



Kibale Fuel Wood Project UPDATE

Summer 2010

Conserving Kibale, One Day at a Time

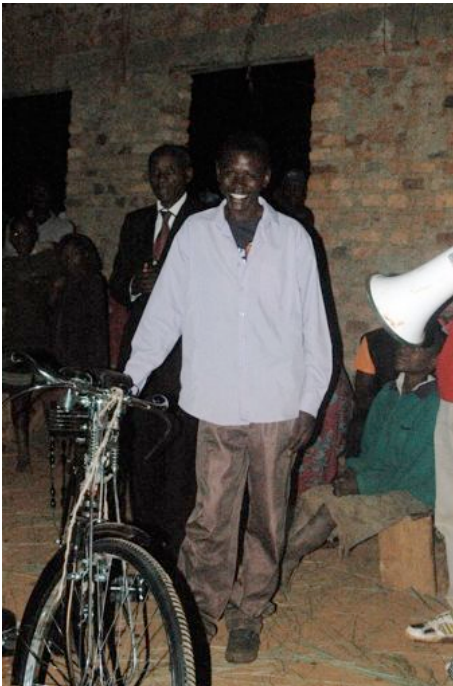
The Kibale Fuel Wood Project has handed down a large task to the communities around the park. Help conserve Kibale by changing, even if just a little bit, what you do every day. Take control over this one thing and have faith that it will not only reduce the pressure on the lush, verdant rainforest but also on your own lives. We asked people to try, with no direct financial incentive offered, just the knowledge and strength gained from becoming conservationists.

How many of us can say that after a day of work we tended to 400 seedlings planted to help save Kibale? Or that before school we walked around our four-acre farm weeding each little tree, and building small barriers to protect them from inquisitive and hungry animals? While we each do our part to protect and brighten our planets future, we want to acknowledge and appreciate the work of the communities around Kibale National Park!

One winner of our annual *Sesbania* tree planting contest was Moses Pasca Kyamgarra, (photo at left), a secondary school student who raised well over 400 trees on his family's farm. He received a brand new bike for his amazing results. Moses did all the work himself and if he continues to replant and harvest his family will have plenty of firewood.

As we visited the homes of other tree planters, we were welcomed with open arms and tales of how fast the trees grew, or how quickly they dried and could be used as fuel wood. Mothers brought their sons out to walk us around and show off their hard work. One boy explained, we are growing sesbania and when they mature we will cut them for wood. At an older woman's house that planted a large number of trees, we apologized that she did not win the big prize. Her response: "I have already received my reward, all this wood!"

We will soon share some of these interviews with tree planters and stove builders as video on our website, www.newnaturefoundation.org. The rewards of being a part of this project are immeasurable, and we again invite you all and all your friends to visit Kibale and help us plant a few more trees! Thank you all for doing your part. We will continue to work hard, share ideas and experiences, and work to protect and conserve Kibale National Park one day at a time.



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

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Taking On MUBENDE

The town of Mubende, halfway between Kampala and Kibale, is famous for its roadside meals but there also happen to be numerous small shops selling illegal animal parts alongside general goods. A volunteer for our colleagues at the Wild Places Conservation Trust (WPCT) first reported this. In collaboration with WPCT and the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), the KFWP quickly organized an investigation together with the Mubende police force. *Continues on page 3.*



Rocket Stoves: Good for People, Good for Goats, and Good for Monkeys, Too!

The promotion of fuel-efficient stoves has been a welcome one, and as our reports have indicated many enthusiastic members of the various villages where the project operates have built their own and thoroughly enjoy its benefits. As we have noted from the very beginning, some similar projects produce immediate results, but do they last? Are the stoves maintained, does the community actually find a use for them, or was it all just a fleeting feel good moment for the donors? On our last visit we wanted to see who was still using their rocket stove and so conducted surprise stops at random homes as soon as we arrived in the country. At the first two homes we were immediately hit by the sometimes-harsh reality of village life. The first family had their entire kitchen (rocket stove included) destroyed by a fire, and the second was the home of two 75 years-olds raising three grandchildren all under

the age of five. They said they had planted some *Sesbania* and used it in their traditional stove, but lately there just didn't seem to be enough time or strength to change the kitchen and ready it for a new stove. Both families still did hope to have time and resources soon! As we continued on we found some more uplifting tales. We met Patience Kyampaire at her home and found the stove cooking the day's meal. *Continues on page 4.*



Mubende continued

While some cultures still use skins, bones, and teeth in rituals, and those rights should be protected, it also is necessary to address the rights of the endangered animals being used for such purposes in an unsustainable way. The police officers were as outraged as we were, but all parties agreed to first discuss the situation with each storeowner before taking any action. Many owners were aware they were selling illegal parts, were selling them solely for profit, and handed over the goods voluntarily before being taken to the police station. Among the items confiscation were skins from pythons, servals, genets, black and white colobus, cane rats, pangolin, hedgehogs and blue and bush duikers. Also included were nine sets of bushbuck horns, four sets of duiker horns, three sitatunga horns, tortoise shells, nets and hunting paraphernalia, and skulls from mongoose and domestic cats.

