



UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

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Программа Организации Объединенных Наций по окружающей среде برنامج الأمم المتحدة للبيئة

联合国环境规划署



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Dear Mr. Phiri, dear friends

I wish to join the many friends, partners and colleagues in congratulating Mr. Zephaniah Phiri on a 'life journey' of vision, leadership innovation and commitment.

More than 20 years ago Ken Wilson who had been working with Mr. Phiri in Zvishavane wrote to me asking if I knew of any financial support that could be made available to Mr. Phiri in his endeavours to explore new approaches to agricultural development in his community. The amount needed was \$2000 to \$3000 dollars – a grant so small that most aid organizations could not really process such a request.

Through a small unbureaucratic fund that we – a small group of graduates from the German Development Institute – had set up in 1986 we quickly agreed to support Mr. Phiri and transferred the requested amount with the help of Ken.

I am delighted to hear that you will soon be organizing an event in Zimbabwe to celebrate Mr. Phiri's work.

Clearly his journey and accomplishments demonstrate the 'power of one' to make a difference. This is such an important message – particularly to young people who often feel such a sense of powerlessness and frustration in the face of seemingly overwhelming problems. It also speaks to the importance of solidarity and trust which Mr. Phiri enlisted in his efforts – and that even when some of us cannot act directly we can support others in providing leadership for development.

Congratulations – Mr. Phiri!

Best wishes

Achim Steiner
Executive Director

Mr. Zephaniah Phiri
Zimbabwe

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