

## What a Difference a Year Makes

2012 has been an exciting year, with a new focal point for the foundation (The Kibale Eco-Char Initiative) bringing an increase of staffing, community involvement, and an entirely new set of goals and outcomes. The overarching mission of the New Nature Foundation remains the same - to conserve wild animals and wild places through education, empowerment and an emphasis on creative solutions that promote people living in harmony with nature. However, the modification of briquetting technology to suit our constituents around Kibale National Park really is a major step forward in terms of modernization and scale. Today, 70 families are cooking meals on briquettes, which means at least 300 individuals have experienced cooking without wood. What is so exciting is that we anticipate the idea spreading quite quickly throughout the villages to many more of the people who are endangering Kibale with their wood and charcoal consumption. We look forward to expanding as soon as our production capabilities are able to meet demand. More info and photos about Kuchumbricks can be found in the following pages.

2012 also marked a milestone in terms of self-sufficiency for the projects. In a gradual process that began back in 2007, we as Project Directors have been stepping back to allow Project Manager Margaret Kemigisa and the rest of the Ugandan staff and volunteers to take the reigns and run in-situ operations on their own. Directors were on the ground in Uganda for only 8 weeks in 2012 (spread over three trips), less time than ever in the project's history. While we continue to fundraise, analyze data, research new ideas to help improve the work and report to all of you, the



staff have truly proven themselves capable of keeping things running on their own. We are pleasantly surprised at every visit to see the evolution of the work, sometimes in directions we never would have thought of on our own. Now in our seventh year, we also need to thank all of you for making this progress possible. Thank you for your support and donations, both financial and in-kind, that have made community conservation around Kibale work.

Happy New Year!  
Becka & Michael

**The New Nature Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization**  
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## Happy About Kuchumbricks

In its current design, local families trade their unwanted farm waste for eco-briquettes produced by project staff. While we hope to eventually include sales to nearby urban areas (with an eye toward financial sustainability), this earliest incarnation is meant to instill personal investment in partner families, insuring that briquettes go to those who appreciate and need them the most. As time goes on, the cooks who are most interested are keeping records of how many briquettes are needed to cook various meals, and trading more and more, allowing themselves to reduce wood collection and have more time and money for other endeavors. Our most dedicated partner so far is 45 year old Happy Kabarokole.

Happy lives in Kigarama, about 8 kilometers away from the Kaburala Science Center and Kuchumbrick Production Facility. With a small farm close to our center of operations, he'd passed the staff hard at work several times, and one day decided to ask what they were doing. What he found out thrilled him!

"Kibale is very interesting - the birds, the trees, forests and whatever. The environment is very nice, by the way. We have projects to conserve the environment, so people don't spoil the trees, but people will continue to destroy the forest if they don't have these bricks."

Happy now brings a large sack of waste, collected from his own family and around his local trading center, each time he passes the Science Center (about twice each week). Transporting a heavy bag of banana peels or peanut shells 8 kilometers with only a bike is no easy task, but Happy estimates he is saving about \$11 each month by using eco-briquettes instead of charcoal and wood. While this may not sound like a lot to us in the West, it is a tremendous amount in Uganda. Happy can now use more of the proceeds from his small tea farm for school fees and medicine for his family of five. Happy is one of only a few men participating in our trading scheme right now, and his dedication to saving the environment while helping his own family is an inspiration to all who see him travelling with his heavy load.

Some other Happy facts:

- His favorite meal is fish and rice.
- His favorite animal is the goat.

Thank you Happy for starting to trade waste for cooking fuel without any prompting, and for being one of our best partners so far! (Another partner, Patience Akiki, lives closer and has traded more than anyone else in 2012 - over 600 kilograms of waste, equaling 2,400 Kuchumbricks for her family.)

Interesting in volunteering with the Kuchumbricks crew? It's a great way to get immersed in the community and be a part of actively conserving Kibale while helping people who live around its border. Hard work with great rewards and beautiful scenery! For a life changing experience, send us an email at [info@newnaturefoundation.org](mailto:info@newnaturefoundation.org)

*Right: Jane at the Kiko Tea Estate's kuchumbrick factory*







*Above: UWA rangers removing the ivory from this one-tusked male.*

## Finding an Elephant: A Story of Sadness and Hope

While the communities working with NNF deserve tremendous credit for their dedication to conserving Kibale, every once in a while we receive an eye-opening reminder of just how precarious life within the national park can be and how threatened the entire eco-system really is.

We received word, as everyone else did, that an elephant was dead in the park and walked with a group of interested teens to go investigate. As we approached, the scene was chaotic. Individuals with machetes and plastic bags were everywhere. Several men carrying heavy loads of fresh meat unabashedly passed us on our way. At least four Uganda Wildlife Authority guards stood by watching and allowing this butchering to take place, though it is illegal. The elephant had indeed been poached and had died very close to a main path within the forest, making him easily accessible.

With the presence of outsiders (a.k.a. us), the meat collection stopped and people left the forest. Of course they returned later and took what they felt was rightfully theirs, and unfortunately UWA claimed not to have the manpower to stop this from happening. (We were able to report to the head of law enforcement with our photos, and a conversation is ongoing with upper park management about why guards allowed illegal meat collection to occur.)

