

Spring
2009

Kibale Fuel Wood Project UPDATE

New Name: New Nature

After three years of operation under the auspices of Chimp-n-Sea Wildlife Conservation Fund, the directors of the Kibale Fuel Wood Project have started their own 501(c)3, the New Nature Foundation. Its mission is to “conserve wild animals and wild places through education, empowerment, and an emphasis on creative solutions that promote people living in harmony with nature”.

Great thanks go to Chimp-n-Sea for their support of the project during its formative years. Without the non-profit umbrella provided by CnS, fundraising would have been much more difficult, and Kibale would be worse off than it is today. The help of the CnS board, and the support of numerous institutional and private donors, has allowed the Kibale Fuel Wood Project to make great strides in protecting this enchanting wilderness area and all of its wild inhabitants.

As we transition to New Nature Foundation leadership, work on the ground in Uganda will carry on uninterrupted. All four Science Centers will continue to inspire both young and old, community liaisons will keep up with their one-on-one mentorship of citizens living around Kibale, and the traveling movie show will maintain its presence as an entertaining way for villagers to learn about wildlife.

During its fourth year, the project will not expand to any new areas. Rather, activities will continue, under community leadership, in the six areas bordering Kibale that are already targeted. Yearly surveys and analyses will continue, so that future expansion or changes to the project might occur after measured considerations.

As always, this work could not be accomplished without **YOU!** Check out the new website, www.newnaturefoundation.org, for the latest news and photos, and please consider making a donation to assist with the sustained effort to safeguard Kibale.

(Top photo courtesy Annie Musselman)



Leap of Faith To Leap for Joy

Photos and words by Jan Campbell, Volunteer

Some experiences that you choose to do don't always live up to your expectations. My month as a volunteer with the Kibale Fuel Wood Project was the exact opposite.

I made contact with the project on my first African safari. The Great Ape Trust [project donor], in Des Moines, Iowa, where I live, suggested that I might like to visit because I was going to be in the right area. I was looking for a place to volunteer the following year, and Becka and Michael were totally encouraging and open to my interest.

Prior to volunteering with the Kibale Fuel Wood Project, my experience had been on daily work projects in the US and Mexico. Needless to say, leaving home for a month to live with a Ugandan family was a stretch. My match with the project Manager, Margaret, her husband Moses, and their two boys couldn't have been better if eHarmony had been involved! I quickly settled into the routine of family life and project duties, like cataloging new materials I'd brought and other resources at the different Science Centers, working with women's groups, showing natural science programs on a large screen (white bed sheet), giving demonstrations of building Rocket Stoves and collecting *Sesbania* seeds at different locations. Each day was different, and I was Margaret's constant shadow.

Having personal involvement with the project's work was rewarding, but it doesn't compare with the close personal connections I made with my Ugandan family, friends and the East African culture. Being treated as an insider, not a visitor, wherever you go, whether church, shopping or in a village home is difficult to experience in your home community, let alone nine time zones away. I will be leaping for joy when I return to work again with the Kibale Fuel Wood Project in 2010. Get involved with something you care about and take a leap of faith - Just Do It!

Jan Campbell volunteered for the KFWP in January and February 2009, and her experience and enthusiasm were a major help to the project. Thank you, Jan! If you'd like to volunteer too, check out the "You Can Help" portion of the new website, www.newnaturefoundation.org.



Staff Profile



Photo courtesy Margaret Kemigisa

One of the newest members of the Kibale Fuel Wood Project team, please welcome Science Center Intern, Musabe Bashil! Working at least four weekend days per month, Bashil is a host, translator, and tree planter.

A 14 year old in 7th grade at Kyanyawara Primary School, Bashil wrote in his application essay that he hopes to become a Chief Warden and enforce the laws that protect Kibale

Kibale Chimp News

News and Photo from Kyleb Wild, Kyanyawara Chimp Researcher

Some sobering news from the forest regarding Imoso (pictured), the alpha male of the Kyanyawara chimp community: In April, Imoso was seen with a spear wound on his arm, presumably retribution from a villager for having strayed outside park boundaries. Uganda Wildlife Authority veterinarians were called to the scene, where they immobilized Imoso and cleaned his wound. During recovery, Imoso did not travel much. At times other chimps kept him company, sometimes he remained alone. No challenges from rival males were made, and he is now said to be doing much better.

Incidents like this, though rare, point to the continued need for projects like ours. Imoso has been in charge of the Kyanyawara chimp

National Park (see below). He has been an inspiration because of his perseverance: His first application to become a KFWP intern, in 2007, was unsuccessful but this eager student was not deterred. Bashil took part in every educational competition the KFWP conducted and volunteered at the Science whenever needed. By doing this, he learned more and became a part of the extended conservation family that is ever-growing around Kibale. Bashil is becoming an excellent teacher, a confident speaker, and, most importantly, a dedicated environmentalist.

The KFWP applauds Bashil for his hard work and dedication and will continue to support his growth and development into a leader for conservation.

"I want to be like Margaret, Rebecca and Michael, to teach people about forest conservation and show the video. I also want to show children things in the science center. In future, I want to work in the forest, be a Chief Park Warden, and punish people who hunt and cut trees in the national park."

community for at least 10 years, but with increasing pressure from surrounding communities, his world is changing. The KFWP teaches appreciation for the forest while helping villagers meet their needs in sustainable ways. Only through the support, understanding and tolerance of local people will Kibale survive. The same is true for wildlife in your backyard, wherever that is.



Isunga Science Center Receives Community Makeover



The Kibale Fuel Wood Project
is a program of
The New Nature Foundation,
a registered 501(c)3 non-profit
organization.

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More Photos and Info
on the Website!

www.newnaturefoundation.org

One of the wonderful things about the Kibale Science Centers is that each has its own distinct personality: Kaburala is a village home with crops and a working kitchen, Bigodi is part of a community run eco-tourism site, and Isunga is a small wooden structure next to the church.

The Isunga community, one of the project's pilot year target areas, has always been excited to take part in project activities. In the last Update you read about the creation of a small Science Center at Isunga, and the community wasted no time in adding their own special flavor. The walls have come alive, decorated with drawings, sculptures and banana leaf art. The KFWP's three-year model consisted of one year of comprehensive training, a second year of mentorship, and a third of basic support. Isunga is proving the model successful as they have used their new skills and created something to call their own. Seeing the community embrace the project in such a personal way is very encouraging, and it highlights the importance of the Science Centers as meeting places where local citizens have a welcoming and comfortable place to learn about their natural environment.



Thank You!

The Kibale 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 "New Nature Foundation"

Mail to: 412 Rockland Avenue

Merion Station, Pennsylvania 19066

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

The New Nature Foundation is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.

