



zambia • luangwa • 1995

REMOTE AFRICA  
*Safaris*

## THE TAFIKA FUND



School scholarships  
Skills training and tertiary education  
Football for wildlife

*Remote Africa Safaris* is actively involved, through the Tafika Fund, in sustainably uplifting the surrounding community of Mkasanga village in Mwanza. The majority of the staff working at Remote Africa Safaris' four camps, hail from the Mwanza area.

The Tafika Fund was set up by John and Carol Coppinger in 1998 and has been managed by Carol ever since. Donations to the Tafika Fund, from generous guests, tour operators and Remote Africa itself, are used to assist the (government run) Mkasanga School in a number of ways. From building renovation, to the purchase and supply of stationery, textbooks, library books, desks, school supplies, additional educational material and the payment of 5 teachers' salaries.

The Fund makes a significant difference to present lives and future aspirations of Mkasanga scholars. Each term pupils are provided with a stationery pack to ensure they can make full use of their opportunities for study, not hampered by the poverty stresses their families may be experiencing.

It also offers further educational opportunities for the children of the Mwanza community by providing scholarships annually; awarded on merit, to the 4 top scoring Mkasanga grade 9 pupils writing the National examinations.

Approximately 12 pupils are supported on full high school scholarships at boarding schools further afield, to complete grades 10 to 12 every year, as no local schools offer these grades. In 2021, 1 girl and 11 boys are being sponsored. The support for these young pupils includes accommodation, food and transport costs, as well as school tuition fees, books and uniforms which costs approximately **\$700** per annum.

# THE TAFIKA FUND

The Tafika Fund also built an outpatient clinic in Mkasanga which officially opened its doors in 2006, and acts as a first aid centre for the 2000+ residents of Mkasanga. There are long term plans to extend the clinic to include an inpatient and maternity wing. A government medical officer oversees the clinic and tends to patients while the fund pays a monthly wage for an assistant to the officer. Periodically medical supplies may be donated to supplement the clinic provisions.



## *Skills training*

Inevitably, the desire for tertiary education for our successful school leavers, found the Tafika Fund extending its support to aspiring students. The Tafika Fund now offers further sponsorship for skills training and college students every year.

In 2021, 8 students are being supported: 7 men and 1 young woman. Education, nursing and medical officer training seem to be the most popular choices currently, with a further 3 students at university completing 3 to 4 year degrees.

Once the Fund takes on a student, they are supported throughout their studies, provided their grades remain acceptable. This long-term commitment puts huge strain on the Fund and limits the number of students that can be included in the program.

The Tafika Fund has supported several students through long-term degrees over the years, including a student of medicine at Unza, Mr Swedy Nkhoma, who completed his degree in 2017. Watching various life options become available to our youth is a great reward for the efforts and ongoing support of the Tafika Fund.

Remote Africa Safaris is a tourism operation sharing the gems of the Zambian photographic safari world with guests from all over the world. A donation of \$5 from every bed-night is made to The Tafika Fund and a further \$5 per bed-night is donated to North and South Luangwa National Park

# THE TAFIKA FUND

conservation programs. Guest donations and sponsorships add to the funds, which are inevitably topped up by Remote Africa to balance the books at the year end.

Generous guests visiting Tafika, and the other Remote Africa Camps, may often be seen dragging a second heavy bag into camp filled with footballs, school supplies, football boots, whistles and retired phones and computers for our students. The delight these gifts bring to our villagers and students make the overloaded journey through international airports to reach Zambia well worth it. Funding a skills/university student costs approximately **\$2500** per annum.

Rome was not built in a day, but changing and uplifting one life at a time makes the world glow brighter.



## *Football for Wildlife*

Inspired by David Back who, together with his wife Karen, worked in the Luangwa Valley for several years, a Football for Wildlife league was started in 2015. The objective of the League is to build awareness and enthusiasm for wildlife conservation over a wide reach of the Luangwa valley residents through their abiding love of soccer. The initiative is ably managed by Jimmy Sakala and Carol Coppinger of Remote Africa Safaris and funded by Remote Africa Safaris' Tafika Fund.

The league involves teams from chiefdoms adjacent to both the North and South Luangwa National parks. Each team represents individual villages, generating great inter-village rivalry and communication for the 6 week period of the league.

8 mens teams, 4 from Chifunda and 4 from Mwanya Chiefdoms, have competed in the league since its inception, for the prize, The Kafupi Cup (named after Karen Back, a lady small in stature).

In 2017 the football league was expanded to include a ladies' league, offering encouragement and opportunities for the woman of the Luangwa, as well as men. This possibly marked the first time ladies played football in the Luangwa Valley in a competitive league.

The ladies league includes 4 teams from the northern Chifunda and 4 from the southern Mwanya chiefdoms who all compete for the Shipikisha Cup, meaning "BE STRONG TO GO FORWARD". True grit and determination is shown by the ladies in learning both the skills of football and overcoming their cultural hesitance for this newly accepted female role in the community.

# THE TAFIKA FUND

Much preparation is required on an annual basis to ensure the success of FOOTBALL FOR WILDLIFE. Each team has a coach and a manager. Training commences long before the league start date arrives. Uniforms and 34 footballs for the 16 teams are purchased in Lusaka through Valley Lodgeistics, the ever efficient and willing buyers for all the Luangwa Valley camps. Various UK schools have donated bags of used football boots which get distributed to a few lucky players.

Transport for the teams to move from village to village on match day is carried out by local taxis of all shapes and sizes.

Referees and linesmen keep the peace amidst the bubbling enthusiasm of supporters and players alike. Each player, coach and official receives a match fee to ensure everyone reaps a reward for their efforts. Uniforms, whistles, flags and banners all with their team branding, are provided, associating each team to their specific animal and building conservation awareness.

These matches provide great entertainment for all, enriching the lives of the surrounding communities, creating a friendly competitive spirit and encouraging different villages to work together. Most of all, the league aims to promote positive awareness for conservation of the Luangwa's precious wildlife, trees and environment in an atmosphere of fun, excitement and achievement.



Should you wish to support the Tafika Fund, kindly email us on: [jen@remoteafrica.com](mailto:jen@remoteafrica.com). Tax-free donations can be made from the USA on **Generosity In Action**. If you're making a donation through a charitable fund, this can be done through Philanthropic Ventures Foundation. Alternately, bank details for welcome donations are:

<b>Account name</b>	Our	Remote Africa Safaris Ltd
<b>address</b>	<b>Bank</b>	PO Box 5, Mfuwe, Zambia
<b>Account currency</b>		ZANACO
<b>Branch</b>	<b>Bank address</b>	US\$
<b>Account number</b>		Mfuwe, Mfuwe International Airport, Eastern Province, Zambia
<b>Sort code</b>		0361149500223
<b>Swift code</b>		012606
		ZNCOZMLU

Kindly ensure any payment is referenced, 'The Tafika Fund', to ensure that we allocate the payment correctly. Thank you very much for your generous support.