



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
Our Work & Impact  
in 2017

Community  
Development through  
Responsible Tourism

**In Zimbabwe &  
Botswana**

63, Heyman Rd, Bulawayo,  
Zimbabwe  
Tel: +2639234307  
[foundation@africanbushcamps.org](mailto:foundation@africanbushcamps.org)

**Follow us:**





# Education

Access to equitable facilities and resources for a socially & physically compact, literate

Education is a fundamental right agreed upon and stipulated in the Sustainable Development Goals as critical for substantial development for any nation. The challenge comes in that there is a huge gap in the socio-economic arrangement within continents, nations, cities and the urban and rural peripherals. Consequently, a fundamental need for education might be acknowledged but the challenge then lies in the governing structure and its set priorities in its policies, and reforms in relation to it. Unfortunately, the status quo in Africa particularly, is that implementation of world-wide agreed development policies often suffer at the hands of poor economies, compromised prioritization, politics, social constructs (religion) and corruption only to mention a few things, fuelling the myriad of challenges being faced.

Donor mechanisms often come into play to help bridge that gap and influence development especially for areas where the effects of the myriad of challenges are profound and which contribute extensively to the cycle of poverty. ABCF this year managed to be expansively involved in various rural settings both in Zimbabwe and Botswana in efforts to capacitate schools with facilities and resources necessary for the improvement of the quality of education.



**LEFT:** Image from a life skills training workshop, funded by [Global Development Group](#) at Mambanje Primary School in an effort to equip Grade 3-6 students with skills, including:

- Time management,
- Problem solving
- Self-awareness
- Goal setting, and many

One of the targets for ABCF for 2017 was for students to understand the multi-facets associated with education and being cultured and its role in finding their path and shaping their future. A similar workshop was held for our 21 [high school scholarship](#) students to enhance their knowledge on leadership and critical life skills. Focusing on networking and relationship building in a conservation hub with [Painted Dog Conservation](#) we help them understand the interface between protected areas and the communities surrounding them.

## Our Impact on Education in 2017

- ✓ Increase in scholarship funding for primary school students coupled with the feeding scheme resulted in an increase in attendance from 120 to 139 for Mambanje
- ✓ Main Camp School had an increase in its enrolment for students in 2017. It is now pegged at 149 students
- ✓ Grade 7 exam pass rate significantly improved in Mambanje, having a 47% pass rate compared to the 31% in 2016. Main Camp had a 100% pass rate from a 2016 pass rate of 55,7%. Credit can be awarded to the teacher support in Mambanje and continued support at Main Camp
- ✓ Improved access to resources and facilities for the differently abled students in Kachikau
- ✓ The presence of self-aware, goal-oriented) and focused individuals improved as shown by the number of students implementing life skills related activities
- ✓ Education facilities made available for early childhood development students (ECD) in rural settings such as Umtshibi (Zim)

African Bush Camps Foundation has significantly contributed to the Hwange Rural District and its quality of education in the year 2017 and this can be attributed to the support provided by different donors in our association. Providing teacher support at Mambanje Primary school is one of our many contributions toward the quality of education. The teachers at Mambanje have occupied the teacher's cottages and better living conditions have resulted in a motivated staff.



Handing over of the Mambanje Teacher's Cottage

The Medel Family support and that of the community have improved the teacher/student ratio and have since slightly lessened the pressure of composite classes at Mambanje Primary School although we are still a long way from fully eradicating this situation. Mambanje Primary School has improved with enabling students to reach their true potential by providing nutritious healthy meals through a feeding scheme funded by Elefence International, Mary and Bob Patin and David Bennet. The Global Development Group funds significantly improved the quality of education particularly through the Mambanje community empowerment project. Donations have complimented each other to a point where our interface has been profound, thus resulting in projects such as Umtshibi (ECD play centre and ablution) and Kachikau Primary School Disability Unit projects.



