

Women Leading the Way in North Luangwa

In 1998, black rhinos were declared extinct in Zambia. Today, thanks to the inspirational vision and tireless efforts of dedicated conservationists, North Luangwa National Park is home to a healthy and growing black rhino population.



Today, there are more women working in North Luangwa National Park to protect rhinos and other incredible wildlife. Alongside our partners, we're empowering them to succeed.



This success reflects the meticulous planning and dedicated operations of the North Luangwa Conservation Programme (NLCP) and their recognition that successful rhino conservation requires an ecosystem approach that extends beyond wildlife and park boundaries to promote sustainable development for nearby communities.

NLCP are recognised for the innovation that they bring to the conservation space. Whilst wildlife conservation has long been perceived as a male-biased sector, NLCP recognises the opportunities and strengths that women can offer and is leading the charge to create a more inclusive and equitable conservation workforce.



experience at the NLCP vehicle workshop is breaking barriers and proving that anyone can succeed in roles once considered 'male only.' Her dedication symbolises the importance of empowering women to choose their livelihoods, promoting gender equality and access.

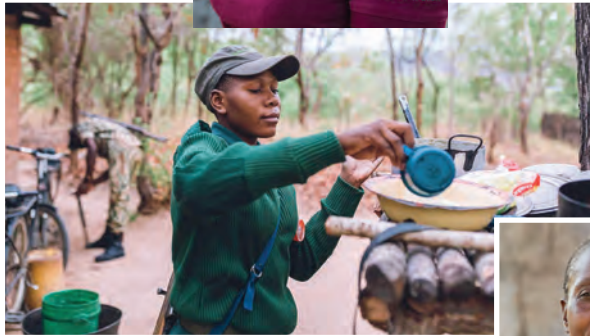
Addressing Practical Barriers

Supporting women in conservation goes beyond training opportunities. In the field, rangers and rhino monitors face enormous challenges and often risk their lives. For women, additional practical issues arise, such as access to properly fitting clothes and menstrual hygiene products.

This year, NLCP purchased 275 reusable period products to support female staff and community members. While small, such initiatives are critical steps towards creating an environment where women can thrive, fostering dignity and confidence that allows them to focus on furthering conservation.

This work in North Luangwa demonstrates the transformative power of inclusive conservation. By championing women

and breaking barriers, NLCP is fostering a brighter future for people and wildlife. With a diverse and empowered workforce, the Park is not only a haven for rhinos but secures a healthy ecosystem for nearby communities and provides a beacon of hope for what can be achieved when a mission is driven forward with equality and collaboration at its core.



Empowering Women Through Training and Opportunity

Thanks to a grant from Conservation Nation, NLCP has amplified its work advancing gender, diversity, equity and inclusion. Conservation Nation funding has facilitated initiatives such as training programmes for female staff and their spouses, spousal visits to enhance understanding of conservation work, and the provision of essential equipment tailored to women's needs, including sports bras. These efforts empower women themselves at work while fostering greater understanding and support for all rangers and park staff within their families and communities.

A key part of NLCP's work is creating opportunities for women to develop skills in traditionally male-dominated roles. This approach is reshaping gender dynamics in conservation, challenging stereotypes, and inspiring young girls to dream big and pursue goals once thought unattainable.

Recently, a team member began a mechanics internship through the Luangwa Livelihood and Conservation Activity. As the sole female trainee, her hands-on

