

Chitungulu Foundation

community outreach - nature conservation

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General Annual Report 2025



Pupils of Semphe Primary School in Chitungulu, on their way to a field excursion in Luambe National Park on a hot day in October 2025, hopped off the vehicle at the construction site of Chitungulu Conservation Centre where the Chitungulu Foundation has been building two classrooms since 2024. The children asked many questions, like: what's the purpose of the centre, which activities will be offered and who can participate, and why is protection of the environment so important? The two conservation educators who had been preparing the children for their game drives, took time to answer all these questions in detail. They explained that the aim of the Conservation Centre is to become a learning centre focussed on biodiversity conservation including soil biodiversity as the basis for sustainable and safe organic food production. Target groups include both school-children and (young) adults. In the weekends and during school holidays the children can participate in various fun-activities aimed at enhancing environmental awareness. Modern teaching aids include bird id-apps and binoculars training, spoor identification in the field, watching nature documentaries, while through quizzes and challenges children can even go home with some prizes. For children wishing to improve their school results, books and educational tables will be available. The centre will also become the venue of the 6 weeks' Conservation Training for recent high school graduates, who can compete for a scholarship to take up studies elsewhere in Zambia. For adults, the classrooms are a perfect place for workshops targeting organic vegetable gardeners and farmers. By end of 2025 the construction of the first classroom annex library was completed and a second classroom was built up to ring beam level. For 2026 it is planned to complete the construction of the second classroom as well as the furnishing and decoration of both classrooms, and to build the toilets.

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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 2027
F.C. Haver Droeze, MA	treasurer	extended till 30 June 2027
E.J. Jansonius, MA	secretary	extended till 30 June 2027

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

In the year under review, the Board convened once on 25 June, and communicated throughout the year on an informal basis.

2. Activities 2025: 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 Vocational Training	Student sponsoring: 1. Chikowa Youth Development Centre (Mambwe) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• one student General Agriculture (two years)• one student Food Production (one year) Both students completed their studies in December 2. Zgangani Kachinga (Lundazi) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• one student Tailoring (one year)
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	<p>3. Bedrock Zambia Nature Guide Training</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one student Vehicle Guide Training • one student Transfer Guide Training
<p>Education University training</p>	<p>Student sponsoring:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Rockview University (Lusaka) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • one student Diploma Clinical Medicine 2. Copperbelt University (Kitwe) <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) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two students BSc Medicine and Surgery <p>All sponsorships are inclusive of tuition and exam fees, other study expenses, accommodation, meals and transport costs.</p>
<p>Environmental education/ Nature conservation</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Conservation Training (developed by foundation) The annual Conservation Training for high school graduates has been postponed till 2026 because of the construction of the Conservation Centre. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparing a new student for the Bedrock nature guide training: provision of educational materials and funding of driving course (student starts guide training in October 2026) 2. Activities for the youth <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • purchase and conversion of game drive vehicle for educational excursions • prep program game drives in Luambe NP for school children, including bird calls ID with binoculars training • teaching materials: nature books, projection screen • over 100 school children participated in game drives in Luambe NP in the months of August-October 3. Chitungulu Conservation Centre <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • design of logo Conservation Centre by By Jess Studio, Cape Town (designer has Zambian roots). The logo is displayed on the game drive vehicle. • by September the construction of the first classroom was completed. In October the second classroom was built up to ring beam level. <p>As in 2024, many households have been involved in this project by means of piece works, which was a welcome boost to household incomes.</p> 4. Tree planting One of the conservation assistants raised 500 tree saplings, including 300 <i>Gliricidia sepium</i>, 50 <i>Moringa oleifera</i>, 50 <i>Faidherbia albida</i>, 90 <i>Agave sisalana</i> and 10 baobab. Both <i>Gliricidia</i> and <i>Faidherbia</i> saplings were provided to gardeners because of the soil-enriching, nitrogen-fixing properties of both tree species. The <i>Moringa</i> saplings are distributed annually to households in Chitungulu because of their health

	benefits. The sisal plants have been used in biofences around vegetable gardens in order to deter elephants.
Economic activities/food security Organic vegetable gardening	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • partnership with the French organization <i>Kokopelli semences</i> which donated a selection of open-pollinated vegetable seeds to organic gardeners in Chitungulu • construction of a water tank in one of the most productive organic vegetable gardens • complementary selection of vegetable seeds (including the introduction of tenderstem broccoli), sunflower seeds, lemon trees and cabbage and tomato plants for 7 gardeners
Food security	Distribution of mung beans for planting in the rainy season 2025/2026 as a food source in the lean months prior to the new maize harvests.
Health related	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding of two rope boreholes, each servicing approx. ten households 2. Support with sunscreen for two albino sisters

