

Azura Retreats News

Azura Quilalea Rainbow Fund School complete , August 2016

At Azura Retreats we are always looking for ways to ‘give back’ to the surrounding island communities with whom we share our beautiful locations. We suggest an optional small donation from guests towards the Rainbow Fund and use the funds to better the communities that we operate in.

To date, at Azura Benguerra the funds collected from this initiative have built our first school which have some 400 children in education we also sponsored a local football team. At Azura Quilalea we work alongside the National Park and local communities wherever we can to protect the reefs from the fishermen and we monitor and mark turtle nests on the island, we also supply a privately run clinic with regular medical supplies on the neighbouring island of Quirimba.

At the end of 2015, it was decided that the funds should be channelled into a more specific project which could positively impact the local community in Quirimbas Archipelago. After a fact finding mission, we identified the urgent need for a new school-building in the southern-most village of Kumilamba, the poorest fishing village on the island.



Above image: *The original school shack*

Plans were drawn up and the services of a local reputable builder were secured to work out costing for the project.

After several non-starts due to bad weather, interference by the local authorities, and other difficulties, the project finally got underway in the month of June 2016.

Nathan Golden, our Operations Manager in Pemba took the lead in this project, and here is his report on the subsequent results:

“It has finally come to an end for the community particularly children to soon start enjoying and appreciating a better school funded by Azura Rainbow Fund.

We started the project on the 09th June and ended on the 06th August 2016. It has not been easy in times of a crisis where almost everything rose in terms of prices, from materials, labour, transportation and services in general increased tremendously in prices. Pemba being one of the most expensive city in Mozambique made it even tougher in terms of logistics and operations. The bigger challenges were costs involved in getting the stuff to the site in dhows with a major risk during bad weather and some days with tempest sea conditions. Digging the foundation of 60 cm deep on a rocky area, shortage of water supply which made it difficult to finish the building in time and as per deadline.

The project involved a total labour staff of seventeen crew, from general labours carpenter, brick layers, fixers and Joshua the builder himself. Everyone involved worked hard to make it happen without a major reported injury during the project.

We are all glad to see the result, the community is extremely excited and children cannot wait for the inauguration which is coming soon for the school.

Some Government officials who have visited the school could not believe the better outcome of the project and even started proposing that it should be turned into a secondary school but fortunately enough, this was meant for the children, the future of Quirimbas."





The final phase in the project, to be completed at the next opportunity, is to add signage and colourful decoration in the form of Baobab trees and Turtles, to the school building, as a constant reminder for the children to protect their heritage in the National Park.

The children cannot wait to enjoy lessons in their new classroom!



