

Boarding House welcomes its first girls

After five years of hard work from Manda Wilderness Community Trust, its supporters and the communities of the Manda Wilderness region the Girls' Boarding House in Cobué is now up and running.



Five years ago, the communities of Manda Wilderness identified the need for a Girls Boarding House near the district's only secondary school in Cobue, to ensure that daughters from distant villages could continue their education beyond primary level.

The Boarding facility with four rooms of ten girls each, two outdoor toilets and a kitchen with 4 built-in, fuel-efficient stoves for cooking has already become a home for forty talented students. Coming from one of the most remote and disadvantaged corners of Mozambique they now have an opportunity for a better future and a safe place to live during term time.



'I am very happy to live now in the Boarding House because I don't have to walk more than 2 hours to school every day anymore. says 16- years -old Abirgel Sumbulanga, from Chirola Village Finally, I have some time to read and study now.'



'Thank you for giving us a place where all girls can be safe and study together helping one another' adds Beatrice Chiuzenji, 13,from Mataka Village.

This is a huge achievement for all those involved in this ground-breaking project, so MWCT would like to thank all the people, and especially its donors, who helped to make it possible.

Would you like to sponsor a student? We are starting a sponsorship programme for those girls whose families can't afford costs such as food if they send their daughters to Cobué secondary school. To be one of the sponsors, please email us at mwct@mandawilderness.org

Farmers turn to fish

The only Fish Farm in Manda Wilderness is yielding its first harvest, bringing a new source of protein for the remote inland village of Litanda. After incredible efforts from the local community, and thanks to generous funding from the **United States Embassy in Maputo**, time for hauling in the first catch has finally arrived.



The 18 members of the Litanda Community Association have been hard at work digging two fish tanks, and engaging community members to improve overall living conditions of this distant village set high in the hills far away from the only other regular source of fish, Lake Niassa. During the process of developing their Fish Farm, the villagers received training from experts and volunteers who spent many hours hiking to and from the project site.

Apart from offering improved nutrition for all the villagers, the scheme helped foster team work, sharing resources and ideas for developing Litanda and surrounding villages.

The Association hopes to become government-sanctioned at some point, and to use revenue received from selling fish to fund other community projects in the village.

Bringing Magic to Manda

'Cause to wonder' is a traveling magic show that not only baffles audiences with an awesome range of tricks but also spreads a serious message that conservation need never be just a distant illusion. Now that Meaningful Magic comes to Manda. Travelling on foot and by boat from village to village along our breathtaking lakeshore, magician Lisa Menna piques curiosity and awe with her interactive performance under the inspiring slogan of 'Nyanja ya ukhondo moyo wa chisangalalo!' (A clean lake brings a happy future!)



Efforts to keep one of Africa's biggest sources of fresh water clean and full of fish have brought together local fishermen, MWCT and international bodies such as the World Wildlife Fund in recent years. Now a promise of little extra magic has brought an enthusiastic response from lakeshore folks who know the

lovely lake is a vital part of their future prosperity.

Conservation Agriculture spreading roots in Lake Niassa

The Manda Wilderness Agricultural Project, which visitors to Nkwichi Lodge know from its work at the nearby farm, is now spreading its wings by training people from 15 villages in new agricultural and agroforestry methods aimed at



improving biodiversity in the area. Protecting and improving the habitat for endemic species is seen as crucial to the success and sustainability of ecological agriculture for a region hard hit by the ravages of civil war and unplanned land use.

"We are very happy with the results so far achieved with the trainings delivered in the first five villages of the Manda region," says Inês Gomes, who leads the agricultural project for MWCT. Mandambuzi, Litanda, Mbueca, Utonga and Mala have already received training as well as seeds to allow them to improve crops and soil fertility. Other villages from the Manda Wilderness region will benefit from the "Protecting Biodiversity with Conservation Agriculture" project, supported by funds from **Birdlife International** and the **CEPF Eastern Afromontane Hotspot Program**

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, the European Union, the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. The Eastern Afromontane biodiversity Hotspot is one of the Earth's 35 biodiversity hotspots, the most biologically rich yet threatened areas around the globe.



Phantom of the Forest brings the Choirs back to Cobué



Manda Wilderness Community Trust has already started to plan the fifth Manda Wilderness Choir Festival, which last year won financial support from the **Andrew Lloyds Webber Foundation**. This annual community event will take place on the steps of the magnificent historic Roman Catholic Church at Cobue, on August 16th.

As every year, this festival will offer an opportunity for choirs from sixteen different villages to delight the audience with their impressive skills. More than 200 singers and their supporters will walk and sail along the shores of Lake Niassa to take part on this highly popular community event that fosters unity in the Manda Wilderness region.

If you are planning a trip to Nkwichi this summer, being there for the Festival would be a great time to choose.

After 10 momentous years at the helm of the Manda Wilderness Community Trust, Lucy Varcoe has relinquished her post as Chair. Under her leadership the Trust spread its good works throughout the huge Manda Wilderness area, with Lucy as the constant reference point and supporter.

Lucy is only moving one chair across to continue as a Trustee - and to answer all the questions from her successor, Jeremy Toyé. Jeremy has been involved with the Trust for a number of years, visiting Nkwichi to see for himself the positive impact we make at Manda. He is strongly committed to having the local community totally involved in everything we do, from identifying projects, through working alongside on implementation, to judging the eventual benefits.

Jeremy and his fellow Trustees are delighted to welcome Leti Galak as our new Community Support Manager based at Nkwichi, where she and all the Trust supporters have the vital backing of everyone at the Lodge (but perhaps most of all Lodge Manager Malcolm Turner). Leti and her partner Axel are already out visiting villages and meeting guests to spread the word on what we and our local partners are striving to achieve.



Manda Wilderness Community Trust helps some of the poorest and least supported people in a forgotten corner of northern Mozambique and one of Africa's last true wilderness .

We still have a lot of work to do: building schools, buying furniture for the schools, supporting women's

groups, organizing training in agriculture, tailoring, carpentry and sports.

Any donations, regardless of the amount, are welcome—the need is great!



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