

Conservation, Crop Raiding & Cooking with Less Wood

NNF's second annual Conservation and Cooking Competitions focused on efficient cooking and finding solutions to crop raiding. Day-long events took place in four target areas, with close to 2,000 people in total. Ten cooks and ten supervisors volunteered in advance at each location and were challenged to cook the most delicious beans with the least wood.

Incredibly, this year's winners used even less wood than last year: on average, the best performers used only 1.9 kilograms (4.2 lbs) of wood to cook one kilo (2.2 pounds) of beans, a 15% reduction from the previous competitions. Since people with fuel efficient stoves already use about 1/3 less wood than those with traditional fires, we found this further savings to be truly remarkable. As you may have read in our January report, NNF stoves already save an estimated 2.1 million kilograms (4,655,794 lbs) of wood each year. Imagine what an extra 15% savings from all users could do toward protecting wildlife habitats! To push us closer to this goal, winning cooks taught their techniques to the audiences gathered and reminded them how little wood is needed when the cook is being as careful (and smart!) as possible.

To address crop raiding, performers pleaded with the community to join together to fight this common problem. Ideas presented included farming crops unpalatable to wildlife (like tea and hot pepper), maintaining trenches dug around Kibale to keep animals inside its boundaries and using non-lethal methods to deter animals from crop raiding. It was wonderful to have this dialogue with so many people present and to see the issue discussed in such a constructive way. NNF provided a venue for community members to open up about the issue of crop raiding, and it is our hope that the dialogue will continue to inspire people to take action to protect both themselves and wildlife for future generations.



Right: A cook arrives with wood left over from her allotted, pre-measured amount.

Left: A play depicts a woman whose farm was attacked by crop raiding animals. After speaking with a park warden, she was successful in using non-lethal techniques to avoid further raids.



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Ten More Families Choose “Kuchumbricks” for Cooking

The next phase of the Kibale Eco-Char Initiative is upon us. Having successfully created a recipe, fully trained a staff, and partnered with 12 families trading waste for briquettes, the KECI has now introduced the concept to a larger audience.

As interest spread throughout the villages, NNF was poised to broaden its base. Project staff put out the word that interested families should sign up, with the first ten selected for a daylong training workshop. All the cooks who currently use the bricks were also invited to tell stories of success and excitement and help encourage our new cooks. Most talked about what they cook with the bricks, how surprised they were with how easy they are to use as well as the fact that the food tastes delicious! One cook told the group that she now travels with the bricks since they are less complicated than wood or charcoal. This was followed by a Q&A session and then lunch was prepared using the bricks. After demonstrating the lighting process, we asked a volunteer from among the new cooks to prepare tea using the briquettes (see bottom photo). While the food cooked, our new partners toured the facility, (see middle photo of the new solar drying tent) and learned how to make briquettes. All participants took this part of the day quite seriously and joked that they were taking an exam that our project manager was in charge of grading. One of the ten women was asked to retake the test but all scored 100% by the end.

All the cooks agreed to provide their own materials and assist in building an efficient stove best suited for the new briquettes. Once this is completed (with the assistance of our staff) they will begin trading their waste for finished briquettes. This creates two new tests for KECI. First, to see if our staff can keep up with the demand for bricks and second, if the community members involved produce enough waste to trade. The KECI is keeping careful records of how many bricks an average family needs per day and how many bricks an average family is able to receive through the trading system per week. With the ultimate goal of poverty alleviation as well as wildlife conservation, we have our work cut out for us. However, the wonderful results already evident after just one year of the KECI being fully operational are extremely encouraging. Thank you to the Arcus Foundation Great Apes Fund for being the primary funder of this aspect of the New Nature Foundation’s work.



In Exavious' Words



Exavious Asaba Apuuli has been working at the Isunga Science Center since 2008. Lately, he has been writing essays for his community and the world at large. Below are some excerpts from his writings.

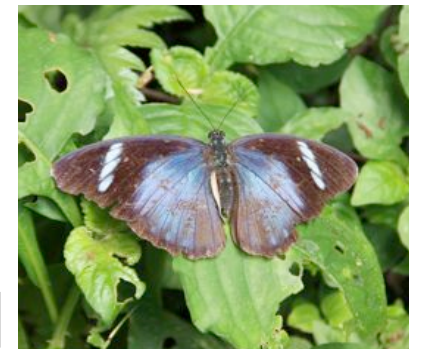
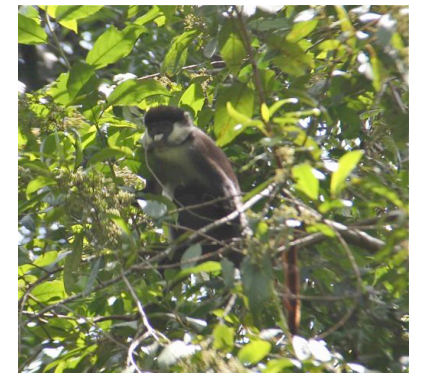
Once, as I travelled through the rainforest early in the morning, I suddenly saw the natural beauty of the world ... My fellows, I am advising my fellows and the entire world to know the value of nature. Let us develop a sympathetic kind heart to save nature.

Oh! I feel much touched. When I read books and discover some animal species, birds, and plants that once existed and now are nowhere to be seen ... What kind of love do you have for nature? Oh! It is alarming. How do you feel when you shoot your eyes clockwise and anti-clockwise and see what were green are now dry, what were covered are now naked.

