



*Sociably Responsible Tourism
Conservation and Community*



Our Approach

Luangwa Wilderness Lodge - situated in one of the remotest and most precious areas of the Luangwa Valley - offers eco-safaris which form part of a highly successful long-term sustainable conservation project.

In line with the commonly held view of conservationists worldwide, we believe that co-operation with the local communities that surround our national park, is a prerequisite for nature conservation to stand a chance of being successful.

It is only when local inhabitants feel that they gain substantial benefit from the presence of a national park, that they will adopt a sympathetic stance towards its conservation and even start to actively support our efforts to conserve this unique area for future generations.

It is this recognition of the mutual benefits and the need for interaction between the national park and its adjacent communities that stands at the heart of our numerous community-projects, which we have initiated at Luambe over the past four years.

Most of these projects are only just beginning to take effect, and whilst there is still much to be done, we believe that the results achieved so far, augur well for the future of Luambe NP.

Luangwa Wilderness Lodge offers employment for local people as well as a market for locally produced or grown products and is therefore nucleus for a successful, long-term-sustainable conservation work.

Our Lodge

The presence of Luangwa Wilderness Lodge alone already means a welcome employment opportunity for people in the area. The Luangwa Valley constitutes one of the largest wildlife zones in Africa, where industrial activities are not permitted.

At present, our eco-lodge provides permanent employment for sixteen people, and six people on a casual basis.



Sensitive Tourism



If you believe in a sustainable and sensitive tourism - at Luangwa Wilderness Lodge you are at exactly the right place.

All of our staff have been recruited from the villages outside the National Park thus providing work and income for the community.

Our well-trained staff is highly motivated to bring you the best personal services to make you feel at home.

Besides full-board meals, all-day round tea and coffee for individual use, snacks and sun-downer we offer free laundry service and reservation/bookings of local flights chartered or scheduled.

Lodge Activities



A typical day in the bush starts with an early morning tea, followed by a morning game drive or bush walk, returning to camp for an inviting brunch.

High tea is served around 4pm before you start for your afternoon game drive . Depending on the morning programme we also serve a special “lunch in the bush”.

The afternoon game drive includes a sun-downer before the night sets in and you can look out for nocturnal animals.

Getting back to the lodge a 3-course candle-light dinner is waiting for you before you indulge yourself around the fire place listening to African stories.

Mind you - during a night drive you won't see any other 4x4 . There is no traffic jam around a special sight.



The area's wildlife



Luambe National Park offers a wide diversity of mammals, birds and reptiles. The different landscapes are home to puku and other antelopes such as waterbuck, bushbuck, impala, elen and kudu. We recently host african wild dogs.

In addition you will find elephants, buffaloes, zebra, baboon, lion, hippo and crocodiles or endemic animals such as the Cockson`s wildebeest.

At night many nocturnal animals can be observed such as leopard, hyenas, serval, porcupine, scrub hare, civet cat, honey badger and bush baby just to mention a few.

Birdlife is still open to encounter but includes weavers, ducks, cranes, hornbills, fishing owls, falcons, Angola Pittas, trogons, African skimmer and coloured palm thrushes.

Our accommodation



Our 5 safari-style tents are built on a wooden platform with en-suite toilet, wash-basin and hot and cold shower.

Each tent is further equipped with 2 beds, mosquito nets, a bench and a small electrical light.

Bath and hand towels, a fly-spray and a flask with filtered water are provided.

For a family we can offer our 2 rooms family house.

Bush Trips for Children



Part of our co-operation with the schools in Chitungulu Chiefdom is organising excursions for children into Luambe National Park.

Since 2006, we have been doing this on an annual basis and the children's reactions have always been very positive.

Regrettably, most children in Africa seldom or in fact never have the opportunity to visit a national park and see for themselves the wonders of animal, bird, and plant life that is so abundant in their own country - an abundance that few other continents can match.

By giving them a chance to share our enthusiasm for nature, we hope to awaken environmental awareness at an early age.

The Garden Club



The Garden Club is one of our most successful projects so far.

As the lodge is located within the National Park, we are not allowed to grow our own vegetables.

In order to be able to provide a steady supply of fresh vegetables for our guests as well as for ourselves, we have entered into a partnership with two families at Chitungulu chieftdom. Their Head Gardener approached us in 2005 with the idea of providing us with vegetables, which we gladly welcomed. We assisted the families with start-up capital to enable them to buy seeds and fertilizer.

We also introduced them to vegetables that were 'new' to them, such as egg plant, lettuce, chinese cabbage, cauliflower, broccoli, and cucumbers. At the same time, the availability of fresh vegetables has improved the diets of the villagers giving them vitamins and other essential nutrition.

The Carpentry Club



Many young men in the Valley do not have a great employment prospects to look forward to after completing their schooling or training. There are no large-scale industries here that will employ them, nor do they have the financial resources to start businesses on their own.

In order to add diversity of employment opportunities, we assisted the setting up of a Carpentry Club in Chitungulu. In close cooperation with the Chief, we chose six young men who were given the chance of being a member. We assisted by donating good-quality tools and other durable equipment.

Their products include door and bed frames, furniture etc, all meant for local sale in the village. But, judging from their motivation and ambition, we wouldn't be surprised if their products become famous far beyond their home village!

The Women's Club



The concept of the Women's Club is to generate income in order to support widows, orphans and disabled people in Chitungulu. The Club now has 14 permanent members.

In 2005, the Club approached Luangwa Wilderness for support. That year we were able to provide baking tins for the Club's bakery. The freshest and most delicious buns in Chitungulu are now baked by them!

Recently, we helped to set up a tailoring service, as a means to generate much-needed income. In 2006 we donated two tread sewing machines and a local tailor was temporarily hired to teach the women into the finer skills of tailoring.

As a measure of the club's success, it has now started to produce school uniforms and these will be on sale soon.

Education Our Village's Children



For obvious reasons, we place great importance on the schooling of young children in the area.

Since 2006, the lodge has been actively supporting two 'community schools' in the Chitungulu Chiefdom - Chocha and Chilubezi. Both schools offer primary education and are growing in line with their pupils. They currently provide grades 1 to 4, but each year, another grade will be added until we have all seven.

Each school has three teachers, but unlike government schools, where teachers receive monthly salaries, Chocha and Chilubezi have voluntary teachers who do not receive any payment, unless the community is able to raise the money.

So far, our support to Chocha and Chilubezi has been via ad-hoc donations, which we gratefully appreciate. But the schools do need to secure constructive, ongoing support at least for a couple of years.



Conservation Based Tourism Tourism Based Conservation



If you want to know more specifically about our conservation work - visit our dedicated website at www.conservation-luambe.com or contact us at info@luangwawilderness.com

Marketing by Kamiti www.kamitisafaris.com



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