

October 2006

# Kibale Community Fuel Wood Project UPDATE

## Tree Planting Has Begun!

Kibale National Park is being cut down for firewood. Each Saturday we witness a stream of people entering the park with machetes, and leaving with a little part of the forest. Villagers see little alternative, though one does exist. In an effort to showcase the ease of growing firewood at home, we are promoting native, quick-growing, nitrogen-fixing species that can be planted around a small farm.

To date, more than 1,000 seedlings of *Sesbania sesban* have been reared, 500 of which are already planted at five demonstration areas. *Marcamia*, a legume suitable for timber, has also been planted in smaller numbers. Seeds were collected locally, and germinated in recycled plastic bags. Volunteers at each demonstration area assisted with planting in a fence-like pattern, utilizing the border space around farms in an innovative way. (more on page 4)



## Rocket Stove Takes Off

Twenty bricks, reeds, mud, ash and a strip of sheet metal – this is all you need to make your very own efficient stove. Based on the Winiarski rocket stove design, our adaptation is built with local materials for about \$1.25, making it an attractive option for those trying to conserve firewood.

Two components make the rocket stove work: All air feeding the flame is preheated, making the fire burn hotter, and a metal shield prevents heat from escaping. Orchestrating the flame in such a way allows meals to be cooked with about half the wood of a traditional stove. For the grand opening on October 7<sup>th</sup>, a local dish of potatoes, onions and tomatoes was cooked on the stove and kept warm for over six hours in a haybox. (more on page 4)



*The rocket stove display at our main demonstration area*



*"I am honored to open the Science Center for the Kibale Community Fuel Wood Project, and hope it may reach a wide section of the community."*

*-Charles Tumwesigwe,  
Chief Warden Kibale  
Conservation Area*

## Science Center Opens

The idea of a science center as a component of the project's environmental education campaign arose *in situ*. While gaining the support of the Ugandan Wildlife Authority, we found ourselves surrounded by bones, skins and other artifacts from Kibale, laying idle in the offices and back-rooms of park headquarters.

After gaining permission to display artifacts found within Kibale and securing full funding for this new aspect of the project from the Great Ape Trust of Iowa, we were proud to open the science center at the project's main demonstration area, just one kilometer from the border of the National Park.

Fuel efficient stoves, fast-growing trees and other energy related innovations for the home were always planned as aspects of the demonstration area. It is our hope that the current collection, which includes primate, ungulate, elephant and hippo skulls, confiscated poacher spears, the skin of a man-eating lioness and more, will help draw a larger audience to learn about the stoves and trees. Facilitating a greater understanding



*Chief Warden Charles Tumwesigwe cuts the opening ribbon*

of the environment and its riches, the stage is set for citizens to solve their fuel wood problems in a sustainable way.

More than 50 invited guests witnessed the ribbon cutting ceremony on October 7<sup>th</sup>, and over 300 village citizens enjoyed the center on its first full day of operation, Ugandan Independence Day, October 9<sup>th</sup>. The center will be open every weekend, free of charge, for all interested parties to explore Uganda's biodiversity and learn how to conserve it.

As the first museum of its kind in the country, the science center and demonstration area should have an amazing impact, and we hope for it to be a resource for many years to come.



## Baseline Surveys Complete

Surveys detailing the fuel wood crisis around Kibale have been completed in our two target areas of Kiko and Isunga Parishes. Over 200 households were polled, and the results confirm that the situation is as dire as expected: 96% of those polled report it is a struggle to obtain enough firewood, and 75% suggest planting trees as a solution, but do

not do so for several reasons (that the project is addressing). A lot of wood is now being taken from Kibale, and cutting firewood inside the park has been made legal every Saturday, in a very disturbing change of events. For more detailed survey results, see the UPDATE section of the website, [www.chimp-n-sea.org](http://www.chimp-n-sea.org).

# Art and Essay Contest

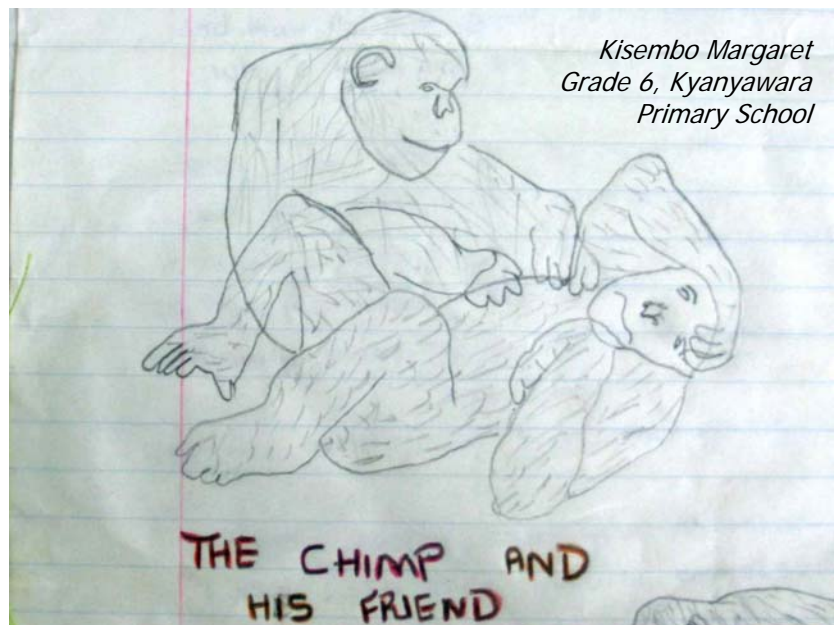
"Tell us about Kibale National Park." This question was posed to the community at large in the form of an art and essay contest, with educational prizes promised for 20 winners. More than 200 entries were submitted, showcasing the interest and talent of local students. Please enjoy some of the winning entries reproduced on this page.

