

Chitungulu Foundation

community outreach - nature conservation

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General Annual Report 2024



Conservation Educator Stephen Nkhata, the first fully qualified 'Safari Guide' from Chitungulu, here on the picture busy finishing the painting of two merry bees on our Honey House, built in 2023 to bottle honey and store beekeeping equipment. In 2024 we welcomed beekeeping expert Willem Pennings in Chitungulu through the Dutch program PUM Netherlands Senior Experts. For Willem, a lifelong beekeeper who assisted beekeeping groups in several African countries, it was his first visit to Zambia, and indeed he directly plunged into 'deep rural Zambia'. Fortunately, all went well and we learnt a lot from Willem in a series of well-attended workshops. For the years ahead we intend to link up beekeeping with agroforestry: many trees including fruit trees are good nectar sources for bees, and fruit combined with several hive products will be interesting sources of income for the beekeepers. Ultimately, we believe this will also positively impact on the conservation of Chitungulu's beautiful woodlands. In this project we are supported by an enthusiastic beekeeping club from Germany.

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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 June 2025
F.C. Haver Droeze, MA	treasurer	extended till 30 June 2025
E.J. Jansonius, MA	secretary	extended till 30 June 2025

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

In the year under review, the Board convened twice on 17 June and 23 October, and communicated throughout the year on an informal basis.

2. Activities 2024: Zambia/Chitungulu

Following table presents an overview of the projects for Chitungulu undertaken during the year under review. The project coordinator was present in Chitungulu in the months of July-August.

Education General	1. School lunches Chilubezi primary school: the sponsoring of school lunches continued in 2024 until term 3 when the school was admitted to the school lunch program of the Scottish NGO Mary's Meals. 2. Other support: five leather footballs made by the Zambian project Alive and Kicking were gifted to four primary schools in Chitungulu.
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Education Vocational Training	1. Chikowa Youth Development Centre (Mambwe) Sponsorship of one student General Agriculture 2. Bedrock Zambia Nature Guide Training Sponsorship of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one student Vehicle Guide Training • two students Transfer Guide Training
Education University training	1. Rockview University (Lusaka) Sponsorship one student Diploma Clinical Medicine 2. Copperbelt University (Kitwe) Sponsorship of : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one student BSc Business and Project Management • two students BSc Sustainable Natural Resources Management and Climate Change 3. Lusaka Apex Medical University (Lusaka) Sponsorship one student BSc Medicine and Surgery Sponsorships are inclusive of tuition and exam fees, other study expenses, accommodation, meals and transport costs.
Environmental education/ Nature conservation	1. Conservation Training (developed by foundation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conservation training August-September • Funding driving course with exam for new field guide student (student starts guide training in 2025) • Textbooks for two female aspirant field guides 2. Activities for the youth Cooperation with Luambe Lodge, August-September: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • foundation took care of preparations for game drives in Luambe NP, including bird call identification in English and binoculars training (lodge offered vehicle) 3. Chitungulu Conservation Centre Start of construction in August 2024, phase I: one classroom and one research library. More than 50 households were involved in this project, ranging from clearing the field to concrete block making, digging foundations, etc. The extra income helped the households to cope with the food scarcity due to drought. 4. Tree planting Conservation assistant raised over 240 tree saplings, including <i>Moringa oleifera</i> , baobab, pawpaw, guava and citrus trees. Every year the Moringa program is extended with the goal to supply each household with one Moringa tree for its health benefits. The fruit trees were used in the agroforestry/beekeeping project. 5. Solar Lights Subsidized sale of 20 high-quality solar reading lights.
Economic activities/food security Organic vegetable gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two boreholes for organic vegetable gardens (another two boreholes were drilled for households) • selection of vegetable seeds for organic gardens • promotion of various 'new' fruit tree varieties • introduction vermicompost system two gardeners
Food security	1. Distribution of several bean varieties to farmers to

Four Sisters farming method	facilitate the Four Sisters farming method 2. Distribution of organic liquid fertilizer to farmers 3. Distribution of mung beans for the 2024/2025 rainy season
Economic activities Beekeeping	1. Training/workshops PUM beekeeping expert 2. Purchase of 20 beehives from Chipata 3. Funding for setting up local production of beehives (10 hives in 2024)
Economic activities Crafts Shop	1. Support to the Bird Crafts Club with materials
Health related	1. Funding of two rope boreholes for ten households 2. Support to two albino sisters with sunscreen 3. Emergency food aid in April for vulnerable households in the Nthumbe area

A report of the activities in Chitungulu has been published as Newsletter 2024 on the foundation's website.

