



Explore Africa / Zambia Ltd

NDORCHENA LODGE

CHIAWA COMMUNITY ACTION UPDATE!

MAY 2010

In 2008, Directors of Explore Inc USA, Richard Wilson and Cheri Briggs started a new African base of operations in the Chiawa GMA of Zambia's beautiful Lower Zambezi. Fulfilling a dream for many years of living in the Lower Zambezi, they purchased Ndorochena Lodge on the banks of the mighty river. They became founding members of the Lower Zambezi Conservation Trust which they have now turned over to Zambians to run fully after accomplishing many of their initial goals, including creating the first protected farm in the area which has provided food security for many families.

They now are focusing on their tourism marketing efforts for Africa, with a special emphasis on Zambia, and utilize the property as a base for their community/economic empowerment work in the Chiawa GMA and other parts of Zambia. These efforts will be implemented through Explore Inc's recently formed not-for-profit entity, "DIRECT IMAPACT AFRICA" which operates under the auspices of Global Communications for Conservation and their new Zambia based company Explore Africa Zambia Ltd, Richard and Cheri have been hard at work implementing projects throughout the country with the support of Explore Inc clients. This newsletter highlights some of the ventures Richard & Cheri have initiated within the Chiawa Community, Livingstone and other parts of Zambia.

June 2008 to September 2009: *Cheri and Richard focused on initiating the first community development projects for the Chiawa community via the Lower Zambezi Conservation Trust (see attached newsletter) and securing the Declaration of the new protected area , The Chiawa Partnership Park, the first of its kind in Zambia.*

September 2009: *Richard held a week long training course for 10 craft artisans in Livingstone, Zambia. The gift from Explore Africa Zambia of high quality tools and electrical equipment has helped take Livingstone's quality of craft to a new level. The project was overseen by master carver Hastings Phiri who has provided craft for Richard's Zambezi Trading Company clients for many years.*

October 2009: *Richard organized the 2nd annual Play for Life football league tournament for 12 Chiawa soccer teams. Richard, initially organized the league through the Lower Zambezi Conservation Trust and Explore Africa Zambia/Direct Impact Africa, has now fully taken over its management. The third tournament will be held in Oct 2010.*

November 2009: *The first women from the craft/tailoring cooperatives graduated from a four month in-residence training sponsored by WorldWomenWork and went home to start training their fellow coop members and get into*

production. Approximately 30 families will benefit from the new businesses. The Chiawa women's group contracted with government to sew 120 school uniforms and the Mugurmeno group is producing men's traditional style clothing for local people and bags to sale to local people as well as curtains and bedspreads etc for loges and attractive bags for tourists.

December 2009: Work was initiated on the first Chiawa community-owned fish farm in Chiawa. The initial clearing of the area was done by hand by 20 dedicated and very hard working community cooperative members. Explore Africa Zambia raised the funds for the project with the generous donation of the Reeder Foundation. Next steps are excavation of the ponds, further clearing of areas for fields to grow fish food and produce, and installation of the pumps and other equipment needed for the farm. A significant 'by-product' of the farm is a small produce farm which will be watered by the run off of water from the fish ponds. The project will be completed later this year.

December 2009: Barbara and Lewis Hollweg, long time Explore clients and benefactors to Africa, generously provided beds, mattresses, supplies, instructional books and onsite training to the local Chiawa Clinic with the help of Dr. K. Dudensing.



SOCCKER LEAGUE

In October 2009, Richard held the 2nd league tournament for the 12 Chiawa soccer teams. The significance of soccer in this rural part of Zambia is virtually unimaginable to us. The sports leagues are about to resume play for their third successive year. This in itself is a fantastic achievement and has proven to be a great tool in assisting in generating support and implementation of the many other projects that they are actively involved in within the community. It has also brought fun and community spirit to the lives of these impoverished people and generated self esteem for the players. As much as Richard and Cherri appreciate the importance of their planned agricultural and community development projects, it is also essential that the community partake in events that are purely for fun. Not only does soccer build team spirit but it acts as a forum to discuss more important issues such as health, HIV and conservation, it addresses the need for healthy outdoor activity.



In the spirit of the FIFA World Cup being hosted in Africa in 2010, Explore Africa is spearheading an effort to bring the Lower Zambezi an opportunity of a lifetime... a chance to attend the 2010 FIFA World Cup. They will host the Chiawa 2010 "Mini World Cup": a tournament to be played by teams from the 9 villages located in the Lower Zambezi. 16 teams will participate in the tournament (drawn from the 12 teams that already participate in the Chiawa League). The tournament will be played in the same format as the FIFA 2010 World Cup. Each team will draw a name of a participating country in the FIFA World Cup and will be given t-shirts

representing that country and the motto "The Spirit of the Cup." They will also be given 2 World Cup official soccer balls to be used for both this tournament and for their upcoming league season.

