

5 Years of Rural Development in Zambia: The Results are In

In numbers

>3000

Cattle vaccinated every 6 months (p2)

57

Kilos of honey harvested by the women of our Bee Club (p3)

200

Students participating in conservation education classes (p3)

40

Tourists and volunteers welcomed at Shandavu camp (p4)

COMMITMENT AND SOLIDARITY!

In 2016, I left with a fellow veterinarian to discover a new country. 8000 euros raised, a 4x4, a bush tent and a lot of motivation to learn from others allowed us to go and live in immersion in the communities bordering Kafue National Park in Zambia for 6 months. There we discovered people's unwavering joy of life, despite recurring obstacles, a unique relationship between man and animal, and iconic and formidable landscapes and wildlife. And yet, like a cloud in the middle of this glowing sun, a mountain of challenges seemed to threaten the people and nature of this lost paradise: rural poverty, poaching that decimates the park, difficult management of natural resources, lack of access to education and health care, the early consequences of climate change... There was so much to do to preserve this unique place and the people who live there!



So we decided to put our veterinary skills to use in the name of international solidarity and to commit ourselves to supporting the development of the Musungwa chiefdom by creating a community veterinary project and a nonprofit organization to achieve this ambition: Melindika.

That was five years ago.

Today our veterinary project serves nearly 200 farming families who have access to different programs: veterinary examinations, vaccinations, research programs and training. To this have been added a community tourism program (2018), a beekeeping club for community women (2019) and conservation and ecology courses in elementary school (2020). Yes, we will talk about beneficiaries supported, the number of animals vaccinated or kilos of honey harvested... But five years later, what I remember most is the constant international solidarity that links you to Melindika. None of this could have happened without your generosity.

This year has been marked by your solidarity but also by the commitment of three people who joined us in the field: Bailey, Baptiste and Noah. They are the ones who have brought Melindika's projects to life and it is with great pleasure that I give them the stand in this newsletter to share with you our endeavors for 2021!

Africanly yours,



Melindika

Victoire,
President and founder





FOCUS OF THE MONTH : OUR VETERINARY COMMUNITY PROJECT (VCP)

5 YEARS OF CARING FOR ANIMALS, PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

COWS THAT FEEL COMFORTABLE IN THEIR SKIN

Raising awareness of the various dermatological diseases affecting cows in the community was our research program for 2021. To do this, samples were taken and the pathogens involved were identified on the farms and in our bush laboratory. As a second step, the results were delivered, along with a training session for the farmers on the diseases, which took place in each village.



112 farmers attentively participated in these training workshops. A second, more in-depth training

session was then held for our 5 veterinary assistants.

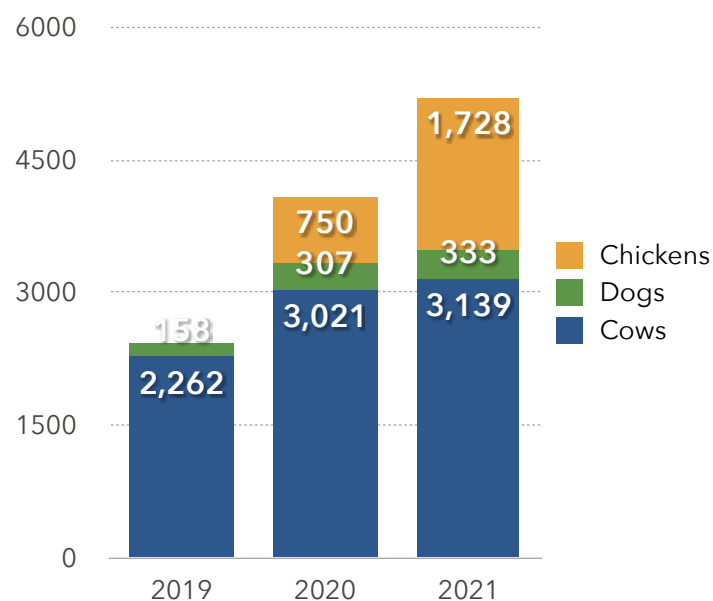
FOR THE DONKEY, THE CARROT NOT THE STICK!

Following the proliferation of donkeys in the communities for various reasons (lower purchase cost than an ox, easier to drive and a species reputed to be robust), it seemed fitting to us to make the farmers aware of the health issues and specificities of this species. In 2020, Felix and Boyd, veterinary assistants, had received training on the production of harnesses designed specifically for working donkeys. This year, we presented these new harnesses and trained **17 owners** on the health and well-being



of the working donkey. The first harnesses will be delivered before the end of the year to bring some relief to these beasts of burden!

INCREASINGLY POPULAR VACCINATIONS



VETERINARY CARE, AND MORE ...