3. Activities in 2024: Other

Funds which were received in 2024 from a loyal core of private sponsors have mainly been allocated for the sponsorships of nine students. In addition, a crowdfunding was started for the construction of the Chitungulu Conservation Centre, an educational centre for biodiversity and soil conservation. Through the GoFundMe platform a total amount of € 1.319 was raised. Other contributions to this project were received from the German Rotary Schwetzingen-Kurpfalz, and gifts from private sponsors.

In April two representatives of the foundation volunteered at the annual cycling event organized by the Dutch sponsor Trap-In.

In the second half of 2024 funds were raised to continue the sponsorships program for nine students.

In autumn 2024 the foundation received a donation from the Zambian supplier of organic vermicompost, Eco-Biz, consisting of twenty barrels on standards and 1,000 live composting worms. The barrels and worms were transported from Lusaka to Chitungulu in September.

By year end, the foundation received a second donation from the Zambian ngo Elephant Charge, which supports local conservation education programs. The donation is earmarked for the second phase of the construction of the Chitungulu Conservation Centre.

4. Fundraising general

For the projects in the year under review, the foundation has raised funds among private sponsors (thirteen regular and five ad hoc sponsors) from the Netherlands, Germany, Belgium and Zambia, as well as three Dutch organizations targeting sustainable development in Africa, and the Zambian environmental organization Elephant Charge which supports local conservation efforts. A new sponsor from Germany was found for the agroforestry/beekeeping project.

5. Forecast 2025

Vocational and university training: Continued sponsorship of students in 2025: General Agriculture (1, to finish in Dec 2025), Catering (1, to finish in Dec 2025), Tailoring (1, to finish in Dec 2025), Nature Guide training (2). University training: Diploma Clinical Medicine (1, to graduate in Dec 2025), BSc Medicine and Surgery (2), BSc Business and Project Management (1), BSc Sustainable Natural Resources Management and Climate Change (2). By autumn 2025 the foundation expects to select a few more adolescents for vocational training.

Beekeeping project: continued assistance to beekeepers participating in the Agroforestry project.

The **organic vegetable gardening** project is extended every year with new organic gardeners throughout Chitungulu. The main input remains rope boreholes and (portable) solar pumps for irrigation, and organic/open-pollinated vegetable seed varieties. We continuously strive to increase the number of vegetable and fruit varieties. The experiment with the local production of vermicompost will be continued in order to enrich the soils in a sustainable way.

The community is encouraged to cultivate drought tolerant **pulses** in the dry season so that people will have access to nutritious food supplies when they enter the difficult agricultural season starting November/December, when stocks of maize are depleted. Mung beans are distributed on an annual basis for planting in the rainy seasons.

In 2025 three organic vegetable gardeners will keep a log of any elephant raid incidents occurring in the gardening season May-October. The last years have seen a marked increase in the number of elephant raids in the gardens.

In 2025 preparations will be made for an evaluation in 2026 mapping the impacts of the organic gardens on the community, particularly in terms of the following Sustainable Development Goals: No Hunger, No Poverty, Good Health. The evaluation also serves to share data with other research projects on sustainable and climate-smart horticulture in the Global South.

The construction of the **Conservation Centre** will be continued in 2025 with the roofing of the first classroom and research library, after which the construction is foreseen for a second classroom and adjacent offices. The aim of the centre is to become a regional knowledge hub in the fields of sustainable development, climate change resilience and biodiversity and soil conservation. Tree planting, food security/nutrition, the cultivation of environmentally-benign cash crops, promotion of sustainable energy sources, field guide training and research on the impact of climate change on both community and biodiversity will be embedded in the centre's programs for the years ahead.

The popular **Solar Lights** Project will be continued through our revolving fund. The project serves to promote the use of affordable, good-quality and environmentally sustainable reading lights.

To achieve the above objectives, the foundation works closely together with Chikowa Youth Development Centre, Zgangani Kachinga, Luambe Camp, Elephant Charge, Chunyu Tree Nursery, Makolekole Drilling and EMD Eastern Drilling.

Follows concise overview of the projects planned for 2025:

1. Education

- sponsorship program vocational training and university programs for young adults: continuation

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

- organic vegetable gardening project: extension
- beekeeping project: support to beekeepers and local production of beehives
- crafts shop: marketing support
- Four Sisters farming method: support with cash crops sunflowers and/or (soy) beans

3. Nature education

- tree planting project: continuation
- conservation training course: continuation
- trainee-nature guides: continuation

4. Other projects

- Solar Lights for Chitungulu: continuation revolving fund

6. Financial Report

The Financial Report 2024 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 2024