

Kibale Fuel Wood Project UPDATE

Winter
2011

Eco-Char Distribution Begins

In July of this year, New Nature received funding from the Arcus Foundation Great Apes Fund to move forward with our pilot program of producing cooking fuel from farm waste. Named the Kibale Eco-Char Initiative (KECI), we believe this technology holds an amazing amount of promise for Kibale's wildlife and human neighbors.

For several months now a small crew of women from Kyanyawara village (where the KFWP has been active since 2006) has been perfecting the art of turning peanut shells, avocado pits, leaves, cow dung, saw dust and other waste into ecologically friendly fuel briquettes. At the same time,
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Prototype solar dryer designed by volunteer Savannah Schulze



Mid-year Numbers

We've finished reviewing the sixth set of yearly surveys from each of the six target areas, and are now beginning to analyze the data. Those results will be included in the year five report, to be sent out next month. In the meantime, here are some mid-year numbers reflecting activities from January - June of this year:

- Attendance at the four Science Centers totaled 6,947 people
- 22 films were shown, attended by 7,350 people
- Winners of the annual tree planting contest averaged 314 trees each, with one individual managing to raise 1,000! (Local "Defense" Balinda was subsequently hired as a part-time community liaison)
- Stove building continues, even with decreased assistance from project staff (see *The Fire is Spreading* on page 4)

Thank you all for making this possible!

The KFWP and KECI are programs of The New Nature Foundation, a registered 501(c)3 non-profit organization.
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Spotlight on Staff



Full name:

Daisy Kuzaara Abwooli

Age: 43

Favorite animal:

The goat!

Favorite Food:

Roasted meat, any meat!



Daisy Kuzaara works with the Kibale Eco-Char Initiative. When we asked her why, she replied, “Michael and Becka loved me first,” (which is admittedly true,) and then added that she does have a true desire to conserve Kibale as well as supplement her income. She has a special place in all our hearts because of her readiness to laugh or fall into hysterics for practically no reason at all. Her name alone can often bring a smile to someone’s face!

Daisy has been living close to Kibale for nearly 20 years and has certainly had her struggles with the park. The issue of crop raiding is one on everyone’s minds. Daisy reminds of us that when animals come to her farm it may mean that her family does not have enough food to eat; that when National Park standards forbid her from collecting firewood from within park boundaries, it makes life more difficult for her. These are the realities of daily

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Eco-Char, continued

an affordable, easily built stove best suited for the briquettes is being refined by the crew and project manager Margaret Kemigisa. Volunteer Savannah Schulze designed solar drying racks, and while a lot of work remains to be done we are extremely pleased with the progress to date.

On December 18th eleven families will publicly announce their partnership with the Kibale Eco-Char Initiative. These families were chosen from among the contestants in this year’s cooking competition and those that have already been supplying raw materials to the Eco-Char Initiative. Already concerned with fuel efficiency and conservation, we feel that these families will be the best partners in helping perfect the process before introducing it to the community at large. A trading scheme has been developed through which the families will trade raw materials (waste from their farms) for finished briquettes made by project staff. Each family will also receive special assistance in building new stoves and tutorship in cooking with the new briquettes, which have been dubbed “Kuchum-bricks” (a combination of the Rutooro word for cooking - kuchumba - and what they look like - bricks).

We look forward to keeping you all updated over the coming months and years with the progress of the KECI!



New partners inspecting Kuchum-bricks for the first time

Staff Training in Entebbe

The predecessor of the KFWP, the Kibale Forest Education Project, brought thousands of local students on field trips into Kibale from 2002-2004. For more than 90% of the participants, it was their first time seeing their wild neighbors in their natural habitat. Unfortunately, that program proved difficult to maintain in the long-term due to the politics and red tape involved. While the Kibale Science Centers attempt to fill that niche in the current project, educating local people about the environmental riches that make Uganda so famous, most of the staff working at the Centers have never seen the animals they are teaching about.

Last year, on a trip to nearby Semliki Wildlife Reserve, staff viewed buffalo, Ugandan kob and countless birds on an educational excursion. This year, thanks to funding from Zoo Boise, staff traveled halfway across the country to the Uganda Wildlife Education Center (UWEC) in Entebbe. All of the animals at UWEC are rescued victims of the illegal wildlife trade. Large, modern exhibits ensure that the species, all natives of Uganda, serve as valuable education tools.

Sam Murungi, who has worked at the Kaburula Science Center for almost four years, was most excited to see a lion for the first time after learning so much about them in books and at the video show. Other favorite firsts included leopard, rock python and grey parrot, as well as several species not found in Kibale, like giraffe, rhinoceros and shoebill stork. The staff were able to see how other educational facilities display their artifacts, create signage, and interact with visitors. All of these aspects will strengthen their performance both within the Science Centers and in community liaison work.

The small team that comprises the Kibale Fuel Wood Project has become a family that hopefully will work and learn together for many years to come. It is important both personally and professionally that the staff have opportunities to learn and explore about their country and why it is so rightly called the Pearl of Africa. In this way they can be better ambassadors for the national parks and the overall conservation of wild places in Uganda.

