

Winter  
2008

# Kibale Community Fuel Wood Project UPDATE

## New Science Centers

“The thing that made me happy in the science center is the books - wonderful ones, when you read you learn about the environment.” -Ategeka Moses Amoti

Since opening the first Kibale Science Center in October 2006, the neighboring communities have been incredibly supportive and appreciative. Displaying artifacts previously hidden away in back rooms and closets of the Uganda Wildlife Authority, the museums help bring pride for Uganda’s amazing natural heritage, Kibale National Park.

The Great Ape Trust of Iowa funded the first Science Center, and remains the primary sponsor for this aspect of the project. Unique at inception, the Kibale Science Centers are still the only institutions of their kind in Uganda: designed for local people and open to all visitors free of charge. The Centers not only educate about Kibale’s wildlife, they also demonstrate ways for people to help protect the park - besides a museum and library, each Center also has a border of *Sesbania* trees and an energy saving Rocket Stove.

In the last update, you saw a photo of a volunteer helping build a small library at the Isunga demonstration area. (Continued, page 2)



Emmanuel (staff), Christopher, and Sarah (interns) made the “we are open” sign to attract passers-by



## Project Shows Results

It has been another successful year, and we are thrilled to share some results with you.

The Kibale Community Fuel Wood Project has been operating in Uganda since June 2006. Work started with two parishes bordering Kibale National Park, focusing on ways to reduce poaching of firewood. The multi-faceted campaign helps protect an amazingly rich diversity of wildlife, and provides opportunities for local citizens to appreciate nature and feel personally invested in the long-term survival of Kibale. Each year the project has increased its reach by including two additional parishes in project activities, and we are now active in 6 of the 27 parishes that border Kibale.

Including attendance at movie shows, Science Centers, workshops and contests, over 15,000 people were involved in the KCFWP’s activities during Expansion Phase I (June ‘07-May ‘08).

The third yearly survey, conducted in June, revealed that across four target areas involved at that time: **42%** of families use efficient stoves; Families using efficient stoves use **32%** less wood than those with traditional stoves, and; **78%** of families grow firewood at home.

See the chart on page 4 for a more detailed look at how the project has made a positive change in the lives of villagers and toward protecting Kibale and its wildlife.

## Science Centers Continued from page 1

The Isunga library now includes artifacts, posters and more, and has become the project's third Science Center. It is staffed two days each week by a student intern, and is supervised the project's local Community Liaison.

In November, a fourth Science Center opened in one of our new target areas, Bigodi parish, on the Eastern boundary of Kibale. Bigodi is the only target area on the east side of the park, and the new center opened as a partnership with a community group called KAFRED (Kibale Association for Rural Economic Development). KAFRED runs the popular Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary, and is hosting the new Center in their compound, as well as providing

skilled educators.

Just as each community differs, so too is the design of each Science Center unique. The new center in Bigodi has two small rooms housing the library, artifacts and posters, and a covered porch where visitors can sit comfortably while reading. In Isunga, the new center includes a rain tank, to assist in creating a tree nursery at this successful demonstration area.



*Group lesson about elephants with child holding an elephant femur. (photo courtesy Annie Musselman)*



*Baboons near the new Bigodi Center*



## Tree Contest

Sometimes a little motivation is all a person needs to make a change for the better. With the struggles and hard work that the average Ugandan deals with on a daily basis, there must be a truly good reason for them to plant trees for firewood.

In the long-term, home-grown firewood greatly reduces a family's workload. In the short-term, however, planting trees can seem like a chore. We appreciate this, and know that a little encouragement can go a long way.

Last Update, we reported on a tree growing contest, where two winners each received bicycles for successfully growing *Sesbania* in the method promoted by the project. The contest had the

intended result, and encouraged even more people to try planting. This year, many more families grew firewood, some with hundreds of trees planted around their farms. This year's winners

from Kahangi have nearly 1,000 trees bordering crops, and are an amazing example for their neighbors of the ease and feasibility of growing firewood at home. We congratulate their success.



*Bagonza Julius and his wife Abwooli in front of one of their prize-winning *Sesbania*. The tree behind them (over 12 feet tall) is only six months old!*



## Staff Profile



Meet Florence Kengonzi Akiiki. She has been working for the KCFWP since it started. Florence is a mother of four, and also adopted two more after a close friend lost her battle with AIDS. She travels farther from her home to work than any other staff member, 12 miles each way on the project bicycle, often with her youngest child wrapped to her back.

