

Kibale Fuel Wood Project UPDATE

Fall 2009

Dear Team Kibale,

This UPDATE, our seventh, commemorates the first three years of in-situ operations of the Kibale Fuel Wood Project. In these pages you will find photos and articles celebrating the milestone, as well as facts and figures documenting the project's success. Thank you all for the role you have played in making this happen!

Why a three year celebration? A methodology was devised to gradually hand over operations to local community members within the first three years to test how the project might succeed without constant supervision. By the beginning of year three, it was apparent that the design was working. In its fourth year, currently underway, the project is reaching more of the people living along the border of Kibale National Park than ever before while operating on a lower budget. All thanks to YOU, Team Kibale!

Team Kibale is made up of anyone who is reading this right now. If you're reading the UPDATE for the first time, thanks for taking an interest. Our generous donors, especially those who have funded the initial three years and now continue to fund the project's future, are integral team members, as are all the local Ugandans, young and old, who will be reading this at one of our four Science Centers.

Wild places around the globe are in peril, though we can each make a difference in securing the future of the natural world. By being an active member of Team Kibale, you are helping save this amazing tropical rainforest and all of its magnificent wildlife while insuring that local communities meet their daily challenges in sustainable ways. So please continue your involvement! Give a copy of the UPDATE to a friend you think might be interested. Post a link to our website (www.newnaturefoundation.org) wherever you can. Make a donation as part of your holiday giving this year, and we'll send beautiful cards to your honorees (see page 4). Throw a party for Kibale at your home, school or office (see page 7 for details). And we are always in need of more books and equipment for the Science Centers, as well as dedicated individuals to come out to Uganda and volunteer.

Working together, we can make a difference.

Wishing you all the best -

Becka and Michael

The Year in Numbers...

The third year of in-situ operations of the Kibale Fuel Wood Project continued to show excellent results. Details and graphs from the fourth set of yearly surveys can be found in the complete Expansion Phase II report, on the Updates and Reports section of the website (www.newnaturefoundation.org). Here are some of the most exciting numbers:



- **416** stoves were built by community members with guidance from KFWP staff.
- Tree contests were held in four target areas, with winning entrants averaging **354** trees each.
- **14** Stove Building and Tree Planting workshops were held, attended by **755** people.
- **47** video shows were projected, attended by **14,640** people.
 - A **4th** Science Center was opened.
- Total attendance at the Science Centers was **10,322** people.
- The fourth set of yearly surveys revealed that **72%** of people in the target areas now grow trees at home and **36%** use efficient stoves (up from 51.5% and 4.5%, respectively, in the baseline survey).
- Average wood use has dropped to **less than one heap** (heap=10kg) per family per day (down from 1.34 heaps).



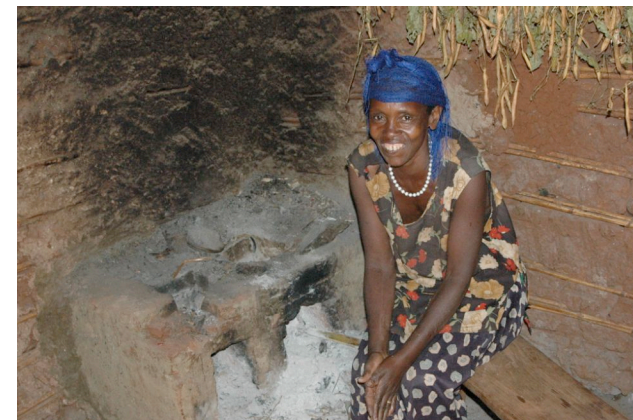
...And What It All Means for the Forest



Although it is illegal, many people living around Kibale continue to cut firewood within the park's boundaries. The project has been successful in reducing this harmful behavior: **the percentage of people collecting wood inside Kibale has dropped to 13% (down from 30.5%).** However, until that number reaches zero, we continue to work toward minimizing the impact. Fuel-efficient stoves are the answer. **The 2009 survey showed that an average family with an efficient stove uses 26% less wood than those with a traditional stove.** (Our own experiments indicate that the same design can be up to 58% more efficient than a traditional stove when used by a careful cook.)

Using a conservative estimate of how many stoves are in working order and the overall average wood savings determined from survey data, we can assert that **2,024 kgs (4,453 lbs) of wood are saved each day.** In one year, this amounts to the conservation of **738,760 kgs (1,625,272 lbs) of wood**, much of which would have been cut from trees inside Kibale National Park.

