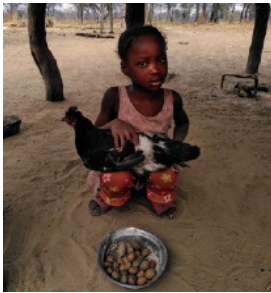


Melindika facing a turbulent 2020 : Determination & ambition!

HEALTH FOR ALL



HUMANS



LIVESTOCK



WILDLIFE



ENVIRONMENT

AN EVENTFUL RETURN TO THE BUSH, BUT WITH A STRENGTHENED TEAM

After an unexpectedly extended stay in France, Victoire, founder and president of Melindika, was able to return to Zambia at the end of July with all the necessary health precautions. After a mandatory fourteen days in the capital and 8 months of absence, it was time to return to the field!

The conclusions of the project's autonomous management are globally positive: the veterinary assistants managed to ensure the continuity of care in the villages, the camp was well maintained and the whole team and our beneficiaries were not affected by the covid-19 pandemic.

Unfortunately, upon our return, we noticed inconsistencies in the financial management from April to June which led us to part with an important member of our team. Although all the missing money has been retrieved, the team was weakened and the "return to normal" of all the projects was slowed down.

Fortunately, the month of October was marked by the arrival of two volunteers from the United States who decided it was time for a change of pace by coming to help us carry out our operations in the communities for a year. We are therefore happy to introduce Bailey, our new "Conservation & Development" project manager (training women in beekeeping and teaching conservation education for children) and Noah, in charge of our bush camp, Shandavu camp.



Mwabonwa (welcome) to the
Melindika family Bailey & Noah!

IN
NUMBERS



2

New volunteers
at the camp
(p1)



5

Schools integrated in
our new education
program (p2)



16

Beehives distributed
in the communities
(p3)



307

Dogs vaccinated
against rabies in
September (p3)



FOCUS OF THE MONTH : OUR “KIDS & TREES” PROJECT

THE TIME HAS FINALLY COME TO RELAUNCH OUR CONSERVATION EDUCATION PROJECT!

Catherine, a local tailor turned teacher and Bailey, our new volunteer are spearheading this new adventure together. They are targeting grades five through nine, as was advised by one of the head teachers, Mr. Hamote, because children at this age have been caught trying to poach in the past. We also believe these kids are at a ripe age where curiosity and benevolence intersect, which will allow us to truly impact their education.

To begin our project we'll focus on **five schools** throughout the Musungwa Chiefdom. Although these schools are within a 50 km radius of one another they vary in the type of education we'll need to provide.

In 3 schools we'll begin with basic knowledge of Kafue National Park such as the composition of flora and fauna, different cycles that exist within Kafue's ecosystem, different external pressures that the park faces, as well as solutions to problems like climate change, overfishing, and soil degradation. We'll also be incorporating experiential learning. Some of the activities the students will be doing include: drawing and labeling the map of Zambia, identifying wildlife tracks, and finding their way through a maze with just their sense of smell (just like elephants, who have the number one olfactory system of all mammals on earth)!

The fourth school is located within the park boundaries where many of the student's parents are park officers, so these pupils already hold a basic knowledge of the park. As recommended by the head of the school, Mrs. Benadit, our focus in this school will be on changing the children's mindset about the park's value rather than on broader conservation concepts, through a more experiment based approach.



The last school presents a completely different challenge: it hasn't been operational for two years due to a lack of funding. As a temporary measure, we will go once a week to teach the pupils math, english, and wildlife conservation while the community bands together to come up with a more permanent solution. To help the community further we want to help create a sustainable program for the parents to fund their children's education in the future.

We're hatching a plan to hopefully be revealed in the next newsletter!



**5
SCHOOLS**

**175
KIDS**

**TWICE A
MONTH**





“BEES & ELEPHANTS” PROJECT

CATCH ME IF YOU CAN !

Beekeeping has been quite the adventure this year with many of our swarms abruptly leaving their hives. Thankfully the women involved have become experts in retrieving lost colonies.



With our **Zambian** beekeeping consultant Peter's guidance, the women have successfully removed colonies from tree tops, captured and caged queens, and transferred them to hives. We currently have **three settled colonies** that we expect to harvest in the upcoming weeks of December!



While we wait for the busy bees to finish preparing the liquid gold the club has been busy preparing all **16 hives** for the rainy season ahead. They've cleaned out the empty hives, applied more wax to attract new colonies, and attached plastic covers. Although bees can be intimidating the women are fearless when dressed head to toe in their bee suits. Watching them climb three meter high trees to check on the hives is truly an eye catching sight.



COMMUNITY VETERINARY PROJECT

TWICE AS MANY DOGS VACCINATED AGAINST RABIES THIS YEAR



In 2019, we launched our first rabies vaccination campaign for dogs. We spent two weeks and vaccinated 180 dogs. Proud of this first trial, we repeated it in September this year... And what a surprise when we discovered the number of dogs registered!

This year, our campaign lasted more than 3 weeks for a total of **307 vaccinated dogs!**



SHANDAVU CAMP

WORK IN PROGRESS

Because pictures are worth more than words, here are some pictures of the new Melindika car and our future bungalow for tourists!

