



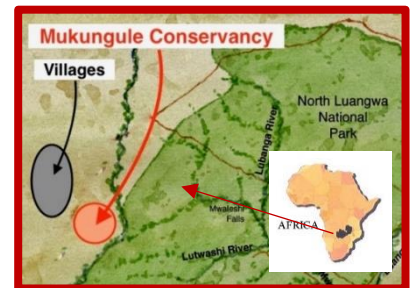
Dear Everybody

June 2020

I love some numbers. There is no logic in the joy they bring. I have looked forward to 2020 for decades. It seemed a happy number. Did I mention it is irrational? I could not imagine what 2020 would bring.

In the past, most of us watched from a distance as Ebola devastated parts of Africa. Now COVID 19 has exploded in dense human populations around the world where travel and proximity allowed it to spread wildly. This virus will soon reach the remote villages of Africa which are least prepared to survive it. With staggering loss of life and income, desperate people look for ways to survive. That often results in the decimation of wildlife, especially in Africa. We are pulled in so many directions during this demanding time, but we must not turn our backs on the people who are the stewards of fragile wildlife populations. Our small acts can be powerful.

Updates from Hammer Simwinga working in North Zambia show us how those simple acts exponentially improve the lives of people and wildlife. In 1985 Mark and Delia Owens trekked into the remote North Luangwa National Park to continue their study of carnivores only to be engulfed by the firestorm of poaching scorching Africa, vast numbers of elephants and rhinos killed and sold for their 'parts'. With your support, Delia and Mark devised an environmentally sound, sustainable program to engage local villagers in the conservation of their wildlife resource through loans for agriculture, small business, conservation education, rural health and tourism development programs couched in a better understanding of conservation. It worked. Hammer carries that model forward through his *Foundation for Wildlife and Habitat Conservation (FWHC)*, refining it to meet changing needs. One such challenge is deforestation caused by unsustainable firewood use which poses a constant threat to the health of the environment, people and wildlife.



FROM HAMMER: *Villagers have come to recognize the conserved North Luangwa National Park area not just a "project" that they have taken up, but very much a way of life, with grounding in history and culture. Using a community participatory approach, the Community Natural Resource Management Committees looked at expanding revenue streams for wildlife supportive industries, integrating sustainable agriculture models. As countries restrict international travel and the movement of people to slow the spread of coronavirus, many African countries and communities whose communities dependent on wildlife-based tourism are experiencing insecurity from the loss of income generated from tourists.*

Beekeeping has been one of our key sources of income and forest conservation strategies. Individuals are given a beehive and maintenance instruction with a standing contract to keep the forest intact. This project has helped many people including women to own land. This has also created sustainable local income. With the coming of COVID-19, FWHC is promoting strategies like back yard gardens for vegetables to increase household food security. Rural women are now growing vegetables and selling to people in urban towns who are experiencing restricted movements.



Mandelena, Hammer, villager

Hammer again updates us on Mandelena Chituntama, a 27 year old Mother with two boys and two girls. Mandelena had been struggling to feed her children on an income of \$1 per day. Thanks to support from you and determined work by Hammer, Mandelena received a loan to become a beekeeper and instruction on improved agriculture. Her income is now \$6 a day. She can feed her family. Where Mandelena never had the opportunity for an education, she can now afford to pay fees and buy books to send her first born twelve year old daughter to school. A simple thing on the surface, but entirely

powerful. A small donation of a \$50 beehive and a lot of hard work on sustainable agriculture are improving the lives of five people...in an environmentally sustainable way that in turn protects wildlife.

We must empower vulnerable people who provide a protective buffer around threatened wildlife. Thank you for helping us continue to support Hammer and people like Mandelena and her children who in turn protect the air, land, water, forests and the creatures who live there.



Stephanie Hart and I made a small donation to Hammer's first born son, 19 year old Andozile to establish a poultry program to pay for college. Ando's success shows how small acts can build a foundation that will benefit many:

How are you and your family? I hope you are fine in the midst of this horrific global pandemic, our prayers are with you. I wanted to share a quick update from my poultry business. It's performing well, good profits are being raised to support my school fees. The lock down crisis has extremely affected businesses and hiked prices, our normal price for chicken sales have as well gone up by 40%

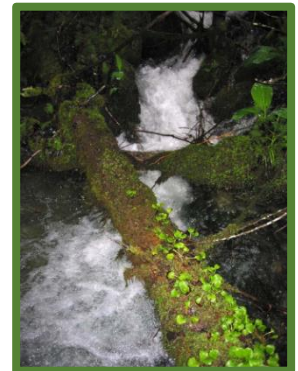


which is not so good for families that have not stocked up. Attached are pictures of the chickens I am keeping right in my backyard. They are healthy chickens that feed on natural feed, mostly homemade. They are the third set of 200 from the time I received funds from you. Thank you so much for your support. I will ever be grateful. Most of my friends would ask how I am managing. Some are struggling and see my success with shock and surprise. I love you so much, keep holding on! Ando

UPDATES FROM MARK: I continue working on complex conservation easements and conservation plans for critical wildlife habitat in North Idaho. After a spring with lots of rain for the first time in years, grass is thicker in the meadow and streams gush with snowmelt, roaring into the marsh amidst clouds of spray. There are more ducks, geese and otters than in a hundred years.



But all is not well in Eden: across the globe the killing of wolves and other carnivores prevents the control of prey numbers. Without 'predation pressure' herbivore numbers have exploded causing over-grazing of their habitats and exceeding "carrying capacities". Herbivores become nutritionally stressed inviting diseases like Wasting Disease that wipes out many of them. This is happening all over the American West. I urge everyone to view the video: *Lords of Nature: Life in the Land of Great Predators*.



We wish you the very best in these trying times and thank you for your continued support. You make the difference.

Cheers, 

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