

Chitungulu Foundation

community outreach - nature conservation



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General Annual Report 2021



In 2021 the foundation offered, for the third consecutive year, a free Conservation Training in Chitungulu for young adults who completed their secondary school education. The six weeks' training in nature conservation covers subjects like taxonomy and ecology related to the local environment, the role of various animals in the local ecosystems (mammals as well as insects and common reptiles), bird identification, biodiversity and organic farming methods. As from 2022, the topic of climate change will become an integral part of the training. The effects of climate change are manifested in Chitungulu as prolonged dry spells and extremely heavy rainfall causing soil erosion and destruction of crops. Climate change resilience is of crucial importance to the local residents who almost all depend on smallholder subsistence farming for their living. The best students in our annual Conservation Training are selected for a two years' vocational training at the Chikowa Youth Development Centre nearby the provincial capital. The 2021 students pictured above took the initiative to organize a field trip to the banks of the Luangwa river, which involved a challenging cycling trip through thick bush teeming with wildlife. The binoculars which the foundation received from BirdLife Netherlands in 2017 continue to be very valuable learning tools in this training.

Contents

1.	Chitungulu Foundation
2.	Activities 2021: Zambia / Chitungulu
3.	Activities 2021: Other
4.	Fundraising general
5.	Forecast 2022
6.	Financial report 2021

1. Chitungulu Foundation

The foundation was founded in Eindhoven, the Netherlands, on 8 June 2012 and is registered as a non-profit foundation with the Regional Chamber of Commerce under number 55480330.

The foundation supports socio-economic projects with the aim to improve the quality of life in and around Chitungulu, a village of approx. 16,000 inhabitants (over 2,450 households) situated in a remote part of the Luangwa Valley in eastern Zambia. The projects focus, in particular, on education/transfer of knowledge, food security, and small-scale income-generating activities that enable community members to earn an income. Given the unique location of Chitungulu, in a wildlife-species abundant area adjacent to Luambe National Park, the foundation pays special attention to nature conservation. Almost all the projects have been initiated by the local community, and meet criteria of capacity-building, as well as financial and ecological sustainability.

The Board

In the year under review, the Board consisted of the following members:

Name	Position	Elected till
A.C. Brugman, MA	chairperson	extended till 30 May 2024
F.C. Haver Droeze, MA	treasurer	till 1 May 2023
E.J. Jansonius, MA	secretary	till 1 May 2023

The board members work for the foundation on a voluntary basis and receive no remuneration.

The Board convened once on 9 July, and communicated throughout the covid-19 pandemic year on a regular basis by phone or email.

2. Activities 2021: Zambia/Chitungulu

Due to the covid-19 pandemic, which caused a severe second wave in Zambia's winter months June-August, no visit was paid to Zambia/Chitungulu for the second consecutive year. However, thanks to improved mobile telephone and internet reception in and around Chitungulu, a number of projects could be continued as listed hereunder.

Education Chocha and Chilubezi Primary Schools	1. The foundation provided school lunches to Chilubezi Community School until the school became eligible for the provision of school lunches by the Zambian ministry of education following its promotion to government school status.
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	2. In 2021 the sponsorship program for Teacher Training for community school teachers was terminated after the last two students wrote their exams in April 2021. Since the program took off in 2014, a total number of six community school teachers have been sponsored by the foundation.
Education Sponsorships of secondary school pupils	In 2021 the foundation sponsored 24 pupils: ten girls and fourteen boys. Two boys and one girl under this sponsorship program graduated in December 2021.
Education Vocational Training	<i>Chikowa Youth Development Centre (Mambwe)</i> Sponsorship of six students taking courses in automotive mechanics, general agriculture, food production/ catering. <i>Rockview University (Lusaka)</i> Sponsorship of one student clinical medical sciences <i>University of Zambia (Lusaka)</i> Sponsorship of one student civil engineering
Economic activities Crafts Shop	A small renovation of the shop's roof took place in 2021. As Chitungulu was hardly visited by tourists during the pandemic, people were not able to earn an income from the sale of souvenirs.
Economic activities/food security Organic vegetable gardening	Seven gardeners in the neighborhoods of Chocha and Nthumbe were provided with vegetable seeds.
Economic activities/food security Four Sisters farming method	In 2021, there were abundant harvests for at least 50 families in Chitungulu thanks to good rains and the experiment with the Four Sisters companion planting method for maize, beans, pumpkins and sunflowers, the seeds of which were provided by the foundation in December 2020. The sunflower seeds were sold in 2021 at good prices to merchants from Lundazi.
Nature conservation Conservation Training	Ten graduated secondary school students participated in this year's Conservation Training. By the end of the training, six students were selected for a vocational training course at Chikowa Youth Development Centre, starting 2022.
Nature conservation Tree planting	Local assistants of the Conservation Training raised several hundreds of tree saplings, including <i>Moringa oleifera</i> , which were planted in December 2021.
Social projects Assistance to people with albinism	The two albino sisters in Chitungulu have been included in the annual distribution list of sunscreen provided by the African Albinism Foundation.