The current status quo is that there are only 18 students on full scholarship from the 25 students eligible for the scholarship program. Notable is Lisa Hacker's 12% contribution (major donor) to the annual income for school fees, her efforts combined with that of the Medel family have been a saving grace for the access to education. The ABC staff has contributed immensely to the scholarship funding. However exhaustive fundraising means should be carried out in order to fund the targeted activities that will contribute to these schools in rural settings being able to compete for the same opportunities with those that do not share their poverty relegated predicaments. On average a high school student needs about \$1 200- \$1 800 depending on whether they are sitting for final examinations that year or not. This excludes the cost of the annual leadership and life skills boot camp pivotal for their goal orientation and visualization of the paths they want to take to change their future from poverty culminated dynamics.

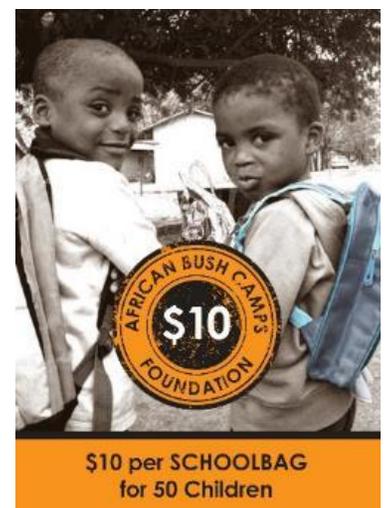
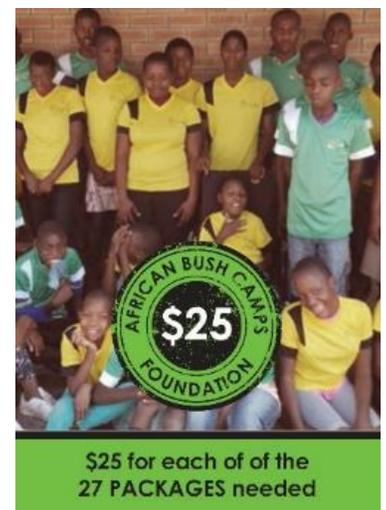
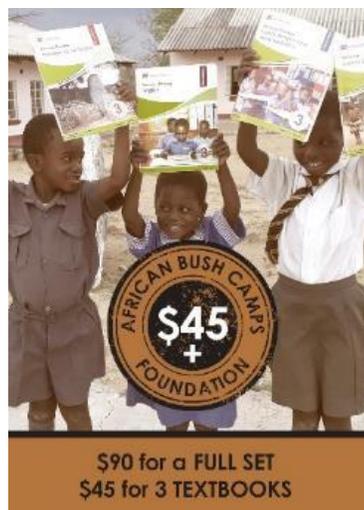


"Grade 7 exam pass rate significantly improved in Mambanje & Hwange Main Camp



Continuous support is key for the development of any place and its people, capacity building is what propels the development ship and gets it sailing. Consequently, it is imperative for ABCF to keep fundraising for activities set to help schools reach their full potential and the students benefit from that potential, thus breeding an educated and goal oriented generation that will help improve their communities, ease challenges associated with poverty and enable them to thrive.

ABCF ran a Christmas gift pack campaign, fundraising for 2018 funds which can still be considered even past the festive season. The Christmas gift pack includes the Book package gift where tourists in the camps or their families and friends back home are given an opportunity to donate funds for the purchasing of Grade 3 textbooks critical to the new curriculum implemented by the Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education. The Christmas Gift pack also includes the donation of funds towards a Goat Pass On project for Grade 1 students. The reasoning behind the Goat Pass On project is to foster a sense of responsibility within the student and his/ her family as when the project sets off goats acquired from the project will be sold to afford payment of fees and purchasing of school supplies. The sensitization, implementation and the monitoring of this project will require some sort of funding as well. In Botswana, the Christmas gifts of toiletries for the 30 children with disabilities at Kachikau Primary School, were aimed at addressing the welfare & hygienic needs of the students. In Khwai, the Christmas gift of school bags for underprivileged students provided increased motivation for students to attend school.