Akiiki, (her nickname, which means cat) is a wonderful woman who has gone through many hardships in life but always comes back with a smile! She started working for the project as a housekeeper. This was work she had been doing for many years for researchers and students who came to study at Kibale. Soon

enough we realized how silly it was to keep such a warm and engaging individual, a person who absolutely loves making new friends, stuck cleaning all day. So, we hired Florence to work at the Kaburala Science Center. She is a teacher at heart and immediately took to gathering children around for story time, touring people around, and, most importantly, making everyone feel welcome to come learn.

While Florence continues to work at the Science Center, we have also promoted her to work an additional two days each week as a Community Liaison. With each year, Akiiki gains new skills that will hopefully allow for more opportunities for herself and her children in the future.



*(Photo courtesy Annie Musselman)*



*Lioness in Kidepo National Park, Uganda*

## Kibale Lions

Once common in grasslands in and around Kibale, lions are now extremely rare. Pressure from people, combined with pine plantations planted in Kibale's grasslands from the 1960s-80s, has contributed to their extreme decline. Lions all across Africa are also becoming more rare. This September, we were ecstatic to hear that a lioness with cubs had been spotted around the park, the first confirmed sighting of a lion in the area for more than a decade. However, less than two months after first being spotted, the lioness was killed. Her cubs have not been seen. This sad tale is both hopeful and informative: While prey populations and habitat for lions must be improving, greater sensitization of local communities is still needed to ensure a better future for wildlife. Through its outreach education activities, we hope that the KCFWP can help make a difference for future generations of Kibale lions.

## Survey Data Continued from page 1

	Baseline Data, All Areas 418 households surveyed	2008 Data, All Areas 400 households surveyed	
Is it a struggle to obtain firewood?	93% YES	92% YES	
How do you propose to lessen the struggle?	10% Cut wood in KNP 4% Use efficient stove 62% Plant Trees	4.5% Cut wood in KNP 10% Use efficient stove 70.5% Plant Trees	
Do you grow trees at home?	55.5% YES	78% YES	
Do you grow <i>Sesbania</i> for firewood at home?	10% YES	56% YES	
Do you use Traditional or Fuel Efficient Stove?	3% Fuel Efficient 96% Traditional	42% Fuel Efficient 58% Traditional	
Average Wood Use	1.27 Heaps	0.98 Heap (combined)	
		Trad. 1.13 Heaps	Fuel Eff. 0.77 Heaps
Is firewood collected inside Kibale National Park?	30% YES	20.5% YES	

*For a complete report of the year's activities, visit the Kibale Fuel Wood section of [chimp-n-sea.org](http://chimp-n-sea.org).*

## Books and Volunteers Needed

You've probably noticed this subject has been a recurring theme in our newsletters! Before we make the plea once again, we must thank the few wonderful private donors who have made donations. We received beautiful new field guides and children's books that are being appreciated by countless people, young and old. For those of you who weren't able to donate before, perhaps now you can. We have a great need for more books as we continue to expand, and if you might have some items to donate, please contact us at [kibalewood@yahoo.com](mailto:kibalewood@yahoo.com), or mail books, posters, science equipment or old wildlife calendars to:

KCFWP, c/o  
412 Rockland Avenue  
Merion PA 19066.

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! Check out the website, or email us for more information.

Wishing you all the best from Uganda-  
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.  
Mark Laxer, President  
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Johnson, Vermont  
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*More Photos and Info  
on the Website!*

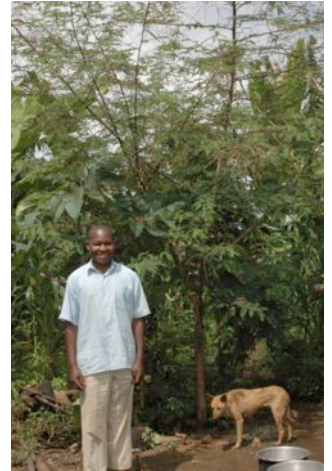
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# Thank You!

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\*



- \*American Property Investment Company\*
- American Society of Primatologists
- \*The Arcus Foundation Great Apes Fund\*
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- And Many Generous Private Donors

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

To make a donation, please write a check to “Chimp-n-Sea Wildlife Conservation Fund”

Mail to: 480 Hogback Road

Johnson, Vermont 05656

Please write “Kibale” on your check’s memo line. You can also donate on-line via paypal, at [www.chimp-n-sea.org](http://www.chimp-n-sea.org).

Chimp-n-Sea is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, and all donations are tax-deductible.