It's a tragically simple equation: Forest animals cannot survive without their forest, and rural people need wood to cook with. On behalf of Kibale's wildlife, we thank all the members of Team Kibale who are becoming part of the solution. Whether you cook your beans on a Rocket Stove or support the educational activities that make that possible, you are giving a great help to some of the world's most amazing endangered species.



Holiday Gifts Help Kibale

The end of the year is a time to be with friends and loved ones, go to holiday parties, and generally just celebrate the past while looking forward to the future. This year, why not consider giving the gift of conservation?

For any donation of \$25 or more between now and December 31st 2009, the KFWP will send two cards to whomever you chose. One card will contain a personal note informing them of the gift you have made in their honor, with some

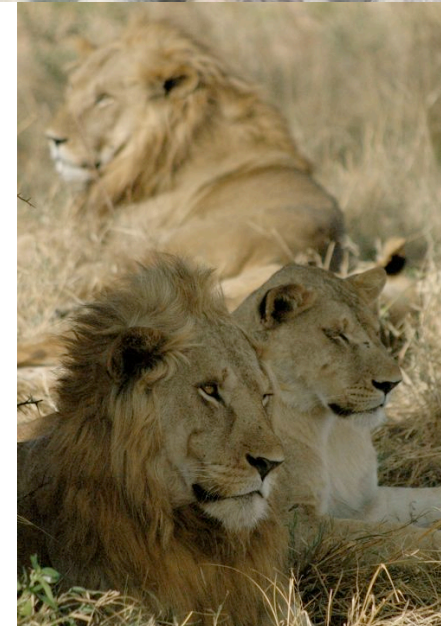
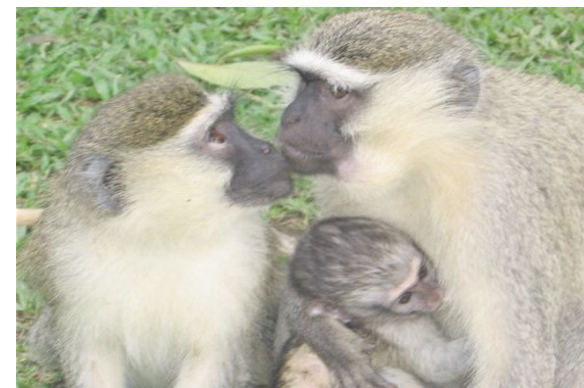
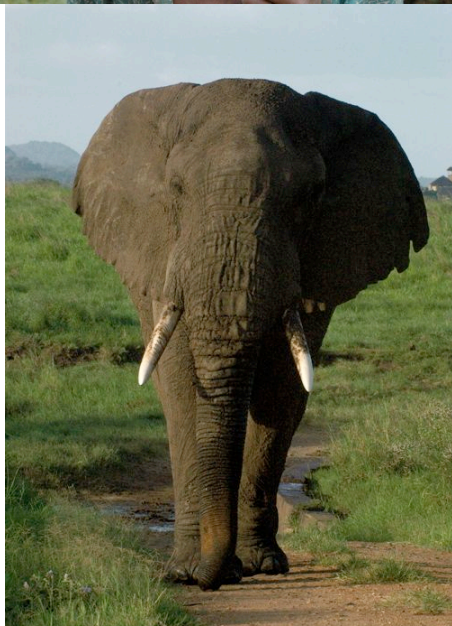
information about Kibale and the project your gift supports. The second card will be blank, so that they can use it for their own purposes.

The front of each card will have one of the photographs on this page, with an original signature from the photographer. You can choose one or two designs and you'll be helping increase awareness about the work, assisting with the struggle to save Kibale and celebrating a friend or loved one.

Year-end business affairs or family parties are also a wonderful opportunities to talk about Africa! Please consider giving one of these Kibale Cards instead of the usual pollyanna gift. We are also happy to send you signs, which you could post with information about Uganda in lunchrooms, offices, cubicles or board rooms. Or, organize an entire

holiday party as a fundraiser for Kibale -details about how we can help with this on page 7.

There are other ways that holiday gifts can help rainforests around the world: Look for items with recycled or recyclable content and a minimum of packing materials. Be sure not to buy tropical hardwoods unless they are certified as sustainably harvested. And remember that components in modern electronics are often mined in rainforest habitats - if giving a flashy new device, look on line to find a place where your friend can recycle the old one.