## Community Empowerment (Income Generating Projects)

Propagating self-reliant communities with sound and practical business and project management skills that guarantee income security and sustainable livelihoods

Economic reforms and policies often disadvantage rural communities who already have weak structures, contributing to the abject poverty they are subdued in. It is particularly worse for communities bordering wildlife parks or right within them as they have to share natural resources with wild animals. Furthermore, they cannot practice livelihood options such as agriculture at a greater scale because animals are most likely to destroy or eat their produce, livestock production as a means of livelihood is also compromised because they are often attacked and fed on by wild animals.

Donor mechanisms often offer assistance to most rural communities in a bid to try and alleviate poverty and foster development for such communities so that they are able to be resilient and thrive. ABCF has been that donor mechanism for wildlife communities bordering [African Bush Camps](#) safari spaces in Zimbabwe and Botswana. It is through ABCF that Income Generating Projects are supported to help these communities shrug off poverty and be income secure and somewhat resilient. 2017 has been a year of success for most of the already existing I.G.Ps and there were some I.G.P groups that were also established during the course of the year. The year 2017 saw the integration of new projects such as the Detema Sewing club (Zimbabwe), and significant progress in the resuscitation of the Parakarungu Chicken Project and Kachikau Disability Unit Project (Botswana).



**LEFT:** Image of the members of the Detema Sewing Project in action. Like all of our income generating initiatives, the project is based on a micro-finance model, where the initial investment is paid back as part of the business plan and then used to either expand the current project or alternatively pass the capital onto another group or community to start a

Significant progress has also been made in the process towards the inception of the Khwai Cultural Village Project and the Kachikau Sewing Project (Botswana). The already existing I.G.Ps were improved and sensitized towards a more business-oriented approach in a bid to thwart the growing dependency syndrome and to help them realize their full potential as business entities to assist in poverty eradication. Community leadership was engaged to instil a sense of communal ownership and encourage sustainability.

## Our Impact through income generating projects in 2017

- ✓ Increased I.G.Ps across our area of coverage for a more profound ripple effect on poverty eradication (Parakarungu chicken project, Kachikau sewing group, and Detema sewing club)
- ✓ Business centred approach for I.G.Ps through a consignment structure for curio sales to camps, translating to increased income with a total income of close to \$10,000 dollars for both Thandanani and Vukani
- ✓ Generation and gender cross-cutting employment creation inclusive of marginalized groups within rural communities
- ✓ 52% of the beneficiaries in Dete fall under the female-headed household bracket and are breaking the cycle of poverty and moving towards income security
- ✓ Donation of 3 sewing machines to Detema sewing club for an I.G.P aiming at income security and to help the existing sewing group to meet the market demand
- ✓ Beneficiaries attested to improved livelihoods and the ability to afford fees and day to day expenses due to the income generated from projects
- ✓ Yields of up to \$400+ realized from the Parakarungu Chicken Project (Botswana)

In Botswana, we worked mainly on re-establishing such relations in the last part of the year, following engagement of a new project officer. It is imperative that capacity building is a focus area. ABCF's interface with these communities will be relegated through their monitoring only and limited intervention in how they administer themselves.

This capacity building involves workshops on business management skills, marketing (for a wider rollout) of I.G.P activities), communication skills in the business world, financial management made available to all I.G.Ps even those that serve to subsidize school expenses (tuck-shops), this will guarantee project growth and sustainability. 2017 took a pleasant turn for I.G.P groups, though the ultimate benefits of the dimensional shifts from the previous system are still to be felt.

