-time supporters of CITW, from the EI-Hefni Foundation.

Four workshops were held in Zimbabwe at Jabulani, St Mary’s, Ziga and Ngamo, and one in Zambia at Twabuka School for the members of the Adult Eco-Clubs. All of the group participants learned new sewing and creative skills for projects which have potential to sell. Using various patterns, locally sourced materials, and either sewing by hand, or by machine, the ladies created aprons, skirts, napkins, placemats, ornaments and bags, to be sold as merchandise.

Although the workshops were held in different locations, a common thread soon emerged from the group discussions. It was clear that all of the groups needed to establish themselves as an organisation as this would allow them to set up a site for them to meet regularly and store their tools and materials. It would also pave the way for them to register as a formal group, and open up opportunities to receive funding from the government, exclusively allocated to women’s groups.

The ladies were also taught how to turn their sewing skills into a small business. From budgeting, to calculating costs and profits, they learnt how they could turn their newly learnt sewing skills into an income generating business. At the conclusion of each workshop there was a discussion about the actual cost of making each product and how much they might sell for. After the workshops, CITW bought some of their products, allowing the ladies the opportunity to have money to reinvest in their group’s future needs.