Melindika was lucky enough to welcome this year two agronomy students to enlarge the scope of our activities and our skills. Gabrielle Bichat came this summer to carry out a study on the feasibility of establishing a dairy cooperative. Elise Dagorret-Bonetto is currently evaluating cow feeding and grazing management in the chiefdom. These two studies are intended to broaden our veterinary project to a "pitchfork to table fork" approach, to support farmers in the generation of an income from livestock that will allow them be compensated in a dignified way for their work.

Baptiste Poupée,
Veterinarian in charge of
the CVP





OUR "CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT" PROGRAMS

"BEES & ELEPHANTS"

"Life is the flower for which love is the honey," said Victor Hugo, and love was plentiful this May! After four days of intensive harvesting and processing, the Shandavwu Women's Bee Club was able to collect **57 kilos** of raw honey! Our honey was sold to the lodges in Kafue National Park to strengthen the link between tourists and the local communities. We sold out in just one month and we are eager to break this record with our harvest in December!



In an effort to scale the project, we hung **14 new hives** and have doubled our hive occupancy since May. We have also equipped the club with a press to offer our buyers the best quality honey.

A good businesswoman knows when to diversify her portfolio, which is why the Women's Bee Club has decided to embark on a new project, raising improved village chickens.

We're combining the traditional knowledge of the women with French veterinary research to rear the healthiest chickens on the market. Our chicken coop was built by the women themselves (with the help of some dedicated husbands) and is set to be up and running by the end of the year!



"KIDS AND TREES"

Although we thought we had left the coronavirus behind in 2020, schools were still closed for two months in the middle of the year. This did not stop us from teaching over 200 students per month, with **seven lessons** in ecology and conservation: Climate Change; Human-Predator Conflict; The Elephant: A Keystone Species; Overfishing; Beekeeping; Plastic Pollution... Our classes are always interactive and include outdoor activities, games and treats, much to the students' delight.



In order to increase attendance and attention in class, we have started a porridge distribution program at Makuzu School. Once a week, a group of volunteer cooks prepare a huge pot of porridge to serve **200 students** before the school day begins. Our porridge contains all the ingredients needed to ensure a complete nutritional meal and is a real hit with the kids!

Last but not least, to reinforce our lessons on wildlife conservation, we partnered with Konkamoya, a lakeside lodge, to take our students on school safaris. This season, a total of **39 children and 5 teachers** were able to learn about the history of the park and see wildlife such as elephants, hippos, buffalo and even leopards!

Bailey Dunn,
"C&D" project manager





INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AT PRESENT

SHANDAVU CAMP & COMMUNITY TOURISM

This year was one of continued challenges for tourism worldwide due to Covid-19. Zambia, after seeming to largely escape the pandemic last year, saw a large increase in cases during the winter. Nevertheless, we managed to welcome **40 tourists** and volunteers at the camp in 2021 and to organize two vaccination days to protect camp staff, their families, and other community residents. The result: zero cases of Covid detected at Shandavu Camp!



Some of the activities we have been able to offer our visitors include: trips to Kafue National Park, bathing in hot springs, visiting local artisans, sunset cruises on Lake Itzhi-Tezhi, hikes with park rangers, and of course accompanying us on our Melindika projects.

This year we rebuilt and expanded the main camp cabin. We have also completely rebuilt the solar system to allow both the powering of a new refrigerator to store vaccines for the veterinary project and the extension of running electrical power to all the camp buildings.



With three cabins, two campsites, a communal kitchen, an office and **5 local staff**, we hope to continue this success in 2022 and to share the magic of Zambia with even more people!

Noah Blumenthal,
Shandavu camp manager



FROM YOU TO US

More and more of you trust us and support our projects. As a nonprofit organization depending on the generosity of the public, we can only say a huge **TWALUMBA** (thank you)!

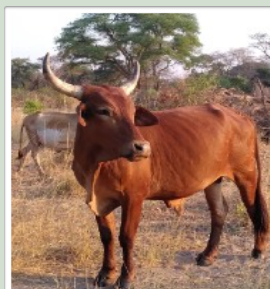
In addition to your trust, we are honored to welcome several organizations and companies that have chosen this year to continue their support or that have joined us in order to develop new projects of cohabitation between man and wildlife around Kafue National Park. To all our partners, welcome to the Melindika adventure!



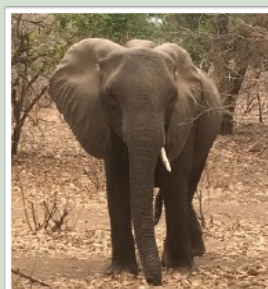
**ONE
HEALTH
FOR
ALL**



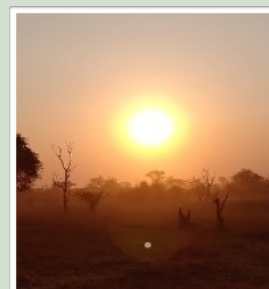
HUMANS



DOMESTIC ANIMALS



WILDLIFE



ENVIRONMENT