### Where to now?

- ABCF needs to provide basic training for business management skills for I.G.Ps so as to have income security characterized by asset growth, investment plans (project start up) and saving techniques (ISALs).
- Solutions for bank challenges facing the I.G.Ps in Zimbabwe need to be executed to provide the groups with means to measurable income security.
- Business enabling environments with proper value chains and market linkages collaborated with ABCF relations are key for a more profound impact, but this requires extensive M&E tools in place.
- Accountability by ABC Safari Camps is critical for growing the I.G.P's service provision and the terms and conditions surrounding it should be clearly indicated to avoid I.G.Ps being taken advantage of and compromising the sustainability element.
- A business approach with the right amount of capacity building will give room for tuck shops within schools to manage their funds and expenses and give back to the maintenance and development of the schools.



Thandanani Sewing Group discussing business practices



# Community Empowerment (Network & Capacity Building)

Capacity building through networking for support structures in various fields relevant to community development, consequently reducing the need for highly paid specialists of staff

## Capacity building through recreational activities:

Capacity building is critical for realizing and executing development related goals within communities. ABCF supports a variety of activities in this regard in an effort to strengthen the communities it works with while providing a recreational element. This is done through linking these communities with relevant stakeholders that can act as catalysts to the communities' development goals. It is through this initiative that activities such as The Botswana Independence sports day tournaments (Chobe and Khwai), the Zimbabwe Dete 10km Fun Run and the Chobe Enclave Fun Run are brought to life and often contribute largely to exposure necessary to attract donations and funding for ongoing projects and general assistance to those in need. These sporting events also provide a networking platform between various stakeholders, in both private and government sectors. This year, the Chobe Independence Sports tournament birthed strong relations between ABCF and the Ministry of Basic Education, who also contributed towards the event through provision of transport for their students, as well as involvement in the organizing of such even. Participating, were all primary schools in the Chobe Enclave.



Support from donations such as that from the Jane Buber Sports Foundation, and the Pagewood Botany Club (donations of sporting attire & equipment) go a long way in giving life to these sporting events and other development works that are carried out during their implementation. 2017 had a lot of fun-filled and progress embedded activities that in essence contributed significantly to community resilience through strong associations and networking.

**Collective recreational efforts for capacity building towards healthy lives and relationships essential for community resilience**

LEFT: At the Chobe Independence Sports Tournament, the Deputy Council Chair for Kasane and the former MP for Chobe Enclave follow proceedings and engage with community members.

These sporting activities which a number of them are held annually help foster positive relations and provide platforms to discuss challenges faced by participating groups and how they can be solved while keeping a lighter mood and providing an escape route from the very issues affecting them.

## Our Impact through network & capacity building

- ✓ Annual Jane Buear Sports Foundation Fun Run in Zimbabwe attracted an average of 1,000 people, providing great opportunity for project awareness and donor engagement. A donation of 185 fleece jackets was made to Dingani Primary School and groceries donated to Dete Old Age Home thanks to previous similar networking opportunities
- ✓ The Chobe Enclave Fun Run attracted a little over 300 people with participation from key stakeholders such as CECT, Botswana Tourism and the local leadership of the five participating villages. BTV and radio Botswana covered the event
- ✓ Community resilience by encouragement of unity through sports events (Khwai & Chobe Independence Sports Tournament in Botswana)
- ✓ Training on Children's rights and Child protection funded by GDG in order to empower the Mambanje community (148 attendees)
- ✓ Broadened stakeholder spectrum, with the Botswana Ministry of Basic Education fully engaged in Chobe Enclave Independence Sports tournament through all 5 of its primary schools
- ✓ ABC guest visits to projects increased showing that the efforts of ABCF works are attractive and consequently worth supporting

## Capacity building through trainings, workshops and strategic meetings:

ABCF seeks to provide relevant platforms that catalyse development and growth within communities bordering or within nearby wildlife areas. Consequently, a number of activities aligned to capacity building are set out to provide the tone for the development pace and actions that will be taken. 2017 began on high note with the annual strategic planning meetings with the communities, to provide needs assessment and plan on development routes to take and acquire knowledge on what to fundraise for. Throughout the course of the year, trainings and workshops based on those needs assessed, and those that arise intermittently, were then carried out to empower communities and capacitate them.



