

Fall 2007

Kibale Community Fuel Wood Project UPDATE

A program of the Chimp-n-Sea Wildlife Conservation Fund

Gone Solar!



The Kibale Community Fuel Wood Project is thrilled to announce that we have officially gone solar. With generous support from the Arcus Foundation Great Apes Fund, we are now able to create these reports for you and conduct the ever-popular outdoor movie shows with the power of the sun. Along with minimizing our environmental footprint, we hope to encourage others to consider solar as a viable option, and not only in equatorial countries. Advances in technology have made home solar power possible even in temperate climates around the world.

The project also uses only certified wood from legal plantations, assuring that no natural rainforest wood is cut. There are truly countless ways for each of us to conserve resources and help protect our natural world.



A skit demonstrating the shortcomings of the traditional stove

News from the Science Centers

On November 11, 2007, the new Sebitoli Science Center was opened to a crowd of 300 people. Situated in a trading center less than one kilometer from Kibale National Park, the center helps introduce the project's ideas to new villages, while captivating them with incredible artifacts, thought provoking books, posters, and wildlife television shows. Most Sebitoli community members work long hours on tea plantations; the educational recreation offered at the new center should be a welcome addition to their busy lives. Strategically located on the main Kampala-Fort Portal road, passers-by cant miss the signpost painted in Uganda's national colors.



Sebitoli community members at the grand opening

The project also celebrated the one-year anniversary of the Kaburala Science Center on Uganda's Independence Day (photo at left). It was a truly inspirational day, with newly formed wildlife clubs performing songs and plays about protecting Kibale, planting trees, building stoves, and why not to hunt wild animals. In its first year, a total of 5,752 people enjoyed this unique place. The Science Center itself went through a minor face-lift, and a brighter center was introduced to its faithful constituents. (Continued on next page)

Science Centers, Continued



Investigating a lion's paw at the Kaburala Science Center



Celebrating the center's anniversary on Uganda's Independence Day

Both science centers are completely funded by the Great Ape Trust of Iowa. Idea Wild has also supplied microscopes, and Disney and private donors have contributed a telescope, more art supplies, games and books. Additionally, new artifacts have been collected from around Kibale Conservation Area. Atop the pig and ungulate display is an 18-foot python skin. The fully articulated skeletons of a mother and baby chimpanzee (who died

from unknown causes in the Semliki Wildlife Reserve), and a mounted grey-crowned crane, Uganda's national bird, are newly on loan from Uganda Wildlife Authority. The chimps are seated next to a poster of the human skeleton, highlighting the similarities between our species.

On your next trip to Uganda you should certainly check these out, so while traveling to track Kibale's famous chimps, please stop by!

Here are some translations of songs performed at the opening and anniversary parties:

"What is everyone saying? Protect the park! Women and men! Thanks for building stoves, planting sesban, let us protect the park!"

"We were waiting for good projects, and now you have come. The project is welcome. To show we are happy let's drum and dance!"

"We are happy to remember 9th October when the Science Center opened to the community. The Uganda crane was all alone, we are not. We have the Science Center."

Addressing Encroachment

The KCFWP works to reduce or eliminate human encroachment into Kibale National Park. Though the community at large shares this goal, a major obstacle still exists. As mentioned in our March '06 update, non-native trees (pine, cyprus, and eucalyptus) were planted in Kibale before it was designated as a national park. Individuals or organizations can very easily be granted access to the park to claim this wood. This inevitably leads to the cutting of native trees and general habitat destruction, as individuals are not carefully monitored when cutting. The

project is working on a system to eliminate all non-native tress from Kibale, thus greatly minimizing unregulated access to the protected area. We are currently conducting a census within KNP, lead by Benjamin Kitembo, an honorary warden who assisted in planting those trees in the 1970's and 80's. After documentation of tree locations, we will consult with the wildlife authority and locals on the best way to proceed. It is our intention to cut all the trees and make the wood available to locals at specific locations outside of the park.

Thanks to the Woodland Park Zoo for funding this aspect of the project.



Standing with illegal timber inside Kibale

Meet the Team

Congratulations and thanks go to our staff, Margaret Kemigisa, Emmanuel Haraka, and Florence Kengonzi, who kept the project running smoothly while the directors were in North America on the fundraising and capacity building tour. Not only did project activities continue, improvements were made to the stoves. They are now more sought-after by locals and more durable, while still maintaining their amazing fuel efficiency (photo of the new design on the last page, upper right corner).