Every day, every time, every minute, nature is crying. This may sound strange but it is true. When you are cutting down a tree, the sap that comes out, have you ever asked yourselves why this happens? Factors that cause nature to cry can be solved by planting trees, respecting wetlands and using them sustainably, stop killing animals and develop a heart of loving nature as we love ourselves.

This question goes to all readers: How can one tell that a passion fruit is delicious, when there are none to taste? The future generation is going to find a lot of difficulties in knowing species of birds, wild animals, and plants if nature is not properly conserved.

I cry out with a loud voice appealing to my brothers and sisters from all corners of the world to defend nature, for we shall inherit the delicious cake of the world.



Photos, top to bottom: Blue Monkey, Crested Eagle, Red Tail monkey, Butterfly - All found in Kibale National Park.

Staff Spotlight



Stella Ninsiima holds a shoebill stork skull replica at the Kaburala Science Center



New Videos on YouTube!

- NNF has been working hard to document project activities to share our work with the rest of the world and, more specifically, all of our amazing sponsors!
- Please check out all five of our videos by searching their names at www.youtube.com:
- Visit to the Science Center
- New! Nature Dance 2012
- Kibale Eco-Char
- Kibale Dance Video
- Kibale Fuel Wood Project Intro

Full Name: Stella Ninsiima

Pet-name/Empako*: Atenyi - Stella tells us the meaning is the Queen Snake!

Age: 13

Favorite Subjects in School: English and Math

Favorite Animal: A tie between the elephant and the lion

Favorite Food: Matooke and fish

Stella is one of the project's newest and youngest Science Center interns. She is the youngest of 7 children. Stella has an excellent command of the English language and though soft spoken certainly has her own opinions when asked. When she grows up Stella would like to be the head teacher at a primary or secondary school but for now is just finishing primary school herself! Every time Stella was asked what her favorite thing was she had two answers - this continued when we asked what her favorite part of the Science Center was. It was a tie between the fuel-efficient stoves in the kitchen and the books inside the center. We had just brought six new bird skull replicas that day, with signs and books to learn more, and Stella was quite excited by the shoebill.

* An Empako is given to a child shortly after birth according to which characteristics the child seems to have. There are 12 Empakos, each having a different meaning. It is specific to the Batoro tribe in Uganda.

Wish list on Amazon

- NNF has a list of materials and supplies that both the KFWP and KECI can use from books to bones to brain teasers! Please peruse the site, see if you find something you would like to donate and feel free to send the link to friends as well!
- You can view our registry at by clicking this link <http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/registry.html?ie=UTF8&id=1M88FJTAH8T5G&type=wedding> or at www.amazon.com
- Go to the wish list tab and select wedding registry.
- First name: Kibale
- Last name: Wood
- Feel free to send us an email if you have any questions or recommendations.
- **THANK YOU!!!**

New! Nabweya Science Center

The New Nature Foundation has been working with Nabweya parish for three years, and the community members' enthusiasm for stove building and video shows indicated that they were the perfect partners to welcome this educational facility. Community Liaison and former teacher John Kabuleta will manage the new Center.

A crowd of nearly 700 gathered to celebrate with trivia competitions, singing and dancing, and hearing both the Local Chairman and the Community Conservation Warden of the Uganda Wildlife Authority speak on the virtues of conservation and education. Prizes were awarded for the best answers to questions about threats to Kibale as well as what NNF does to address the issues facing both the park and people living by its borders. Attendance was so high that we had to limit the crowds entering the museum; many waited patiently for hours to enter the two-room building that houses a diverse collection including a taxidermy Crowned crane, an elephant tooth, carnivore, antelope and primate skulls, books for all levels of readers, art supplies, animal puzzles, educational games, and much more. This Science Center is located in a popular trading center less than one mile from Kibale and there is a clinic next door that we hope to partner with on future endeavors.

In the evening we had a video show and were amazed that almost the entire crowd stuck around to enjoy the film featuring Africa's cats (photo at right). Since the creation of Science Centers in 2006, the project has received very positive feedback from the local

communities. This is due to a dedicated team of Ugandans, our long-time sponsors in the US, UK, and Australia, and the tremendous time and support of volunteers.



Replication Key Ingredient in “Kuchumbricks”



Original KECI staff along with Project Manager Margaret Kemigisa and volunteer Savannah Schultze. Special thanks to Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund for donating the uniforms.

NNF is very excited to report on the progress the kuchumbrick team has made. Staffing and hours have increased dramatically in response to demand. Even so, as the project grew it became clear to the team that more infrastructure was required to meet the need for briquettes. By simply studying the design of the briquette press, new staff member Habib John Ateenyi (former watchman for project equipment) built a new press with very local materials! We were absolutely amazed by the end result and the intricate workmanship it clearly displayed. More importantly, this event brought a level of empowerment to our staff, showing that they *can* replicate the project on their own and

expand it within their villages. As we reported in an earlier update, a nearby tea estate has also replicated the design and is producing kuchumbricks for their staff. We look forward to seeing how else this amazing team will surprise us.

“Kuchumba” =
“To Cook”
in Rutooro

Thank You!

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Secure on-line donation also possible with PayPal: www.NewNatureFoundation.org

Please also check out volunteer opportunities! Link from the “You Can Help” section of the website.

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