### Where to now?

- ABCF should use the sporting events as fundraising opportunities for projects.
- Follow up workshops on trainings held to assess change, collaborate these with other M & E tools.
- Extend community development planning sessions to all areas of operation.
- Tailor make trainings and workshops for at least one challenge affecting community development within every quarter for all areas of operation.



A workshop on Children's Rights being held at Mambanje School



# Community Infrastructure

Fully operational infrastructural spaces for capacity building, community empowerment & development

Rural communities often lack fundamental structures key to development, should they be available they are often dilapidated and barely functional. ABCF's aims when it comes to infrastructure is mostly aligned to education as there has been a realization that poor infrastructure greatly affects school performance, thus negatively impacting development within the community and drawing back the region as a whole.

ABCF has been working towards fundraising for grants to enable the construction of ECD blocks, a pre-school and ablutions for our operational areas in an effort to foster development through education at a grass-root level.



In Zimbabwe particularly, in the Hwange Rural District, such an interface is very much needed in order to increase the attendance to ECD education which is currently sitting at 25,2% in the Matabeleland North Province. In Dete there is a danger of having uneducated youth which in turn might lead to an increased number of teenage pregnancies and high levels of poverty.

In the Chobe Enclave, there is only one primary school which houses children living with disabilities from all the 5 villages, 30 of who were enrolled in 2017. The school, however, was not fully designed and equipped for such services, hence ABCF's involvement in the construction of paving passages to enable ease of access to classes and assembly for the children.



## Community change that lasts!

**LEFT:** A paving construction project was begun in 2017, to provide better access to students of the Kachikau Primary School Disability Unit in Botswana.



Infrastructural development is the kind of change that lasts and has an impact on multiple generations if, maintained accordingly. Dilapidated schools, lack of water sources and project working spaces is what contributes to abject poverty in rural communities. There is an average dropout rate of 53% for high school students in Dete and this is a cause for concern.

Communities lack water sources critical for healthily sustainable livelihoods. ABCF has been working tirelessly to refurbish and work towards constructing classroom blocks and schools in Zimbabwe.

## Our Impact on Community Infrastructure

- ✓ Handing over and occupation of Mambanje Primary School Teacher's Cottage
- ✓ Development plan for Satellite high school (GDG initiative) to help with the school drop outs in Mambanje village and empower them
- ✓ Kachikau Disability Unit Paving underway (Botswana)
- ✓ Play centre for Umtshibi Primary School
- ✓ Fundraising through a grant application for a second borehole and community garden in Mambanje for sustainable livelihoods
- ✓ Surveys for a potential dam site in Mambanje village
- ✓ Development plans for ECD classroom blocks and ablutions
- ✓ Replacement of solar batteries for the functioning of the school borehole, the only clean water source for the Mambanje community
- ✓ Refurbishing of the Detema classroom roof

ABCF understands the inter-dimensional characteristics of poverty within rural communities and takes it as its mandate to curb and reduce negative impacts on these communities through infrastructural development. Mike and Susan Family Foundation were one of the notable contributors to the targeted infrastructural development such as the Umtshibi project. Works are underway to acquire grants and more donations for community infrastructure for the year 2018.

### Where to now?

- Rehabilitation of schools in the first quarter to allow maximum utilization of school facilities throughout the year
- Completion of ECD classroom projects
- Completion of the Kachikau Disability Unit Paving project
- Continued fundraising and grant applications for Mambanje Satellite High School project
- Fundraising for community boreholes and community gardens for Mambanje
- Roll out of play center projects in all schools in need within our area of operation



Blown up solar battery due to overload on the borehole as it is the only clean water source available for the community



Roof blown off by the wind at Detema Secondary School



The Mambanje Teachers Cottage was completed, using local labor who received training in the use of a hydraform brick making machine



## Conservation

Resilience through sustainable land use and human-wildlife conflict management

There is great importance placed in the environmental awareness for areas with national treasure such as wildlife parks, this is because of dwindling natural resources and the increase in human-animal conflict. ABCF exercises activities that provide an interface between nature and its habitats in an effort to restore and rehabilitate national resources while maintaining and sustaining livelihoods. Activities carried out by ABCF and its supporting partners include environmental related events such as the World Environment Day and National Tree Planting day, training and workshops on holistic management of resources and use of renewable energy sources just to mention a few.

