



SUNGANI

*Kulandifa*

OUR STORY



THE ADVENTURE-BASED LUXURY DESTINATION IN ZAMBIA



## ABOUT

In late 2018, our family fell in love with an extremely remote area of the South Luangwa National Park. The area that had suffered from neglect since 2012. Limited road access and ongoing illegal activity made it challenging to operate, yet we saw enormous potential. From the very beginning, one theme was clear: this adventure needed to make a meaningful impact on both wildlife and the local community.

At the heart of rewilding this area is our passion as a family, the dedication from our conservation partners, the incredible guests that visit and the engagement of our local community. Just a few short years in and we have made a profound and measurable impression on the area.

Our family journey kicked off early in 2019. A father and son, along with a few local people, arrived near nightfall and had to spend the night in what were the old ruins of the site. The first few months had them sharing their accommodations with bats, snakes and various other creatures! Cooking on a fire, bread freshly baked in the ground, the story of Sungani began in this barely touched corner of Africa.

By April the project was underway and many people from the local communities were employed: either again, or for the very first time. Everything, from the architecture and interior design, down to the last detail on each scatter cushion has truly been a family collaboration and much of what you see has been created on site.

Sungani Lodge is the most southerly lodge in the park, fronting an enormous lagoon near the Luangwa River. Further upstream lies Kulandila Camp, tucked between the river and a scenic lagoon. Both properties are roughly 90 kilometres from Mfuwe Airport, offering guests a remote and exclusive safari experience. We provide flight transfers via our own aircraft for a seamless arrival.

Both lodges combine quirky, design-led luxury with incredible cuisine, warm service, and expert guiding. Guests can enjoy tailored safari experiences, game drives, walking safaris, wildlife photography (with equipment available for hire), and an extensive hide network.

Every visitor helps to contribute towards the Sungani promise as we embark on this journey to become custodian and keeper – enabling us to give back in the years to come.



*The Family*



*Jordan* Marketing and Reservations



*Lynne* Owner/Director and Mum



*Michael* Resident Photographer and Guide



*Paul* Owner/Director and Dad



*Darryl* Owner/Director



## OUR COMMITMENT

Compliance and more importantly understanding of environmental impact forms a massive part of the behind the scenes of any new venture of this nature.

Visits to the site to understand and plan how to manage the waste and old buildings were crucial in the early planning stages. Early on, we made a non-negotiable commitment to reuse what we could. A small example is our scrap artwork at the entrance. What we couldn't reuse, we safely removed.

The environment certainly wasn't easy, and the team faced daily challenges, but things began to come full circle and we made a lot of progress in a short period of time.

Our construction team ranged from semi-skilled local contractors to unskilled first timers who had never had real employment before. This was a challenge but Paul, Michael and the skilled workers engaged daily to empower and develop our team. It was extremely important to us that we employed local if remotely possible. Again, this was non-negotiable and has become a guiding ethos as our story continues. We built over old foundations and reused wood and scrap where possible.