As we have now expanded to two new parishes that border Kibale National Park, we have also increased the number of community liaisons working in these areas. We would like to introduce you to our new and returning part time staff. Welcome to John Kabuleta, Patrick Mutegeki, and Ronald Rwuhweza. Welcome back to Benjamin Kisémbó and Gorretti Mbabazi, who had been working on an "as needed" basis. Mr. Kisémbó, as mentioned earlier, is surveying the exotic woods in Kibale. The liaisons each work in one of the four target areas, Kiko, Isunga, Sebitoli, and Kahangi. Thanks also to the Uganda Wildlife Authority for providing a community conservation ranger, Anna Mutabazi, to help staff the Sebitoli Science Center. Our new student interns, who will be assisting both at the Science Centers and throughout the communities, are Sam Mutegeki and Margaret Kisémbó. Finally, a warm welcome to the two newest additions: Margaret Kemigisa and Florence Kengonzi each had a baby boy in the past month! Congratulations!



Photo by Annie Musselman

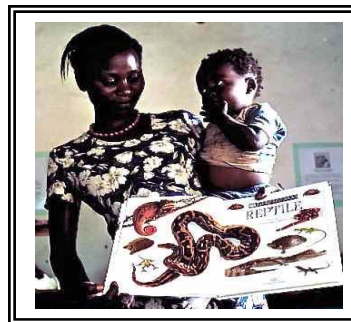
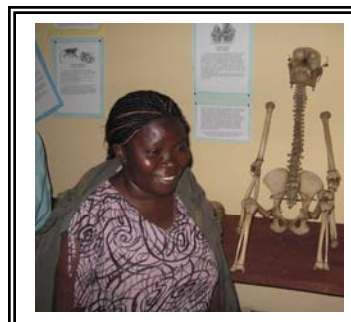
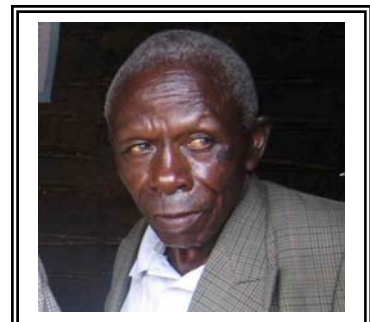


Photo by Annie Musselman



Clockwise from the top left: Margaret Kemigisa, Emmanuel Haraka, Benjamin Kisémbó, Gorretti Mbabazi, Patrick Mutegeki, Anna Mutabazi and Florence Kengonzi

The Results Are In!

The KCFWP uses surveys as one tool to evaluate various aspects of the project. One hundred households were surveyed in each target area at the beginning and end of the pilot year (400 surveys total). The results (at right) not only help document our successes, but highlight areas that may need more attention or a shift in approach. Overall, the pilot year's results are encouraging, and show that our methods have already had a positive effect on people's perceptions about Kibale, as well as their behaviors, specifically regarding energy consumption. If you would like more details about the surveys (or anything else), please send us an email.

More People Grow Trees at Home: 61.5% in June 2007 as opposed to 55% in June 2006.

Fewer People Collect Wood From Kibale: 21% in June 2007 as opposed to 37.5% in June 2006.

More People Use Fuel Efficient Stoves: 31% in June 2007 as opposed to 3.5% in June 2006.

KCFWP Fuel Efficient Stoves Use Less Wood: The average person using a fuel efficient stove uses 37% less firewood than the average person using a traditional stove.

KCFWP stoves save over 1,500 pounds of firewood *each day* in households bordering Kibale!

More Ways for You to Help

The pilot year of the KCFWP was a great success, due in large part to the generosity of the organizations and private donors listed on the next page. We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their assistance and to add a personal note of how encouraging it was to meet so many supporters and friends this summer who dedicated time, money, and other resources to the project. Of course, the struggle continues here in Kibale, and there are many ways in which we are still looking for your help. Monetary donations are still a much-needed resource. If you have access to science and

nature educational materials, such as books or posters, we'd be thrilled if you sent to our office in Vermont, and they will join us on our next trip in 2008. The KCFWP is also looking for volunteers to come and spend a month or more living in this amazing rainforest and helping to achieve the project's long-term goals. It will truly be a life changing experience! Email kibalewood@yahoo.com for more information.

Wishing you all the best from Kibale -
Becka & Michael

The Kibale Community Fuel Wood Project is a program of Chimp-n-Sea Wildlife Conservation Fund, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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More Photos and Info on the Website!

www.chimp-n-sea.org



Project volunteer Annie Musselman teaching art at the Kaburala Science Center

Thank You!

The Kibale Community Fuel Wood Project has been made possible through the generous support of the following individuals and organizations:

A star notes donors who helped both pilot and expansion phases



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Thank you all very much!

To make a donation, please write a check to

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Mail to: 480 Hogback Road

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Please write "Kibale" on your check's memo line.

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