### Pro-conservation strategies for maximum environmental benefits and tenable livelihoods

**LEFT:** National Tree Planting Day activities in the Hwange District in Zimbabwe

There is a general consensus worldwide to go GREEN! The reasoning behind this being that development strategies have negatively impacted the environment with the unprecedented gas emissions, deforestation & poaching.

Conservation strategies have since been the new craze in a bid to provide affirmative action against the abuse of Mother Nature and its resources while subsequently providing livelihoods. ABCF has adopted principles of this campaign and effecting rehabilitation of resources, promoting sustainable land use and reducing human-animal conflict.



2017 was a fruitful year for most conservation related activities and the execution of conservation strategies contributed significantly to positive changes within our area of operation. The introduction of a drought-resistant wicking bed concept, by a visiting group of volunteers from Australia into the Mambanje Community has helped to improve vegetable garden crop yields during a particularly dry period in the region. The gardens were constructed at the school, with the agreement that provisions for homesteads would be made when parents and scholar assisted with maintaining ones at the Primary School. Since inception, a number of homesteads have replicated the system within their own vegetable gardens.

## Our Impact on Community Conservation

- ✓ Cattle Boma initiative a success as shown by the adoption of the concept by the Botswana villages and the increase in the number of Bomas in Mambanje from 3 to 4 this year
- ✓ Effective cattle health program that has contributed to the vaccination of all the cattle within the Boma initiative against 4 diseases
- ✓ Holistic land use management tailored around grazing plans, protection of ground cover and prevention from soil erosion that is supported by GDG
- ✓ Successful environmental related events. 100 trees were planted at St Francis school in Dete for nutritional and food security ,200 more trees were distributed to school conservation clubs
- ✓ Exchange visit for Mambanje community members to CELLUCT in Chimanmani to learn about permaculture and sustainable land use management. The Community is already implementing learnt concepts at a steadily growing pace

The Mobile Cattle Boma Initiative and Livestock Health Program continued positive development in 2017, with the introduction of a 4<sup>th</sup> boma into the Mambanje Community. A cattle crush facility was installed and utilised to administer vaccination of livestock against prominent diseases in the area, much to the delight of cattle owning community members. In more good news for the community a crucial donation was received from guests who recently stayed at [Somalisa Camp](#). Kim and David Stewart from Scotland became very interested in the Projects at Mambanje Village, in particular, the cattle bomas they visited – when the famous [maize video](#) was posted. One of the priorities for 2018 funding is to source salary contributions for guardians to continue working on the [WILDCRU Hwange Lion Research Guardian Programme](#). The donation means that Mr Polite Chipembere, who has been a valuable asset to the project, has his salary costs covered for two years.



### Where to now?

- Integration of conservation ethics and principles to all ABCF related projects to implement in their communities for a more profound impact
- Active participation of school conservation clubs in nation-wide efforts towards conservation, this includes participation in environmental forums
- Community empowerment through extensive education on holistic land use management practices critical for resilience
- Capacity building towards water harvesting techniques for alternative water sources
- Increase in cattle boma initiative for sustainable livelihoods and reduced human-animal conflict with the help of lion guards
- Integration of the Goat Pass On project into the animal health program to ensure its success

**GET INVOLVED & BE THAT CHANGE; THE REASON FOR THAT SMILE AND THAT SUCCESS STORY!!!!**

# Graphical Analysis