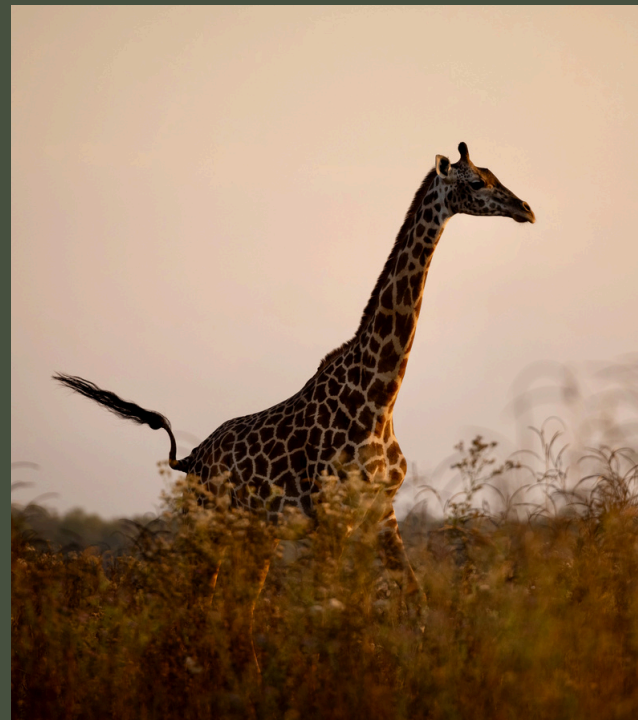
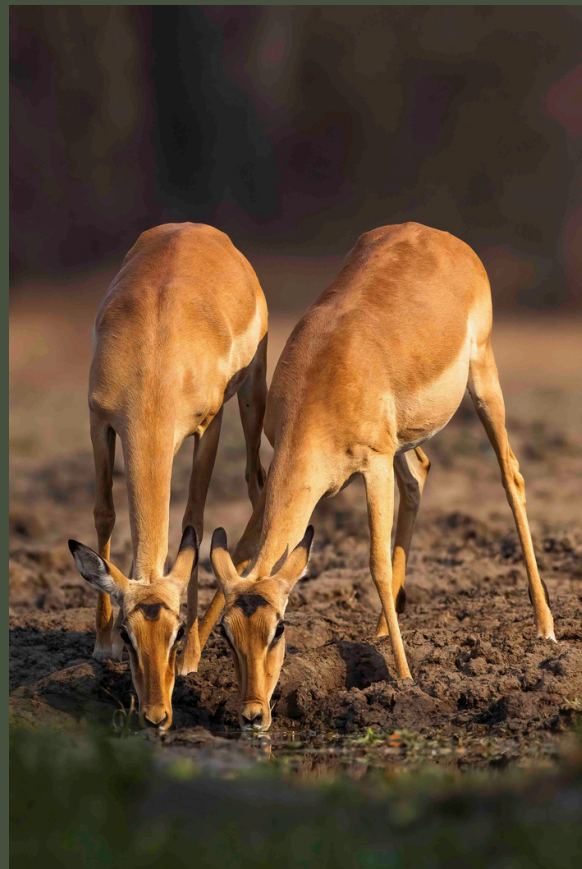
- Load by load our materials started to arrive. Given the fact we had one road in and out meant a lot of what you see has been hand-built from scratch and created onsite by our local community.
- Everything came from Lusaka on our large truck, offloaded in Mfuwe at our storage container and finally loaded onto our DAF 4x4 truck to make the long journey to the sites.
- The first critical task was to set up the solar plant that would ultimately service and run both properties. The moment the team turned on the first electric kettle there was a 'hooray' that rippled through the camp!
- Our investment goes far beyond the properties themselves and into the wider area. We own and maintain all our own equipment which we use to build, create and maintain road networks. These roads are vital, not only for game-viewing, but also for the continuous anti-poaching efforts and patrols that we support. Alongside this we also maintain our airstrip, a short 2-minute drive from Sungani depending on what you see!





Our brand is a testament to safaris of old, whilst embracing the excitement of a new and more conscious path forward. Personal touches from generations are scattered throughout both properties to give you a sense of home.





As new operators, our initial and implicit impact revolves around the fact there is now a presence in an area that has for many years been inaccessible. To assist with anti-poaching efforts was top of the priority list.

A few months into the build, Paul turned to Michael and said "**Michael, I think we have made a mistake coming here, where are the animals?**" **Michael gently replied "Dad, this is the South Luangwa... there are animals here."** The next day the two of them headed out and spotted a large herd of buffalo and elephant right by the lodge. Time and patience have been the mantra ever since.

In a few short years, the reduced incidence of poaching due to improved accessibility and being able to assist Department of National Parks and Wildlife and CSL with deployment and support is the most profound and measurable impact of our presence in the area.

When we first arrived here even the impala scattered. Now, they graze peacefully wherever we go. Over the last few years our careful and patient work with the prey base around Sungani and Kulandila in the remote Lusangazi sector has become well established.

This in turn has had the knock-on effect of causing the predator population to re-establish itself. Hours spent out in the field with careful and considerate habituation are culminating in the growth of predator sightings – not only the large felines but other, smaller predators as well.

We view this re-habituation holistically and take stock of all the flora and fauna, not just the large mammals. The positive impact and change are cumulative and an ongoing undertaking that is truly measurable.