The Most Fun I've Ever Had At Work *by Lara Jai Gasser, Project Volunteer*

As we pulled off the dusty Ugandan highway in front of an orange stucco house, I was unsure of what to expect. This was my first trip to Africa, and while I have traveled in other developing countries, I have never stayed in the home of a local villager. Yet, when I saw Margaret emerging from the side of the house, a smile filling her face, I knew I was in good hands. She was followed by two adorable boys, and her mild mannered husband. Over the next few days, we discussed every imaginable topic. It was fascinating to hear Margaret's perspective of the world, and best of all- we laughed A LOT.

I decided to volunteer with KFWP because, after working in wildlife conservation for over a decade, I am familiar with the challenges involved in community conservation projects and am impressed with the success of the KFWP. Community support is essential for wildlife conservation. This is particularly true in developing countries, where human needs often appear to be at odds with the needs of wildlife. The fact is, they are not at odds. People are always better off if they can maintain the diversity and abundance of their natural resources. Convincing hungry people of this, however, is not an easy thing. KFWP has made significant strides at just that, and I wanted to see how they were doing it.

I submerged myself in the community around Kibale National Park. With Margaret, I visited many traditional grass-thatched mud homes where we talked with people about how planting trees and building more efficient stoves could alleviate some of the challenges they face each day. We also visited homes that had replaced their stoves with more fuel-efficient models and watched them beam with pride while discussing their virtually smoke-free stoves. Back in the office, I spent time evaluating environmental essays entered in the KFWP contests and wrote a pamphlet explaining the easiest way to grow and care for native *Sesabania* trees. Weekend days were spent at the Science Centers playing educational games with kids, helping people find information about a place or an animal they are interested in, teaching kids how to use a microscope, speaking about animals that I am familiar with, or playing my harp for curious crowds. There was never a dull moment at our Sunday movie nights, either. People delighted in seeing the wild animals of Africa. Amazingly, this is something that many African people have never seen in "real" life.

I was most struck by the children's enthusiasm for the science centers. In Uganda, most people have no electricity, and fewer still have television, radios, or computers. Most families do not even own books. So, children are hungry for knowledge and eagerly devour

the books, displays, puzzles, and other materials at the science centers. Several older kids confided in me the enormous impact that learning about nature at the science center made in their lives. One boy explained, "I fell in love with nature." This inspired me as I spent time cataloging the library at each of the science centers to better organize the books.

This experience not only allowed me to see a successful conservation project, it helped me to better understand a culture that is completely different than my own, and enabled me to connect with people on a personal basis in a way that I never could have just "traveling through". These personal connections are treasures and are surely the first step toward peace and unity in this world.

Want to volunteer? Check out the "You Can Help" section of www.newnaturefoundation.org.



Moving Forward

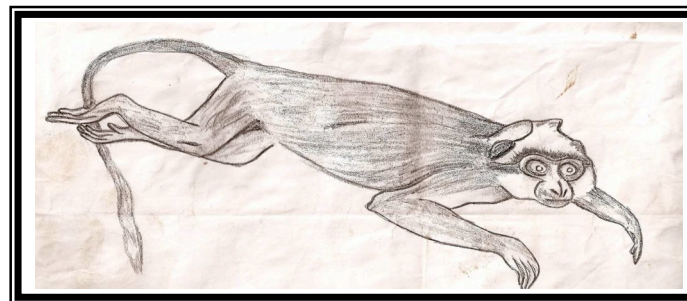
With its three-year methodology complete, the KFWP has essentially been turned over to local communities, under the supervision of our project manager and staff. A gradual handover has been taking place almost since project inception, and we are very pleased with the level of responsibility currently being undertaken by the communities involved. Throughout the life of the project, we have seen adaptations made by locals to the stove and the seedbeds that have given them a sense of ownership over the concepts.

Currently in its fourth year of operation, the KFWP has reduced the paid hours each community liaison walks around his or her village, in an attempt to see how motivated the community will be with less supervision. All other project activities are continuing, with some aspects scaled down in certain areas.

Yearly surveys will continue to document how ideas are being executed as outside supervision decreases. If stoves continue to be built, trees continue to be planted, and if attendance remains high at video shows and Science Centers, we will be convinced that the project has staying power. The Science Centers, more than any other aspect of the project, have proven immensely effective in reaching large portions of the community. Though further expansion will not occur until 2012 at the earliest, after the longevity of the project's impact can be assessed, we will continue actively working to maintain an engaged and growing constituency, with the Science Centers as the major hub in this operation.

The effects of the work of the past three years is still being revealed as community members embrace it in their own way. While there is some

degree of uncertainty as to how each community will proceed, the past three years indicate continued growth and development. Below are some writing samples that community members have entered in competitions. This year we have seen a level of sophistication in the writing and grasping of concepts that is beyond what was seen in years one and two. These entries give the project an extra boost of inspiration, and we hope they have a similar effect on you!