Two young vervet monkeys were also confiscated, briefly adopted by UWA, and ultimately returned to the wild. It is very likely that many of these animals originally came from Semliki Game Reserve, home base for the WPCT, adding even more personal relevance to the day. Offenders were arrested, fined, or given warnings. Some did end up spending time in jail. It is our hope that this day had some impact on the lawbreakers and their customers, and that they now know that someone is watching them. Many of the skins, bones, and other items have been placed in science centers and the new WPCT/UWA nature center (see page 4) serving as educational displays with detailed

information about the illegal animal trade. The collaboration seemed to inspire UWA staff who by themselves did not feel that they had the resources to handle this type of situation. Providing these rangers with this experience should prove useful when similar circumstances arise in the future.



KFWP Staff Safari

As the KFWP has developed, so has each member of our team. Some have been with the project since its inception in 2006, working hard to establish and support community conservation. For all the staff that spend many hours walking and talking about Kibale, we wanted to take a moment to share the experience of going on a safari! We aimed to re-invigorate the staff by showing them other natural places, open their minds about nature and conservation and reward their hard work protecting Kibale by showing them another protected area only 1 ½ hours away that none of them had ever seen before.

Our staff piled into the car and drove down and around the Rwenzori Mountains that separate Fort Portal and Kibale from Semliki Game Reserve. Once they arrived, we divided into two game cars and headed off in search of wildlife. *Continues on page 5.*

Nature Center Opens

Since 2006, the KFWP has opened four Science Centers, and they have truly become the backbone of the project. As with other aspects, like tree planting and stove building, the KFWP expected to see replication of our ideas to help spread the message of conservation and provide education to those who seek it. It was to honor to hear that the Uganda Wildlife Authority in collaboration with the Wildplaces Conservation Trust recently opened a Nature Center at the headquarters of Semliki Game Reserve!



Run by UWA community conservation rangers, the park is open to tourists as well as community members. It is a beautiful museum and we wish it countless years of success!

Along with replicating the Science Center, the Trust also has introduced rocket stoves to a number of homes in the Karagutu district, and at their staff camp. Semliki staff first received training from KFWP and then brought the new ideas back to their villages of their own accord.

Rocket Stoves continued

She told us that since building the rocket stove she has never used her traditional stove. From there we surprised Margaret Kabasinguzi who has had her rocket stove for over two years and continues to find it cooking well and saving wood. In fact, after we met Patience, almost every family we approached was caught red-handed using their rocket stove. One house actually had a goat using the now defunct traditional stove as its home base! (See photo on page 2.) Not only did we find the stoves well maintained and being used, but people were using them properly. One hurdle we faced initially was the desire for big fires with huge flames. With time, rocket stove owners have found for themselves how drastically they can reduce wood use and still cook meals with small sticks (notice how small the firewood is in the photo on page 2). Remember, reduced wood use means fewer incursions into Kibale and a safer home for all its wildlife.

Not every home has a stove, yet. It is up to the community whether they will continue to build them. Energy conservation can also be a challenge for us in the USA, but we can look to the Ugandans around Kibale for inspiration. Try cooking with a solar oven, or even build your own rocket stove. It's summer, and outdoor cooking can be fun!



Safari continued

The open landscape showed miles and miles of savannah dotted with acacia trees. Uganda Kob were abundant and the air was filled with trills and songs of the African wildlife. The staff, who were excited just by the game cars before the safari even began, were inquisitive and excited throughout the drive. Together, we investigated salt licks, elephant dung with plants growing out of it, and the bones of an animal that appeared to have been killed by a lion. We would like to be able to make this an annual event where staff can gain a better understanding of the wonders of nature that surround them. If you would like to sponsor next year's trip, send us an email and we can discuss details!

Onward and Upward!



There are tremendous rewards from working for the KFWP. One of the best is hearing the chimps call from the forest and knowing that you are doing all you can to protect their home. The human side also offers reminders of how far we have come in such little time.

Our student internship project was developed for local primary and secondary students. The pay is low and the expectations high. One must maintain good grades at school, and produce monthly reports regarding science and nature, and the interns also are teachers at the Science Centers and must help maintain all aspects of the KFWP when on duty. They are empowered with responsibility and an opportunity to learn.

For those of you who have been following our updates over the years, you may have come to know some of our staff and we wanted to update you on their progress.

Emmanuel Haraka worked at the Kaburula and Sebitoli Science Centers for three years and has since accepted a position as a field researcher. His new position has allowed him to buy some land. We ran into him in May and he was incredibly appreciative for the time he worked with our project, his access to the science center libraries and the experience he gained. Hillary Assimwe was an intern from Mukaswa but has now gone off to boarding school to complete the end of his secondary schooling. Margaret Kitembo (pictured at left) was an intern from Kaburula who came to us a shy but very sweet young student. She has also now been sponsored to attend boarding school for secondary schooling. We wish them all the best of luck and can't wait to see what happens next!

Thank You!

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

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And Many Generous Private Donors

The Kibale Fuel Wood Project still needs \$15,000 to fully fund this year of operation.

To make a donation, please write a check to "New Nature Foundation"

Mail to: 7630 Wauchula Road, Myakka City, Florida, 34251

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