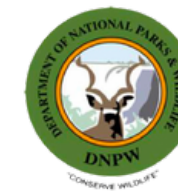
## CONSERVATION

The work our conservation partners do is so fundamental, and we are privileged to play a part in their mission. The way that we are able to assist Conservation South Luangwa and the Department of National Parks and Wildlife as operators is:

- Create and grade road networks to make the area more accessible.
- Create firebreaks and other infrastructure.
- Assist with deployment of scouts and by boat in the rainy season.
- A constant 365-day presence in the area to report any incidents.
- Another pair of eyes from the air when our aircraft completes transfers.
- Michael, our head guide and operations manager, is an honorary wildlife police officer and is able to assist DNPW and CSL in that role.
- Construct, maintain and keep registered the airstrip allowing CSL and other conservation partners to access the area easily by air.
- Tsetse Fly control - 250 traps deployed with a dedicated vehicle patrolling constantly.

Conservation does not start and end with wildlife, the community is key. Local populations are beginning to appreciate the benefits of anti-poaching and conservation. One vital aspect of this is when the community is able to benefit from new skills and income security derived from the tourism sector.

Employing people from our neighbouring villages with zero to little experience was a challenge, but with persistence and structured training, they now make up 85% of our front and back-of-house team. A part of the blanket training has been to ensure all staff learns the value of protecting the wildlife and the area. To accomplish this, we have ensured staff have regular access to game drives with our safari guides, whose shared knowledge and passion has culminated in a radical mindset shift. During the difficult time of the pandemic, we were able to maintain our staff levels on full remuneration. This was not easy, and the ripple effects are still felt today, but it was important.





“We really appreciate your support to CSL over the past few years and hope our efforts down south continue to protect wildlife and make it a safer haven for them. You being there is a massive contribution in protecting that area so thank you!”



Rachel McRobb - Chief Executive Officer  
Conservation South Luangwa





## ENVIRONMENT AND ECONOMY

- Reduce and recycle - Control all waste and recycle what we can through local projects such as glass tiles from Tribal Textiles in Mfuwe.
- Reusable glass bottles used exclusively at both properties.
- Pump, filter and purify all our own water.
- Both properties are run completely on solar power with a backup generator for safety.
- Luxury, Eco-Friendly, Biodegradable, Vegan, Paraben & SLE/SLES free Guest Amenities, proudly endorsed by Beauty Without Cruelty.
- Support on the ground efforts and contribute to Conservation South Luangwa – raised over **\$75,000** for CSL in **2022** - see [here](#).
- In **2023** we raised **\$67,972** through our Campaign for Conservation - see [here](#).
- In **2024** we raised **\$62,492** through our Campaign Community Conservation Awareness - see [here](#). This helped fund the 2025 Malama Sports Day which is detailed on the next page.
- In **2025** we donated **\$50,000** to Conservation South Luangwa to help bridge the gap after they lost funding from their main donor in the US.
- Contributions to the Zambian Carnivore Programme – we have sponsored 3 lion collars and 2 wild dog collars and hope to sponsor more soon.
- Responsible guiding practices – our guiding team have been employed since the middle of 2021 and move day and night to habituate the wildlife – time carefully spent in the field means they are able to monitor animal behaviour and report any sightings or incidents.
- Maintain vehicles and machinery to monitor and control fuel consumption.
- Membership of ETAZ to lobby with all related sectors to continually improve and protect Zambia's wild spaces.
- Enrich guests with newfound knowledge and an understanding of how their visit translates into the ability to continue to work towards leaving a healthier and better Africa for future generations to enjoy.
- Support vendors who value ethical practices.





## SUNGANI, THE TETEZANI LUANGWA ALLIANCE & DNPW PRESENT: THE 2025 MALAMA SPORTS DAY



- **Date:** Saturday, 10th May 2025
- **Theme:** Sungani Challengedwe ku Chikuntho (Protecting wildlife in Malama Chikuntho)
- **Guest of Honour:** Mambwe District Commissioner, Mr William Banda
- **VIPs:** Mr Justin Chisoko, Area Warden, DNPW SLAMU; and His Royal Highness, Chief Malama
- **MC's:** Henry Mwape (ZCP), Billy Banda & John Mbewe Jnr (CSL)



In 2024, Sungani once again committed to supporting Conservation South Luangwa (CSL)'s work. The theme for the campaign was to support CSL's community conservation work in 2025 specific to the Malama Chiefdom, where the majority of Sungani and Kulandila staff are based.

