

## Eco-Briquette Expansion

Thanks to the hard work of our staff and the generosity of our donors, briquette production at NNF's village facility is at an all-time high! Over 11,800 briquettes were produced in April this year, the equivalent of saving nearly 6,500 lbs. of firewood, much of which would have been cut within Kibale National Park.

While processing farm waste was once the primary bottleneck in production, this difficult task is being addressed with the help of electricity thanks to our burgeoning partnership with McLeod Russel Tea. Thanks in part to an Arcus Foundation Great Apes Fund grant, we now have an industrial food processor, a garbage disposal and a grain mill tearing through banana peels and peanut shells 8 hours/day, 5 days/week. As more material is processed and turned into ecologically kind cooking fuel, however, the drying phase has proven to be another hurdle to address. It's not easy to dry *anything* in a rainforest!

Two drying tents were built in 2011 and 2013, but they were being filled quicker than the briquettes could dry. Another, larger area was needed to keep production on the rise. In March, Project Directors travelled from the US with 140 lbs. of greenhouse plastic. Able to withstand years baking under the equatorial sun, this provides the skin of the new tent. The skeleton is made from sustainably grown pine and eucalyptus, sourced from friends and project partners around the village. (Remember to use sustainable wood for your home improvement projects, too - look for FSC certified wood at numerous retailers in the US.) After two weeks of some serious manual labor, the new tent was completed, adding nearly 800 square feet of drying space and tripling the area devoted to this integral step of the process.

It is NNF's intention to build the capacity necessary for the long-term success of this initiative. With a lot of dedication and sweat (those drying tents are like saunas!), the KECI continues not only to grow but to evolve, and the project is now in a position to make a dramatic positive change in fuel use around Kibale and the protection of her countless endangered and endemic species. Thank you all for helping make this possible!



*Building the tent with hand-tools, elbow grease and good spirits (above) and the finished tent (below).*





## Kid's Recycling Project

Initiated by Ronald Mugarura, an Isunga Science Center staff member since 2009, the Kids Recycling Project (KRP) was created to help children realize their own artistic potential and connect with nature. Ronald said he wanted to help kids develop their talents in art in a way that can also help keep our environment clean.

The project began organically, as regulars at the Science Center wanted new activities and Ronald, being an artist himself, was inspired to motivate others. The first project that the KRP took on was using recycled papers to make chimp masks. "Everyone likes chimps," he says, so it was a great way to get a good group together. When the project directors saw these masks they suggested that Ronald ramp up the project and create items for sale to benefit the group and be able to share their art with the world. Very quickly the group started gathering clay and with practice they were able to create gorillas, elephants and birds.

Currently ten members strong, Ronald intends to make sure that members' families also participate in programs being promoted by the New Nature Foundation by building fuel efficient stoves and planting firewood crops at their homes.

The proceeds from their sales will go to buying schoolbooks and art materials. To date, Ronald has been providing all the materials for the group. The project is clearly very important to Ronald and he has dreams of expanding the membership to include older children, more girls, and add new materials to recycle like polythene bags and broken glass.

This new club demonstrates the constant evolution of the NNF Science Centers (see page 3 for more), whose primary purpose is to provide Ugandan citizens an opportunity to view nature in a new way. Simply creating a space and providing basic materials has allowed for creativity, empowerment and a really fun way to spend the weekend!

"Even if I disappear, I hope this club remains for ever," Ronald says.

**Please support the Kid's Recycling Project**  
**Your donation can fund art supplies for all Science Center guests.**  
Click on the PayPal link on [NewNatureFoundation.org](http://NewNatureFoundation.org), or mail a check to  
1632 Humboldt Street, Denver, Colorado, 80218  
**Thank You!**



## The Evolution of Science Center Art

When the first Science Center opened in October 2006, we knew it would be a key element in connecting Ugandan citizens with the amazing biodiversity that exists in their own backyards. Since then, our staff and the regular visitors have exceeded our expectations. In the last year, we have witnessed a transformation at each of the four centers. Posters and typed signs have been replaced by local art, signs home-made by the staff, manicured topiaries spelling out the project's name, sculptures, and so much more. It is a demonstration of the bond that is being established between people and nature and an expression of creativity that was absent early on.

Many of you may never have the opportunity to visit these museums and experience the development of these talented individuals, so we're including these photos. If you would like to come out and experience it all for yourself in Uganda, just send us an email and we'll help you craft a trip filled with volun-tourism that will change your life.



### Please support the Science Centers

Click on the PayPal link on [NewNatureFoundation.org](http://NewNatureFoundation.org), or mail a check to  
1632 Humboldt Street, Denver, Colorado, 80218

None of this work can be done without your generosity -  
Thank You!

## Staff Highlight

Name: Asaba Exevious Apuuli  
 Title: Isunga Science Center Staff  
 Favorite Food: Beans & Matooke  
 Favorite animal: Chimpanzee



Exevious has been a dedicated educator at the Isunga Science Center since it opened five years ago. He was born and raised in Isunga village, and has been key in attracting teens and university students to the museum to study. He also regularly comes up with new activities to try out with the visitors - see the photo on the next page of an impromptu hay-box demonstration that also provided lunch to all involved.

His favorite animal is the chimpanzee, and he is quite interested in human evolution. Exevious said he generally likes primates because they resemble humans. He teaches our visitors that chimpanzees are intelligent animals that like to play and that they express themselves just as we do.

Exevious has just begun a course in tourist guiding and driving, so that he can further continue his career development in the field of wildlife conservation. He is truly being a role model for the younger generations, embodying responsibility and drive, and with his keen interest in learning more we are thrilled to watch him develop his skills.

One thing he likes to teach visitors is that the most important thing is to grow up with a nature loving heart and to conserve wildlife for the future generations.

## Family-Forest Connection

The New Nature Foundation's projects in Uganda have always remained tightly focused on the conservation of Kibale through increased energy efficiency in the villages that surround her. However, with the 5<sup>th</sup> highest population growth rate in the world, addressing basic family planning where we work will be integral to the overall conservation of the park and will ultimately benefit the families involved. Board member Dr. Elana Levites Agababa joined the Directors on their last trip and conducted a family planning workshop at the Kyanyawara Science Center. Nearly 50 women (and 2 men) attended and began to very quickly interrupt the lesson with questions regarding personal health and efficacy of different methods, and also had many myths dispelled about conception. Through the workshop, we learned that a couple of women have been working independently on public education, and they were very enthusiastic throughout the conversation. NNF was able to leave behind educational materials as well as emergency phone numbers and locations of various clinics nearby.





The New Nature Foundation's work is made possible through the generous support of these organizations, as well as many private individuals. An \* denotes multi-year supporters. Thank you all very much!

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Columbus Zoo Conservation Fund\*  
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