Red Tail Monkey
Emmanuel
Haraka

The project encourages us to plant the Sesbania trees, which can help us to use them as firewood, and while saving parks from being destroyed. Here, I mean that when you plant those trees, after they have grown, well, you will cut them, and dry them, and start using them on firewood. Where you will be not forced to go to the forest, or park, to cut some trees for firewood.

Kamugyisha Ambrose

It is because of the Kibale Science Center that I have learnt the meaning of the word biodiversity, appreciated all different shapes, sizes, and structures that are found in animals and plants of Kibale, so we are proud to have a biodiversity here in our area. I am also proud to have such a unique environment and I urge to protect it well so that the future generation may also be able to gain from it like I have done.

Byamukama Denis

People are cutting down trees for fuel to cook with. When people cut trees they tilt the balance of the ecosystem. In Kibale this hurts natural habitats for chimpanzees, elephants, and many endangered species and eventually impacts villagers. We can help create a sustainable habitat between people and the indigenous forest.

Sabiiti Francis Alonso

Party for the Forest!

Make a difference while having *FUN*

Since its inception, several North American schools have partnered with the KFWP for both educational and fundraising purposes. Two of the schools held movie nights, where families came together one night and made small donations to watch a video on the big screen. One school held a book drive, and another asked for small donations in return for craft making activities. (Pictures on this page from the Cole Manor School fundraiser.) All these ideas worked great, and could be adapted to work at home or in an office.

We believe that one of the most important ways to help conserve the planet is to teach people about some of the concerns facing the natural world and how people are trying to address them. We're hoping you might be interested in helping to get the message out to friends and family.

How about Wine and Dine for Nature? Pot Luck for Preservation? Chocolate for Chimpanzees! Or a Lunchtime Lecture on Africa? For your next dinner party, why not ask friends to bring a small donation to help support this cause? Each is a wonderful way to share your passion for wildlife and African communities with your friends and coworkers, and a great way to help us spread the word about Kibale.



The New Nature Foundation is a 501 c 3 non-profit organization, and all donations are tax deductible. Please make checks out to "New Nature Foundation" and write "Kibale" on the memo line. Mail to:

New Nature Foundation
412 Rockland Avenue
Merion Station, Pennsylvania
19066

www.newnaturefoundation.org
info@newnaturefoundation.org



How We Can Help

- The KFWP can provide you with a powerpoint presentation or DVD to show at your gathering, complete with facts, figures and photos from Uganda.
- If we're close by, we'd love to stop in and be part of your party, too! (If you're too far away, we can make an appearance at your party via Skype.)
- We can provide photos or short videos for you to use in your invitations.
- Copies of Ugandan writings or drawing can be provided which might further inspire friends and family to become involved.
- Any in-kind donations like books or other equipment will be brought to Uganda *free of charge* on our next trip. Just send them to the above address and make a difference without worrying about international shipping.
- Contact the Project Directors at info@newnaturefoundation.org with any questions about organizing an event. We'd love to share more about what others have done, to help make your party a success.

Thank You



American Property Investment Company
 American Society of Primatologists
 Arcus Foundation Great Apes Fund
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 Blank Park Zoo Conservation Fund
 Boston Foundation
 Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Conservation Fund
 Cole Manor Elementary School
 Columbus Chapter, American Association of Zoo Keepers
 Columbus Zoo Conservation Fund
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Fairwold Questers
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 Great Ape Trust of Iowa
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 John Ball Zoo Conservation Fund
 Little Rock Chapter, American Association of Zoo Keepers
 Martinson Elementary School
 Miami Metrozoo Conservation Fund
 Milwaukee Zoo Conservation Fund
 Natural Encounters Conservation Fund
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 Pearlman Jewish Day School



Philadelphia Chapter, American Association of Zoo Keepers
 Philadelphia Zoo Docent Council Sally Teaf Fund
 Point Defiance Chapter, American Association of Zoo Keepers
 Puget Sound Chapter, American Association of Zoo Keepers
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 Roger Williams Park Zoo Sophie Danforth Conservation Biology Fund
 San Diego Chapter, American Association of Zoo Keepers
 Wild-4-Ever
 Woodland Park Zoo Conservation Fund
 Zoos and Aquaria Committing to Conservation
 Zoo Boise Conservation Fund
 Zoo New England Conservation Fund
 And hundreds of individuals - Thank you all!