We are currently looking for a sponsor for next year's staff training experience. If you or your organization would like to support this worthwhile endeavor, please send an email to info@newnaturefoundation.org



Florence Kengonzi taking notes in front of the chimpanzee exhibit



Exavious, Nelson and Aldof at Lake Victoria

The Fire is Spreading!

In the past year numerous communities and organizations outside of our target areas have expressed interest in the fuel-efficient stoves that the KFWP promotes. With the help of our staff, volunteers and board members at least 30 stoves have recently been constructed in new areas. It is likely that many more new stoves are out there but the following groups either requested our help, wanted to show off their exceptional stoves, or were lucky enough to have an enthusiastic New Nature Foundation supporter available to introduce the new concept:

Kristen Vibbert, a long time friend of the KFWP and spouse of one of our board members, has been building stoves in Tanzanian villages near her home in Katavi National Park. Together with community members, she has built 12 stoves: 9 in Lalanayo subvillage and 3 at the primary school in Kibaoni. The stoves were built in the households of two different tribes - some are Mpimbwe people, a marginalized group of farmers who were pushed out of Katavi National Park when it was created and the others are Sukuma, the dominating tribe of cattle herders.

Chris Frey, a Peace Corps volunteer in Uganda, works with the **Kitojo Integrated Development Association (KIDA)**, a grassroots organization that is empowering Ugandans to prevent the spread of HIV, reclaim their lives from the disease and live a better life. He heard of the fuel-efficient stoves KFWP is promoting and wanted to introduce the methodology to KIDA and a nearby hospital that recently opened. The hospital did not have the capacity to feed its patients but now, with the help of nine new stoves, family and friends can prepare food for their infirmed loved ones. Approximately 40 people helped in stove building and all said they would go home and construct one in their own kitchens!

Last but not least, the **Kiko Women's Development Association** decided they too were ready to upgrade their kitchens from the traditional three stone fire. They have been working together to build stoves in each member's kitchen and called our manager, Margaret Kemigisa, to show off the fruits of their labor. They'd heard of how efficient the stoves are and said they cannot wait to begin saving wood.

As intended, the stoves continue to gain popularity even in areas where the KFWP does not operate. Although we may not be able to document all of these instances, we are extremely honored to share these stories with you and look forward to continued enthusiasm and activism within Ugandan communities and from other interested individuals all over the world!



Difloza with her new stove in ... Tanzania!



Nine stoves were built at a local hospital



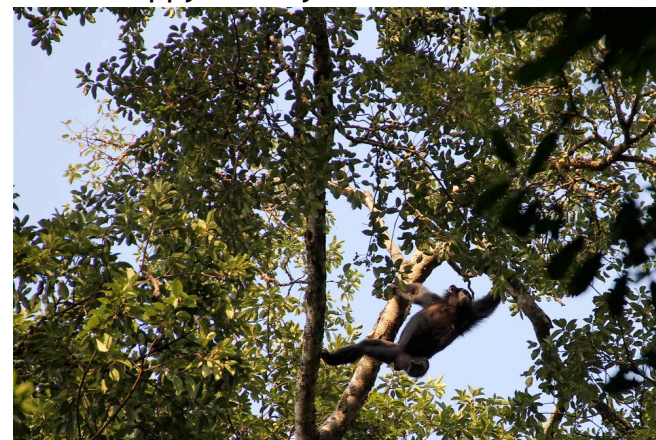
Beatrice Kachumba with the new stove she built by herself

Daisy, continued from page 2

life for her, and her candor helps our work move forward. Daisy also recognizes that without the park, many jobs might not exist.

Despite her struggles with the park, Daisy is an avid conservationist. For years she has been a friend of the KFWP through her participation in conservation clubs, using a fuel-efficient stove, entering cooking competitions and being a leader to others who wish to learn more. Daisy's personality and intelligence shine brightly. She is an active and respected member of the community, along with being the mother of four children: Daphne, Chance, Kennedy, and Desire. Having only completed high school, her wish for her children is that they can advance even further at quality schools that provide excellent education and opportunities for growth and development. Along with her own kids, Daisy cares for a number of relatives, and in total is responsible for 12 people living in her home. Even with the struggles of finding the means to support all these bodies, she exudes joy and is such a pleasure to work with.

We wanted to know what Daisy had planned for the upcoming holiday season and the answer was quite clear. She is going to "buy meat and eat a lot, buy a new dress to wear to church and have fun with family and friends." Happy Holidays!



The New Nature Foundation's projects are made possible through the support of the following organizations:

The Arcus Foundation Great Apes Fund
Columbus Zoo Conservation Fund
Honolulu Zoo
Little Rock Chapter, AAZK
Riverbanks Zoo Conservation Support Fund
The International Foundation
Zoo New England Conservation Fund

Chester Zoo
Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund
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During this holiday season, please visit our wish list on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wedding/1M88FJTAH8T5G>