



Kibale Fuel Wood Project UPDATE

Winter
2010



The Year in Numbers

Now well into its fifth year of in-situ operations, the Kibale Fuel Wood Project welcomes all our new friends and supporters as well as those who have been with us since the very beginning! As we wrap up 2010, we are excited share some results from our most recent surveys, which revealed we have reached some important milestones:

- **50% of the families surveyed now use fuel-efficient stoves** (up from less than 5% at project inception)!
- For the first time, people answered the question “How do you propose to lessen the struggle for firewood” by saying “I have already planted trees” (rather than the once common “we should plant trees” or “we should be given seedlings”).
- The percentage of families collecting firewood inside Kibale continues to drop, now down to 11.5% (more than 30% collected wood in Kibale during baseline data collection).
- **Families with efficient stoves use an average of 3 kilograms (6.6 pounds) less wood each day than those with traditional stoves** (0.8 vs. 1.1 heaps average), and the overall average wood use also continues to drop, now down to .96 heaps of wood used each day (down from 1.34 heaps).
- 69% of families are growing firewood at home, 59% of who grow *Sesbania* as encouraged by the KFWP (**the highest percentage of *Sesbania* planting to date**).

Additionally, the Science Centers, traveling video shows and workshops have continued to draw large crowds. During it's fourth year of operation, the KFWP logged more than 30,000 interactions with local citizens around Kibale National Park.

A more detailed account of the survey results will be found in the Year Four Report, available on the website in early 2011. Bit by bit, we are making progress, protecting Kibale's habitats for its outstanding wildlife while making sure that surrounding communities have what they need for healthy survival. Read on to find out more about some of the new work that is just getting started to help us further advance the goal of a harmonious people-park relationship. **Thank you** to all of you who have continued to support this important work!

The KFWP is a program of The New Nature Foundation, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization.

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Leaping Forward to the Next Step in Alternative Fuel Sources

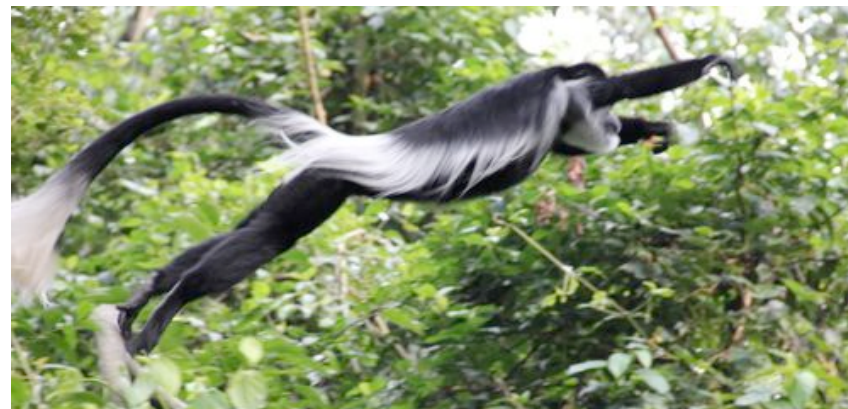
When the KFWP began in May 2006, the project's designs for fuel efficient stoves helped provide an immediate response to the small scale logging within Kibale while also assisting individuals in many ways. In 2011, the KFWP hopes to introduce the next evolution in fuel efficiency and possibility eliminate the need for any wood source when cooking.

"Eco Briquettes" were pioneered in the USA during the 1970s, and have recently started to become more popular in the developing world. We were introduced to the concept through fellow members of the Kibale Consortium for Conservation Education and found detailed plans thanks to the Legacy Foundation.

The idea is that a mix of paper, farm waste, sawdust and dung can be compressed into briquettes that act similarly to charcoal when burned and used for cooking. So far, we have done a first test on a wide assortment of materials, from avocado pits and cow dung to pine needles and banana peels. The substances are soaked, grated, pounded or ground into a powder or paste. Mixed together in the proper ratios, the slurry is put into a mold and compressed with levers to extract water. The learning process is a slow one, though we have already gained much from more experienced partners in Kampala and on-line. We are very excited to find funding to make the eco briquette initiative a full-blown program of the KFWP in 2011.

There is good reason for our enthusiasm: on December 11, 2010 the project directors (Becka & Michael) successfully cooked their first meal on eco briquettes. Except for a few small twigs used to light the fire, the food cook entirely on recycled products - no charcoal, gas or firewood!

This briquette project fits very well with the KFWP's tree planting and efficient stove campaigns, and could very possibility fill the gap to create a more concrete solution for people and wildlife in and around Kibale National Park. We're thrilled by the prospects, and if any of you were interested in assisting with funding or expertise it would be very welcomed.



Kibale resident jumps for joy in celebration of eco briquettes!



Michael collecting some of the raw materials.



Some finished briquettes and the first meal.

Volunteering by Nina-Maria Gaiser

I volunteered for the KFWP in February/March 2010. It was my first visit to Africa, and definitely the best thing I could do to 'discover' Africa, or in particular, Uganda.

As a German student of socio-cultural anthropology and international forest ecosystem management, I believe that we can only conserve forests if we consider the needs and the situation of the people that live around or from these forests, which is especially important in the so called 'developing countries' where local people's livelihoods often directly rely on the natural resources around them. In the KFWP I therefore found a positive example how this cooperation can actually work out well.

