

2014 Results in Brief

Thanks to the hard work of our staff in Uganda, the enthusiasm of the families living around Kibale National Park, and the support of various organizations, foundations, and individuals from all around the world, NNF is proud to report some of our 2014 achievements to you. This information is compiled through annual surveys, as well as through data collection at all project events and activities. Full analysis and many more details will be available in our annual report, coming out soon.

- 18,041 men, women and children attended the project's four Science Centers in 2014
- 19 nature films were shown to audiences averaging 343 people
- 6 workshops were conducted focusing on fuel efficiency and family planning
- Nearly 160,000 biomass briquettes were manufactured at the village factory - - more than three times as many as last year!
- 18,520 kgs (40,744 lbs) of waste was traded for briquettes
- 62.5% of people in NNF's target areas are using fuel efficient stoves
- Overall daily wood usage continues to decrease and is currently less than one "heap" (~10 kg)
- People with efficient stoves use 27% less wood than those with traditional stoves
- 72.5% of people now grow firewood at home
- Overall, NNF staff engaged **more than 26,000** citizens around Kibale National Park in 2014!



Above: Ugandan Red Colobus monkeys. The last viable population of this species lives in Kibale.

Below: Young visitors at the Isunga Science Center.





*Above: Ladies inspect a briquette at one of the estate's "worker villages".
Right: A mother demonstrating how the briquettes can be used in the existing efficient stoves.*

Partnership Expands with McLeod Russel Tea

In a major step towards long-term sustainability of the Kibale Eco-Char Initiative, New Nature Foundation has signed an agreement with the world's largest tea producer. In addition to continued donation of waste materials and a workspace with access to electricity, McLeod Russel's Kiko estate (bordering Kibale) will now be buying at least 3,500 biomass briquettes each month through December 2017. These will be supplied to their more than 500 workers, in an effort to reduce deforestation on the estate and in areas of the park bordering the tea. Hopefully, as the relationship continues, the number of briquettes purchased each month will continue to increase.

While in Uganda, we conducted a workshop with some of the families who will be participating in this program. They were very excited to use the briquettes with their existing efficient stoves. Some had cooked with briquettes in the past, when the estate was manufacturing them with our guidance, and were thrilled to start using them again.

Burgeoning Briquettes

In 2013, a Scottish couple opening an eco-lodge approached NNF interested to learn about biomass briquettes. They want to cook and heat guest's water in an environmentally friendly way. We provided training on the process of manufacturing a briquette and using this alternative fuel. One year later, we were happy to see that their efforts have continued, to the point where village members in Isunga are now supplying waste (primarily corn cobs) in a scheme similar to the one we've had going since 2011. The briquettes are somewhat different from ours in make-up, shape and size, but successful in the early stages. The idea sharing has proven fruitful: the lodge has a new environmentally friendly fuel source, and we've now adjusted some of our recipes in Kyanyawara. We hear other briquette programs may be starting soon and we look forward to future collaborations!



2014 Conservation Competitions

To change things up this year, our annual conservation competitions included several new activities, like creating animals from recycled waste, art contests, animal-themed athletics, wildlife identification games, blindfolded guessing games, efficient stove building races, a radio jingle contest and, of course, the always popular fuel-efficient bean cook-off. In the past, larger groups have presented songs and plays about Kibale and her animals, but this year we wanted to create a more individualized experience and open the day up to the talented women, men and children who are not members of the various singing groups. We were overwhelmed by the results! Elephants and giraffes made from banana leaves and plastic bags, a flamingo balancing competition that lasted close to 40 minutes, radio jingles good enough to record and broadcast (on Voice of Tooro FM, the area's leading station) and much more enthusiasm for the "cheetah run" than expected (perhaps thanks to the soccer ball prize)! The beans were the best they have ever been, though a large serving of tripe in one of the entries put some of the judges off a bit. The winners told the assembled crowds how they cooked such delicious food using such small amounts of wood, with one amazing chef using only 0.76 kg of wood to cook 1 kg of beans. Audiences ranged from 250 to 400 - not quite as many as last year, but we think the inclusiveness of this new style of competition will draw many more to next year's events. If you'd like to help with this part of the project, please link to our [Amazon wish-list](#) to buy some prizes for next year's winners.



