

New Nature Foundation 2020 Annual Report

Community View



Isunga



Kaswa



Tung Ba



Khau Ca



Kasojo



Kibale



Nabweya



Rusenyi



Minh Son



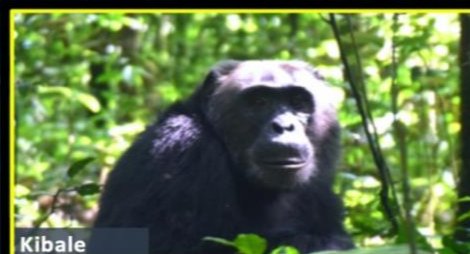
Mwenge



Kyanyawara



Kaburala



Kibale



Minh Son



Mokobyo



Irhuura



Yen Dinh



Fort Portal



Kiko



Kibale



Kibale



Kyanyawara



Khuoi Loa



Kibale



Thuong Tan

◀
1/2▶
1/2

Start Conserving



The New Nature Foundation strives to conserve wild animals and wild places through education, empowerment, and an emphasis on creative solutions that promote people living in harmony with nature.

5308 Woodbine Avenue, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19131 610-256-0959 info@newnaturefoundation.org www.newnaturefoundation.org

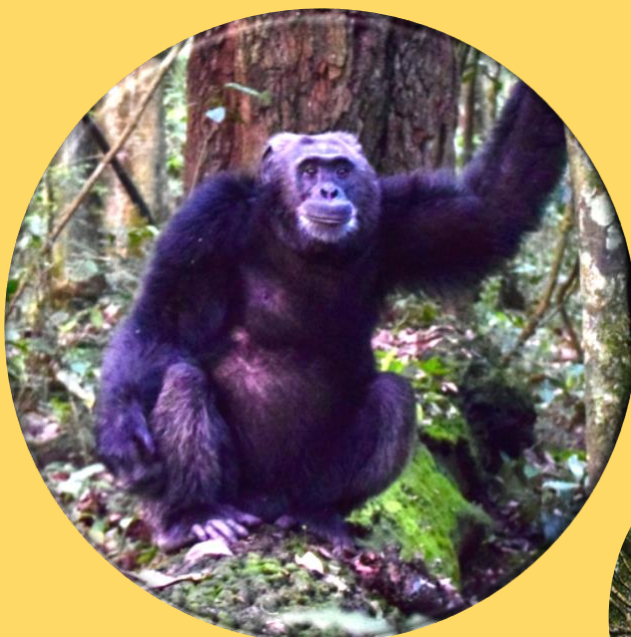
Summary of Accomplishments, January – December 2020:

- Over 385,000 eco-briquettes were manufactured
- Over 155,000 lbs. of waste were donated for briquettes
- 71% of families surveyed in NNF's Ugandan target areas and 26% in Vietnam are using efficient stoves
 - 66% of the Ugandan families grow firewood at home
- Families with efficient stoves use 37% less wood than those with traditional stoves in Uganda and 55% less in Vietnam
 - 488 efficient stoves were built in Uganda and 182 in Vietnam
- Six conservation competitions were held virtually and in person in Uganda and Vietnam, with over 5,000 attending

Overall, NNF's safe and responsible programs engaged over 11,000 citizens around Kibale and Khau Ca Forests and saved more than 21 million lbs. of wood in 2020! Thank you to everyone who made this possible!

Contents

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----|
| Eco-Briquettes | 4 |
| Stoves & Trees | 5 |
| Science Centers, Training & Workshops | 6 |
| Art & Recycling | 8 |
| Conservation Competitions | 9 |
| 2020 Staff Reflections | 11 |
| Vietnam Stoves | 12 |
| Monkey Day | 13 |
| Publicity & Partnerships | 14 |
| Donors | 15 |



2020 tested our perception of what is possible in community conservation and stimulated out-of-the-box thinking. Connecting constituents in socially distanced ways when “normal” modes of education and activism were impossible resulted in profound successes and deeper meaning for the NNF family around the globe. Participation from Ugandan and Vietnamese communities in the combination of avant-guard programming and back-to-basics nature walks, alongside practical efficiency campaigns, reinforced our belief that people are eager to live in greater harmony with nature when empowered to do so.

Thank You for the vital role you play in saving wildlife habitat!

If you have questions or comments, please contact us any time.