I was impressed by the competence of each staff member, each having his or her personal strengths: whether it is teaching environmental knowledge to Science Center visitors, or motivating people to build fuel efficient stoves and plant *Sesbania* trees around their gardens. Every KFWP staff member I met was highly motivated and capable to explain the importance of protecting Kibale National Park and all its inhabitants to me, as well as to the community at large. I liked that all staff members are locals and of a broad age range (from age 16 and up to over 60), so that there is a great chance of being accepted by the different target groups in the communities. This was confirmed when I saw that we were always welcome in the villages to talk about their stoves and *Sesbania* trees.

Another highlight was the Sundays, when I accompanied Margaret Kemigisa, the project manager, to a different village each week, where we organized stove-building workshops that were often followed by a video show. I want to thank Margaret and her family for having me at their house and the great time I spent with them. It was Margaret's help that made sure that my work would be relevant to the activities of the KFWP. Margaret introduced me to her community and I had a great time trying to chat with villagers whose houses we visited. And although this 'conversation' often ended in confusion due to insufficient language competence from my side, this confusion was always accompanied by laughs and smiling faces.

Further activities for the KFWP included, for example, work in the Science Centers on Saturdays, like playing educational games with the children, or talking to other visitors about the importance of wildlife and their habitats. On weekdays, when the Science Centers are closed, I was able to update the



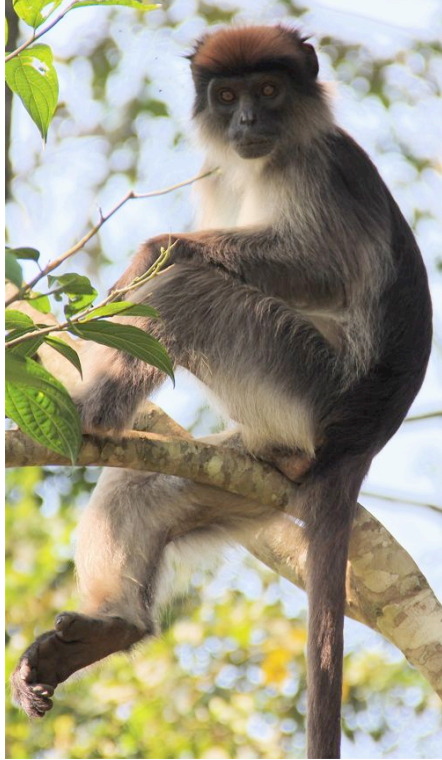
wall displays in each of the four museums and rearrange the many books, making sure that visitors always find new books to read.

Additionally, I collected information about medical plants that grow in and around Kibale National Park. I wanted to make this information available in written form and thus conserve it from becoming lost. Once again, Margaret helped encourage local people to share their knowledge, so that altogether we finally listed more than ninety medical plants and their uses. I was impressed by this huge knowledge about medical plants as well as people's readiness and openness to speak with me about it.

To sum up I'd like to say that although I hadn't worked yet in the field of nature conservation before, volunteering for the KFWP encouraged me to do so in the future.

Interested in helping out in Uganda? See the "You Can Help" section of www.newnaturefoundation.org.

Focus on Red Colobus



Though the chimpanzees often steal the limelight in Kibale, many of the park's other inhabitants are equally intriguing, and sometimes even more in danger of extinction. The Uganda Red Colobus, *Piliocolobus tephrosceles*, is one of these. While other races of red colobus can be found across equatorial Africa, Kibale hosts the last viable population of this specific type.

Named from the Greek "ekolobóse", or "cut short" due to their lack of a thumb, colobus monkeys are also unique thanks to their multi-chambered stomachs. This similarity to cows and other ruminants allows colobus monkeys to digest tough leaves that other monkeys cannot, giving them almost infinite food sources. This abundance of food has led to great densities of colobus in Kibale, including not only red colobus but their more familiar cousins, black and white colobus (*Colobus guereza*, photo on page 2), as well.

Red colobus also have the dubious distinction of being the favorite prey of chimpanzees. This is true wherever both species are found, across Africa and among the several species of red colobus. It is this fact that brought KFWP directors Rebecca and Michael to Kibale for the first time, in the year 2000, to conduct their undergraduate thesis research. Why do chimpanzees prefer hunting red colobus? It could be that they are easier to catch than other monkeys. Michael and Rebecca's research revealed that compared to four of the other types of monkeys in Kibale, red colobus are by far the slowest when leaping out of a tree. They also use fewer "exit" sites on each tree than the other species, and travel in larger groups. Putting these three facts together, it is clear that at least a few unlucky red colobus will be left vulnerable whenever a group of chimpanzees initiates a cooperative hunt.

In Brief:

New Replication

KFWP staff members have trained staff and students from Camp Uganda in the construction of rocket stoves. This occurred after KFWP student intern Musabe Bashil was chosen to participate in the camp, which brings students on a weeklong field trip to the Uganda Wildlife Education Center in Entebbe. Camp Uganda reports that over 40 stoves have been built by their students so far, and they will be including stove building in the curriculum from now on.

New Publication

We were thrilled to have the KFWP included in a recent publication by the Poverty and Conservation Learning Group of the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and former project donors, the Arcus Foundation. Titled "Linking Conservation and Poverty Alleviation: The Case of the Great Apes," the paper lists the KFWP as one of the projects with hard data backing up our claims of progress toward conservation and development. Download the full article on our website.

New Partnerships

In November, the KFWP Directors and Manager attended a workshop in Uganda inspired by the publication mentioned at left and hosted by IIED, the Arcus Foundation and Flora and Fauna International. Many new friendships were formed during the weeklong workshop, and a couple possible partnerships have also arisen thanks to the event. As these relationships mature, we look forward to reporting on them to you in future Updates!

Thank You!

The Kibale Fuel Wood Project has been made possible through the generous support of the following organizations:

Chester Zoo
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