*Elephants Cry*  
*Life in the jungle is not easy*  
*You know?*  
*For the poachers kill us*  
*One by one*  
*To the slaughter areas*  
*Hunter heads us*  
*Shoots us for our tusks*  
*Also cuts into pieces*  
*For meat, bones and sale*  
*To feed on and grow healthy.*  
*After which we are forgotten.*  
 -Kabajungu Lucy  
 Grade 6, Kyanyawara Primary School

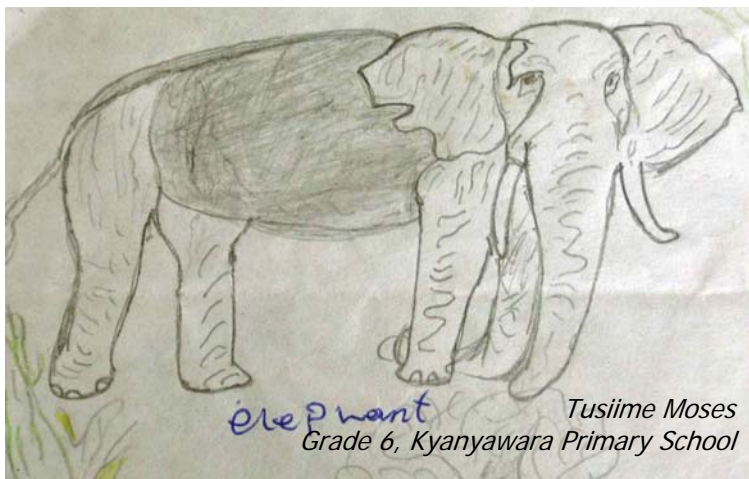


Haraka Emmanuel  
 Kitumba Senior  
 Secondary School

*Poem about Conservation*  
*Conservation! Conservation! Conservation!*  
*Conservation you are peaceful,*  
*Strong and energetic.*  
*Conservation you are sweetness,*  
*Of wealth and wisdom.*  
*The beneficiaries of conservation,*  
*We sons and daughters of Africa,*  
*Where would we get friends!*  
*Where would we go!*  
*Oh Uganda, where would we*  
*Get peace and wealth?*  
*Oh sons and daughters of Africa,*  
*Let's promote hard and harder*  
*With our friends Michael, Becka and Margaret*  
*To improve conservation.*  
*God may pour blessings to*  
*Our friends*  
*So let's go, and*  
*Improve conservation*  
 -Muhebwa Richard  
 Grade 6, Kyanyawara Primary School



Kisembo Margaret  
 Grade 6, Kyanyawara  
 Primary School



Tusiime Moses  
 Grade 6, Kyanyawara Primary School



Kansiime T.  
 Grade 4, Kyanyawara  
 Primary School

## A New Way to View Nature

The sun has gone down, swarms of children jump in anticipation, and a large crowd converges. The movie is about to begin.

Since June, the project has presented eight movie shows to a total audience of 3,000. Held at community meeting places, the shows provide an opportunity for citizens to learn about their local environment through the very films that have made it famous. The gatherings also provide a forum for discussing the project's goals. The strength of the images is evidenced by the audience's unbridled exclamations.

With help from the Kyanyawara Conservation Club, shows are publicized around the villages. The club has also presented



environmental songs and dances at several of the shows (pictured above).

Initially planned to occur weekly, an electricity shortage dictates longer re-charge times for the equipment. However, audiences are much larger than anticipated, and the movie show remains an integral part of the project.

**The Kibale Community Fuel Wood Project is a program of Chimp-n-Sea Wildlife Conservation Fund, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.**  
**Mark Laxer, President**  
**1768 ½ Kilbourne Place NW**  
**Washington, DC 20010**

*More Photos and Info on the Website!*

[www.chimp-n-sea.org](http://www.chimp-n-sea.org)

## Tree Planting, Continued

Upon arriving in Kyanyawara, we learned that *Sesbania* has in fact been promoted here in the past. Its nitrogen fixing attributes are appreciated, though its potential as a fuel wood source has yet to be maximized. Education about new planting and harvesting methods has attracted attention, and interest has grown since

opening the demonstration areas. Though still in its early stages, test cuts on fully-grown trees have proven successful, and seedlings now in the ground are growing well. We look forward to the beginning of the next rainy season (April 2007) when the newly planted trees will be ready for their first harvest.

## Rocket Stove, Continued

Quite literally a box full of hay (or dried banana leaves), a haybox acts as a giant insulator, cooking food slowly over the course of a day. After bringing to a boil on the stove, food is transferred to the haybox and continues to cook with no fuel at all. Thanks to their affordability and simple

designs, the haybox and efficient stove are generating a lot of excitement.

Solar stoves have also been tested, though none successfully built with local materials. We look forward to the end of the rains, when testing of new designs will re-commence.

## Thank You!

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

American Property Investment Company

The Arcus Foundation Great Apes Fund

Asiainvestment Fund LLC

Attercop Sound

Chelan Properties LLC

Cleveland Metroparks Zoo Conservation Fund

Great Ape Film Initiative

Great Ape Trust of Iowa

Idea Wild

John Ball Zoo Society Conservation Fund

Lavanch Properties LLC

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Oakland Zoo Conservation Fund

Philadelphia Chapter, American Association of Zoo Keepers

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Roger Williams Park Zoo Sophie Danforth Conservation Fund

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And Many Generous Private Donors

***Thank you all very much!***