Rebecca & Michael

Eco-Briquettes

- 388,417 briquettes were manufactured (181,059 non-carbonized and 207,358 carbonized), 14% more than 2019.
- 156,598 lbs. of waste were donated for briquettes.
 - The top family traded 10,230 lbs. of waste, more than enough to use briquettes every day, a new milestone in trading for NNF.
- September marked the highest month of eco-char sales ever (\$146), with \$603 worth of eco-char sold throughout the year. Though this total is slightly less than last year, calculating average monthly income for the nine months sales were possible showed an increase of 9%.
- McLeod Russel Tea purchased 42,000 non-carbonized briquettes (for \$720) to distribute to workers at their Kiko estate.
 - While the total income from briquettes is still rather modest, it has reached 15% of our staff costs for this portion of the project, bringing us closer to the ultimate goal of running the eco-briquette initiative as a self-sustaining business.
- As changing weather patterns continue to plague Uganda (and the world), both briquette production centers were repeatedly hit by severe weather events that required significant repairs that caused delays in production and incurred higher costs than usual.

The briquettes produced in 2020 equate to **19,932 lbs. of charcoal and 82,653 lbs. of wood saved.**

Since inception, **nearly 2 million briquettes have been produced.** This equates to over 817,500 lbs. of wood and charcoal saved.

While much of this would have come from unsustainable sources, the briquettes are carbon neutral, so in addition to protecting wildlife habitat, NNF's eco-briquettes help us all by mitigating carbon emissions and climate change.



Stoves & Trees

- 71% of families in the target areas are using efficient stoves.
- A Ugandan family with an efficient stove uses an average of 15.6 lbs. of wood daily, 37% less than those with traditional three-stone fires.
- Community members built 488 stoves with assistance from NNF staff, a 22% increase over last year. In total, NNF has assisted in building nearly 3,100 efficient stoves since inception.
- Across all target areas, 66% of people grow trees at home, 18% of whom grow the leguminous species being promoted. One of NNF's target areas has a high population of renters who do not own land; removing this outlier from the total shows 75% of people grow trees at home, 22% with leguminous species. (The two leguminous species being promoted are *Sesbania* and *Calliandra*.)

Calculations using 2020 survey data show that NNF stoves save at least 21,000 lbs. of wood daily, **more than 7.8 million lbs.** (or approximately 3,120 cords of firewood saved) over the course of the year. Much of this would have been cut within Kibale National Park.

Even with this great savings, there is still a struggle to find wood. This is linked to one major factor: Uganda's population growth remains one of the highest in the world. When NNF started this program in 2006, Uganda's population was 28.6 million; by 2020 it had reached 45.7 million, an increase of 60%. (For comparison, the USA had an 11% increase in this time.) While each family's need for wood has reduced thanks to NNF's programs, the demand has continued to increase, due to population pressures. Continued work is needed.



Science Centers, Training & Workshops

- Attendance at the five Kibale Science Centers was 8,974, greatly reduced from previous years, with centers open for only two months in 2020. (View a map of NNF's Science Centers around Kibale [here](#).)
 - To continue providing education, conservation activities and time in nature, smaller outdoor lessons and activities were integrated when possible. 118 students participated in lessons with NNF staff at Tooro Botanical Gardens, making up most of the garden's visitation during that time. Smaller lessons with recurring students have created a more open dialogue, with participants going beyond the repeated responses taught in schools and observing nature through the lens of textures, colors, and resemblances to animals and food.
 - Mini nature walks were resumed in July, with 62 children visiting swamps, wetlands, Kibale's boundary and local farms guided by NNF staff.
- Workshops were also greatly reduced last year, with five briquette workshops held with a total of 41 attendees.
- NNF staff and volunteers participated in World Clean-up Day as well as other town and village clean-up events in partnership with town's mayor and town council.
- NNF staff and volunteers (in both Uganda and Vietnam) participated in Endangered Species Day by producing a video about conservationists' lives during the pandemic: [watch here](#).
- In early 2020, NNF hosted the annual "week without walls" visit from the International School of Uganda's 11th grade students.
- NNF staff visited Mt. Elgon and Sipi Falls in early 2020, on the border of eastern Uganda. They explored caves, climbed mountains, learned new techniques from field guides and visited neighboring communities. All the new landscapes and animals, guide tutorials and community feedback help our staff in their work as ambassadors for conserving Uganda's wild places.