While this story is certainly disheartening, there is a ray of light at the end. The next day we split up, one going into the forest, the other to the nearby Science Center where information about elephants, activities involving elephants, and artifacts were brought out for display. Upon going inside we found one young adult sitting quietly with a staff member translating a book about elephants. It was a beautiful display of the purpose of the museum. "Today is a sad day," our staff member said before returning to the book to learn more. Even if just one individual can turn this experience into something educational and introspective, it feels that we have made a difference and honored that elephant's life in some way.

## Survey Result Highlights

Continuing our scientific assessment of the work being done, the seventh set of yearly surveys revealed some interesting things. A full analysis of the data will be available in the annual report, but here is a quick snapshot of the year's highlights:

- Fewer people report that it is a struggle to obtain enough firewood (83%, down from 89% at project inception)
- For the first time, “using eco-briquettes” was given by interviewees as a solution to the firewood crisis (given by 4% of people in Kyanyawara, where the pilot of the Kibale Eco-Char Initiative is occurring).
- The amount of wood used for cooking has continued to fall, with the average family now using less than one heap of firewood each day. (Some make a heap last an entire week!)
- Those with KFWP efficient stoves use 43% less wood than the traditional three stone fire. (While our own experiments have shown that the KFWP stove can be up to 58% more efficient than traditional stoves, this is the highest level of efficiency seen from our community partners to date.)

Even with these good results, wood collection is still a major threat to Kibale and her wildlife. This year we've partnered with the Uganda Wildlife Authority's Warden of Research and Monitoring to conduct a comprehensive survey of wood extraction around the edges of the park. We look forward to bringing you these results as soon as possible.

While some of our measures of participation have fallen this year (which will lead to modifications in the methodology in the year to come), other data show that many of the constituents are becoming more efficient as time goes by. In two of the expansion phase areas, those with efficient stoves are using much less wood than the same portion of the population last year. Generally, we are still witnessing a gradual, positive shift in behavioral trends regarding wood consumption.



*Above: A poet tells the audience about planting trees.  
Below: Project manager Margaret performs as a chimpanzee.*





## Giving Tuesday Support for NNF

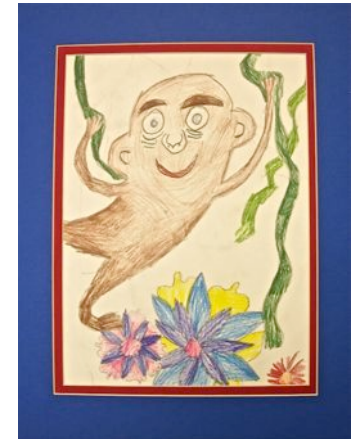
Thanks to a generous grant from the Arcus Foundation Great Apes Fund, the New Nature Foundation was able to throw its first major fundriaser! Arcus was interested in supporting Giving Tuesday, a unique event held across the nation on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving to encourage people to give back to organizations doing good work across the globe.

NNF partnered with the Infinite Monkey Theorem, a Denver based winery whose logo is a drawing of a chimpanzee. They also happen to make exceptional wine, have a great space for parties, and were very interested in supporting the work NNF does in Uganda to protect wild chimpanzees! With less than two weeks to plan it was certainly an exciting time, but the success of the event, both in terms of money raised and broadening our base in our newly adopted home of Denver, made it all worthwhile.

Along with African drummers, a silent auction with over 50 items, a Ugandan craft table and the Caveman Cafeteria food truck, NNF exhibited chimpanzee art made by students at Central Elementary and William Smith High Schools. All the art was auctioned at the end of the night. As you can see from the photos at right, the art was creative and captivating, an absolutely wonderful celebration of chimpanzees, Africa and community collaboration.

When all was said and done we had raised over \$11,000 for the Kibale Eco-Char Initiative, made some new friends, and, most importantly, shared a bit of NNF's story with a new audience that will hopefully turn into long-term relationships!

2012 was a great year for support from organizations like Arcus, zoos and private donors who have hosted events to benefit Kibale. We truly appreciate all of the assistance and look forward to an exciting new year. If you are interested in hosting an event, large or small, please let us know!



The New Nature Foundation's 2012 work has been made possible through the generous support of these organizations:

Albuquerque Zoo  
Arcus Foundation Great Apes Fund  
Chester Zoo  
Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Conservation Fund\*  
Columbus Zoo Conservation Fund\*  
Denver Zoo  
Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund  
Edelman Community Investment Grant  
Fresno Chaffee Zoo  
Honolulu Zoo  
Idea Wild\*  
Little Rock Chapter, AAZK\*  
Milwaukee County Zoo  
Mountain Gorilla Conservation Fund  
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Oakland Zoo Conservation Fund\*  
Pittsburgh Zoo and Aquarium  
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Roger Williams Park Zoo Sophie Danforth Fund\*  
Rocky Mountain, AAZK  
Sacramento Zoo  
Sacramento Chapter, AAZK  
SeaWorld & Busch Gardens Conservation Fund  
Taronga Zoo  
The International Foundation  
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Zoo Boise Conservation Fund  
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**And Many Generous Private Donors**



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Mail to 1632 Humboldt Street, Denver, Colorado, 80218

Secure on-line donation also possible with PayPal: [NewNatureFoundation.org](http://NewNatureFoundation.org)

Also check out our volunteer opportunities! Click on "you can help" on the website.

The New Nature Foundation is a 501c3 non-profit organization.