The following projects have been suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic:

Education Teaching materials	The iSchool tablets program will be evaluated in 2022. The sponsor of this project agreed to the reallocation of funds granted in 2019 and 2020 to fund the vocational training sponsorships in 2021. A total number of 20 tablets have been supplied in 2017-2019: 14 for Chilubezi and 6 for Chocha.
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Economic activities Organic vegetable gardening	Extension of the project in 2022 with new inputs: vermi-compost units and open-pollinated vegetable seeds for local seed banks.
Economic activities Beekeeping	The project has been rolled out in 2018 with the provision of 70 top bar beehives for 23 families. Extension of the project in 2022 will consist of the construction of a Honey House to house a honey press and to enable beekeepers to register and bottle their honey to meet sales requirements.
Food security Pulses garden	A pulses garden (drought-resistant chick peas and mung beans) will be set up in 2022, to be run by a women's group.
Social projects Solar Lights for Chitungulu	Depending on the fundraising, the foundation aims to continue this project in order to provide durable solar lights to the community at subsidized prices.

A report of the activities in Chitungulu has been published as Newsletter 2021 on the foundation's website.

3. Activities in 2021: Other

Due to the uncertain conditions resulting from the covid-19 pandemic, fundraising activities have been scaled down for a number of projects in the year under review. Funds that were received since the last quarter of 2019 and which could not be spent in Zambia as a result of the pandemic have been set aside for 2022, in consultation with the sponsors. This goes especially for the organic gardening project and the pulses garden.

In the second half of 2021 funds were raised for the sponsorships of vocational training and university diploma students. There were no presentations in the year under review.

4. Fundraising general

In the year under review, the foundation has raised funds among private sponsors and several Dutch foundations targeting sustainable development in Africa. Since 2012, the foundation has been supported by a loyal core of private sponsors from the Netherlands, as well as friends from Germany, Switzerland, Belgium and Zambia.

5. Forecast 2022 (subject to Covid-19 pandemic constraints)

For 2022, the foundation aims to extend the **Beekeeping** project. Depending on the fundraising, the goal is to increase the number of top-bar beehives from 70 to 100. The construction of a Honey House in 2022 will enable the beekeepers to register and bottle their honey in conformity with health safety standards. The **organic vegetable gardening** project will be scaled up and further professionalized by means of local production of vermi-compost in order to enrich the soils in a sustainable and efficient manner, as well as the provision of open-pollinated seeds to set up local seed banks that lessen the gardeners' dependence on expensive, hybrid F1 seeds. In January 2022, three new students will start their two years' training in general agriculture at the Chikowa Youth Development Centre (CYDC), and in December 2022 the first three students of the 2021 intake are expected to graduate in the same training. The students General Agriculture are also being trained in

horticulture (the vegetable gardens at CYDC deliver produce to supermarkets in town). When funds allow, the foundation hopes to assist students who completed their training in agriculture in setting up their own organic vegetable gardens. A **pulses garden** to be set up in the very poor neighborhood of Nthumbe will be run by a women's group. A workshop is planned to sensitize the women on the health benefits of regular consumption of pulses, and recipes will be shared for snacks to be sold locally. Both the vegetable and the pulses garden will be closely monitored by the owners of the gardens (assisted by the foundation) in order to determine how the project contributes to achieving various Sustainable Development Goals such as No Hunger, No Poverty, Good Health. The monitoring of both projects also serves to share data and experiences with other (scientific) projects in the field of sustainable, climate-smart horticulture in the Global South.

The Conservation Training for graduated secondary school students will be continued in 2022. Through this training, which aims to raise conservation awareness, young adults are selected for vocational training courses at the Chikowa Youth Development Centre. Apart from topics centering on nature conservation and local ecosystems, the training will also focus on climate change and climate change resilience. The foundation aims to raise funds for the building of a Conservation Centre that will serve as a learning centre for young adults wishing to pursue a career in conservation. The Centre will encourage sustainable projects such as tree planting, food security, the cultivation of environmentally-benign cash crops, and sustainable energy sources. The foundation also aims to initiate surveys on the impact of climate change on the community and on biodiversity through the Conservation Centre. When necessary and when funds allow, support to primary schools will be continued. The Solar Lights Project is in need of new funds to continue the revolving fund which supplies community members with affordable, safe and sustainable lights. In achieving the above, the foundation works closely together with Luambe Camp, Chunyu Tree Nursery, Makolekole Drilling, and the Chikowa Youth Development Centre.

Follows a concise overview of the projects planned for 2022 (*subject to Covid-19 pandemic constraints*):

1. Education

- support to primary schools with learning and sports materials: evaluation
- e-learning for primary schools: evaluation
- support to school gardens at primary schools: evaluation
- sponsorship program secondary school students: continuation
- sponsorship program vocational training program for young adults: continuation

2. Food security/nutrition & small-scale economic activities

- organic vegetable gardening project: extension with new inputs
- pulses garden project: setting up of garden with women's group
- beekeeping project: extension with Honey House and additional beehives
- poultry project: evaluation
- crafts shop: marketing support
- Four Sisters farming method: evaluation, support with cash crops sunflowers and/or soy beans

3. Nature education

- tree planting project: continuation
- Conservation Training course: continuation year 4

- trainee-nature guides: continuation
- promotion of fuel-economic cooking stoves: research

4. Other projects

- revolving fund Solar Lights for Chitungulu: continuation depending on funds available

6. Financial Report

The Financial Report 2021 is annexed to this report.

Overhead costs made for running the foundation were covered by the board members personally, see also explanatory notes and graph in the financial report.

End of General Annual Report 2021