A Walk in the Park

Kibale never ceases to amaze. After nearly 15 years of working in and around the park, a walk in December revealed two "firsts": The first time we've ever photographed a duiker, and the first time Michael saw an elephant in the park. A beautiful, exciting experience!

Kibale is home to two species of duikers, the blue and the red. From the Afrikaans word for "diver", these small antelope are normally running, diving into bushes and hiding - very difficult to photograph. The wind was right this afternoon, with the red duiker pictured on page 6 eating calmly for several minutes while we watched. About 100 yards farther up the path, turning the corner revealed this lone, stoic figure, who sniffed us for a few minutes before disappearing silently into the trees.



Please support the 2015 Conservation Competitions!

Click on the PayPal link on 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!

Rocket Stoves in Vietnam

Partnering with the Denver Zoo, New Nature Foundation traveled to the Ha Giang Province of Northern Vietnam to initiate an efficient stove program in an effort to help protect habitat for the Tonkin Snub Nosed Monkey, one of the most critically endangered primates in the world with only 250 remaining.

The families we partnered with each have a minimum of two stoves: One in the home for cooking and heating, and one outside for cooking animal feed. The animal stoves already resembled the rocket stove design, and have been used for centuries, so family members were excited to learn how to adapt this design for in-home use. We could not completely replace the traditional home stoves because the heat offered by an open fire is extremely important during the frigid winters, but people were very willing to build a rocket stove next to their traditional hearth, to not only reduce heat in the humid summers but also reduce smoke and amount of wood needed throughout the year. We had an extremely enthusiastic group of people, led by governmental Conservation Guards, who amazed us with their capacity to build stoves with minimal assistance after a very brief training session. We were pleasantly surprised by the happiness and enthusiasm some people showed for their new rocket stoves.

NNF looks forward to continued advising of this project in 2015 and extending other aspects of our work to other African countries as well. To help us, please consider donating airline miles to reduce travel costs.

A Man in the Kitchen

This year welcomed the first male competitor in the bean cook-off. We were intrigued, and took some time to meet Robert Guma to find out what compelled him to break the norm:

Why did you decide to compete? I heard about it from Science Center staff, and thought since I am such a good cook, I should enter to win a good prize.

What is the secret to cooking good beans? Using an energy saving stove and a pot with a lid. These all keep the heat in and cook the beans well. One also has to be very selective about the spices used.

Have you ever visited Kibale? Yes. I had a job working at an eco-lodge and saw an elephant, so many monkeys and chimpanzees. My favorite is the chimp, because it is so close to humans.

Why do you prefer the efficient stove? It cooks fast and uses less wood. Even 3 pieces can be enough. The stove saves trees because a pile of wood can now last one week instead of two days.

What are your goals for 2015? To buy a cow! To take good care of it, have a calf and have milk.



*Conservation Guards and family members cooperate to build the stove
Mrs. Viet is pictured using on page 6.*



Staff Updates

In our last update we introduced you to Ronald Mugarura, who started the kids recycling club at the Isunga Science Center. Since then he has continued to grow professionally and has begun teaching science at the newly established Nabweya Primary school. Ronald now works at the Nabweya Science Center on weekends, and has enlisted the help of another teacher from the school, Angels, to take his place at the Isunga Science Center.

Always creating headlines, project manager Margaret Kemigisa was featured in two double page newspaper spreads, one in Uganda's leading daily and one in a popular Luganda publication. The piece in the *New Vision* highlights her work in the community, beginning as a teacher and now one of the leading tea growers/conservationists in the district. (Tea is often promoted as a wildlife-friendly crop, since animals will not raid the harvest as they would foodstuffs. Thus, people bordering wild areas can earn money while living in harmony with wildlife.) The piece in *Bukedde* discusses her many other achievements, including founding a women's craft cooperative and managing New Nature's programs for the past eight years.

Clockwise from top left: Ronald clears the way during the cheetah run; Angels watches a cook giving efficiency tips; Margaret tries the leopard leap; New Vision, September 23, 2014.





Thank you!

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