A report of the activities in Chitungulu has been published as Newsletter 2025 on the foundation's website. Throughout the year there have been regular postings on the foundation's Instagram account @conservation.chitungulu

3. Activities in 2025: Other

Funds which were received in 2025 from a loyal core of private sponsors have mainly been allocated for the sponsorships of eleven students in 2025 and for the construction of the Conservation Centre which started in 2024.

Two representatives of the foundation volunteered at the annual cycling event organized by the Dutch sponsor Trap-In on 9 June.

Later in June a projector for showing nature documentaries was received in Chitungulu from two German sponsors.

In the second half of 2025 funds were raised to continue the sponsorships for the eleven students.

By year end, the foundation received a third donation from the Zambian ngo Elephant Charge, which supports local conservation education programs across Zambia. The donation is earmarked for the roofing of the second classroom of the Conservation Centre.

4. Fundraising general

For the projects in the year under review, the foundation has raised funds among private 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 across Zambia.

5. Forecast 2026

Vocational and university training: Continued sponsorship of students in 2026: Automotive Mechanics (2 female students), Tailoring (1 female student, to complete in August 2026), Nature Guide training (2 male students). University training: Diploma Clinical Medicine (1 male student, to graduate in May 2026), BSc Medicine and Surgery (1 female and 1 male student), BSc Business and Project Management (1 male student), BSc Sustainable Natural Resources Management and Climate Change (1 female and 1 male student), Diploma Food and Nutrition (2 female students). Subject to adequate funding the foundation expects to select two more adolescents for sponsorships by end of 2026.

Beekeeping project: because of the costs involved with the construction of the Conservation Centre, support to the beekeepers has been scaled down. The beekeepers are being monitored and where possible assisted with bee forage plants to support the bee colonies in the dry, winter season. As soon as the Conservation Centre construction project has been completed, the beekeeping project will be resumed.

The **organic vegetable gardening** project is extended every year with new organic gardeners across 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 scaled up in order to make rich compost available to more gardeners and farmers.

The community is continuously encouraged to cultivate drought tolerant **pulses** in the dry season so that people will have access to nutritious food supplies in the agricultural season starting November, and especially in the lean months prior to the next maize harvests. Mung beans are distributed on an annual basis for planting in the rainy seasons.

Three organic vegetable gardeners 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 2026 an evaluation will take place of the impact 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 2026 with the roofing of the second classroom and adjacent office, after which the construction is foreseen for four toilets. Funds are raised for the classroom setup including the research library. The aim of the centre is to become a regional knowledge hub for 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.

Funds allowing, the popular **Solar Lights** Project will be resumed. The project serves to promote the use of affordable, good-quality and environmentally sustainable reading lights.

The Crafts Shop will be supported with painting supplies for the popular Wooden Birds.

To achieve the above objectives, the foundation works closely together with Chikowa Youth Development Centre (Mambwe), Zgangani Kachinga (Lundazi), Luambe Camp, Elephant Charge (Lusaka), Chunya Tree Nursery (Mfuwe), Makolekole Drilling (Mfuwe) and EMD Eastern Drilling (Chipata/Lundazi).

Follows overview of the projects planned for 2026:

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 and evaluation
- beekeeping project: support with local bee forage plants
- crafts shop: support with painting supplies for Wooden Birds
- Four Sisters farming method: support with sunflowers and/or beans

3. Nature education

- tree planting project: continuation
- conservation training course: continuation
- trainee-nature guides: continuation
- field trips in Luambe National Park: continuation

4. Other projects

- Solar Lights for Chitungulu: continuation revolving fund

6. Financial Report

The Financial Report 2025 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 2025