On completion of the final match, there will be prizes including miniature trophies and FIFA 2010 World Cup paraphernalia for each player. In addition to this, 3 names will be drawn from all players participating in the final and each will win a trip to South Africa to watch a World Cup football match in either Johannesburg or Pretoria! This trip will include transport from the village to Lusaka, roundtrip airfare to South Africa (*donated by Zambezi Airlines*), accommodation (*donated by Courtyard Eastgate in Johannesburg*), meals, tickets to the game and a bit of pocket money. They will be chaperoned by Isaiah Museto a local man who has, singlehandedly, run the sports league and overseen all community farm projects, etc (for no compensation). He is an invisible hero and this is a gift to him for all he has done for his community.

All funds raised above the cost of the tournament will go towards creating safe swimming spots along the Zambezi River. This will aid in alleviating the terrible loss of life suffered in the area on an annual basis due to crocodile attacks. Isaiah's son was taken two years ago.

The World Cup represents a dream for all children in Africa but virtually no one from this area will be able to attend and very few will even have the chance to view it on television. **To help bring the Cup to all in the area, Explore Africa and Multi Choice Satellite TV are donating a television and a year of service to the community so that all can watch the games. They will also have future access to educational TV viewing** (Discovery, History channel, BBC news, etc). Viewings will be carefully monitored by the Chiawa Headmaster. Explore Africa is bringing the Lower Zambezi an opportunity of a lifetime... a chance to not only attend the 2010 FIFA World Cup but also bring a sense to the entire community of being part of a global sporting event important to their country and all of Africa.

ORGANIC FISH FARM

In December 2009, Explore Africa Zambia Ltd began work to create the first Chiawa community-owned fish farm in the Gota Gota area. The community formed its own co-operative and identified the land for the project, then worked to clear much of the land by hand. Cherri and Richard implemented the first phase of the fish farm by raising sufficient funds from the Reeder Foundation for excavation, completing the design, clearing the area of tree stumps to ensure the future of the ponds and locating a suitable pump for the water. The pump will bring the water 300m from the river and up a 9m head. Each of the three ponds will have natural water pumped into it 3x per month which. When the water is let out, it will be used to irrigate a field below for the people to use as a garden and to raise millet which is great for human consumption but can also be used as fish food. If the pump is installed where the river is flowing at 1.5 meters/second, the estimated delivery will be 21,000 liters per 24 hour day - *the equivalent of 1,050 women each carrying 20 liters!!* The final stages of the fish farm will be complete later this year.

WOMENS TAILORING AND CRAFT PROJECTS



Singer Rankin, a long-time Explore client, spends her time meeting women artisans who make beautiful, unusual things and helps them organize to market their goods to the outside world. She created WorldWomenWork to provide a steady stream of income which grows local women's enterprises, sells their products, and ultimately donates all proceeds from the sales to projects that educate girls, build economic independence for women and their families, and protect the natural world.

In the Chiawa Community, WWW provides the funds to send local women to professional tailoring school for four months of in-residence training. In 2009, WWW purchased sewing machines for their use and has helped them form a cooperative. The local women participating (some of who have never held a pencil) are learning to make bags and other crafts to sell to safari lodges along the nearby Zambezi River and products for local purchase, from school uniforms to dresses.



This project not only provides skills and income to the women involved, but it also gives them the ability to see beyond their village and the status to take part in decisions concerning the way their lands are being used. In 2010, WWW will provide the funds for several more women to attend sewing school and will also fund new classes in organic farming.



CHIAWA CLINIC



In 2009, Explore clients Barbara and Lewis Hollweg supplied beds and mattresses to the Chiawa clinic. Another client of Explore's, Dr. Katie Dudensing, brought supplies, instructional books and training to the local staff at the clinic and held classes for children on health issues with the local clinic director.



ARTISAN TRAINING COURSES



Throughout Zambia, Richard supplies equipment and holds workshops with local artisans focusing on the latest technology and marketing trends. Richard also provides information and guidance on marketing to tourists and advises regarding their preferences in furnishings, artwork, etc. In September 2009, he held a week long training course for 10 carvers in Livingstone, Zambia. Richard implements these workshops because he understands the importance in educating local artists on marketing their products and making them more viable. Richard's company, Zambezi Trading, purchases some of the goods and others are sold to visitors at crafts markets and other venues.