Building on the success of previous collaborative conservation roadshows and CSL's annual Fun Run, the idea of hosting a community-specific event in Malama was developed. The resulting event - a vibrant sports day and conservation celebration - marked a unique milestone in localized conservation engagement.

The event was a collaboration between CSL, Zambian Carnivore Programme (ZCP) and Chipembele Wildlife Education Trust (CWET) - collectively known as the Tetezani Luangwa Alliance, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and Sungani.

Planning took place through a series of collaborative meetings, allowing all partners to contribute ideas and ensuring strong coordination. A key priority was adopting a fresh approach, moving away from past formats and making space for creative, inclusive programming. For the Tetezani Luangwa Alliance members, the event also served as a valuable opportunity to strengthen our partnership and refine our joint working style.

The Malama community was actively involved throughout. A local planning committee was established comprising representatives from the school, clinic, DNPW, Community Resource Board and CSL. This ensured the event reflected local priorities and fostered genuine community ownership.

On the day, an estimated 600 people from across Malama Chiefdom attended, representing a significant portion of the surrounding community. The atmosphere was lively and welcoming, with high engagement in activities and strong enthusiasm throughout. Conservation messages were integrated across all elements of the event, ensuring that fun and learning went hand in hand. The event was a resounding success, reinforcing conservation values, celebrating community, and laying a strong foundation for future collaboration in Malama.



## SOCIAL

- Employ local staff where possible and implement written policy governing fair remuneration, respect for all and continuing education. 45+ of our staff are from our neighbouring villages (Malama, Nyamlaluma, Chilikati, Malanga.) Each employed person can support up to 5-10 people in their extended family. It is extraordinary and incredibly rewarding to realise this could mean up to 450 people.
- Create opportunities and skill transfer for school leavers and support staff by providing support for their offspring to be able to consider tertiary education.
- Source from and support local farmers and beekeepers – (Mayana Farms, Chikowa Honey and weekly produce deliveries from Lusaka.) We have a 10-acre plot in Mfuwe where we intend to create even more socially responsible projects and as it all unfolds we will share progress through the website and social media channels.
- Our longer-term philanthropic endeavours are always under discussion and evolving. At this early stage it seems that creating opportunities for school leavers is an area we believe deserves our focus. Skill transfer will hopefully develop young men and women to become safari guides and above all conservationists. Above all, transparency is key to our continuing efforts.
- Our goal over time is to create a dedicated fund for school leavers to apply for grants to fund careers in medicine or conservation.





## QUICK FACTS

**Location:** South Luangwa National Park, Zambia

**Properties:**

- **Sungani Lodge** – an exclusive, design-led safari lodge with luxury tents featuring private decks, plunge pools, and air conditioning.
- **Kulandila Camp** – an intimate riverside camp, authentically styled and closer to nature.

**Season:** Open 15 May - 15 November at Sungani Lodge and 15 May - 31 October at Kulandila Camp.

**Access:** Lusaka → Mfuwe → Sungani Private Shuttle flight to Luamfwa Airstrip (Plane owned by Sungani and just a 20 minute flight)

**Capacity:**

- **Sungani:** 7 luxury tents
- **Kulandila:** 4 safari tents

**Signature Experiences:**

- Exceptional wildlife experiences
- Walking safaris in remote wilderness areas
- Game drives
- Signature bush brunch
- Photographic safaris (with specialist photographic hides and camera equipment)
- Conservation & community engagement experiences on request





## VISUAL ASSETS

A curated library of high-resolution photography, logos, and video is available for media use.

**Trade Partner Library Access:**

<https://sungani.com/trade-partner-library/>

**Password:** sungani

**Includes:**

- Property photography
- Wildlife images
- Lifestyle & guest experiences
- Logo
- Video clips (long promo and short videos)
- Digital Brochure
- Rack Rates

## PRESS MATERIALS

**Media Coverage and Recognition & Awards:**

<https://sungani.com/press-and-awards/>





## CONTACT

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### Social Media Links:

- [Instagram](#)
- [Facebook](#)
- [YouTube](#)
- [TikTok](#)