- From Sam Murungi, Manager of Science Centers: *“It was joy to visit Mt. Elgon. In my mind I imagined we would touch the heavens, bathe in the waterfalls, hike up the highest mountain. When we arrived we didn’t waste any time exploring, even the sound of the water was so amazing to me. It was really awesome, thank you so much!”*
- The Fort Portal Science Center was demolished in 2020, as part of a road expansion project. Established in June 2016, this educational facility in the center of town hosted over 77,000 visitors and became a well-known and enjoyed destination for town citizens. A new center, just a few doors down, will be opened in 2021 when restrictions are lifted.

Please continue to support the Science Centers: shop and share our [amazon wish list](#) so that we can continue to fill the museums with amazing things!

Please also remember to use [Amazon Smile](#) so that a percentage of all of your purchases can go to NNF (with no cost to you – just use [Amazon Smile](#) any time you shop and choose New Nature Foundation as the organization you’d like to support).



Art & Recycling

With social gathering restricted, NNF found new ways to increase awareness and pride for Uganda's wildlife by beginning a new dialogue about environmental protection through art. Following our tried and true method of replicating successful programs from around the world, introducing conservation through art around Kibale has infused happiness and calls to action during an uncertain year.

- Working with Ugandan artists (ECOAction & Atwooki Gallery), a life-sized elephant sculpture made from recycled metal scraps was constructed and installed along the main road entering Fort Portal town. Pre-surveys were conducted early in the year; follow up work with the community residing with the elephant discussing trash, recycling and the environment will begin when restrictions are lifted.
- Three dimensional murals made from recycled materials were created at NNF's first Science Center, in Kaburala village near Kibale.
- NNF staff visited Ugandan artists specializing in recycled artwork in the capital, Kampala, to gain skills to share and teach in the villages. Trash bins, chairs, vases, jewelry, water storage containers, sculpture, market bags, animal art and even small buildings are some of the projects the NNF team have begun to explore.
- The recycling initiative was also linked to the end of year competitions, with inspiring results! Check out the photos on NNF's [Facebook page](#).



Conservation Competitions

Thousands of Ugandans were out of school beginning in March, with no educational resources available to them. With the long-term commitment these communities have shown for Kibale and her wildlife, we were compelled to provide attention and support, even if the usual 1,000+ attendee celebrations could not be carried out. Because word spreads and people gather quickly in the villages, small, mobile events occurred throughout December.

Accessible information about prevention and spread of viruses is minimal, leading to many misconceptions. Thus, the theme for the 11th annual Kibale Conservation Competitions was “Apart but Together for Kibale,” with a focus on zoonotic diseases. Over 700 people attended the in person and virtual celebrations. While the majority of our constituency does not have online access, NNF was able to engage a new demographic within Uganda and share some of the events worldwide.

Activities included:

- An efficiency contest challenging cooks at their own homes to boil water the fastest and keep it boiling the longest while using the least amount of wood.
- A recycled fashion show - While no comparison to last year’s live shows, competitors still put their best (banana-leaf-shoed) foot forward constructing original and functional designs accessorized from head to toe for extra flair!
- A recycled materials/sculpture/art competition - The handmade creations included curtains, vases, picture frames, abstract sculpture, elephants, snakes, birds, musical instruments and even an ambulance.
- Debates on whether or not the government should ban charcoal production.
- Poetry and art about experiences of this year with the pandemic.
- Socially distanced performances sharing information about zoonotic disease spread and prevention, posted on Facebook and enjoyed by international judges.



A poem entered in the 2020 competition:

I shut my eyes, I can

I pray for this planet

I worry for earth's future

*Let's not sleep - everyone is responsible
during the pandemic*

Let's avoid zoonotic diseases

*Let's also protect animals
from this pandemic*

*We can also suffer from the diseases
that animals suffer from*

*In the game of greed, we should not grab land,
that's not the way*

We should plant more trees

*We can recycle our plastic waste
and protect our mother planet*

Do what you can with all your effort

Nature will reward you

- Kembabazi Sarah



2020 Staff Reflections

Around the world, everyone felt the effects of the pandemic. Thankfully, we were able to keep all staff employed through the year. They were asked to share their experiences with the NNF family of supporters. Some excerpts:

All these years I spent, I have never met a hard situation like I faced in the year 2020. We missed visitors, we missed each other, we missed going to church and our children missed going to school. During the lockdown we had a very hard time getting water. We couldn't bury our relatives and it is our culture to mourn for them. We couldn't go to hospitals because we were scared, so many people died. Let us hope for a vaccine soon and I advise my fellow people to stay safe. By following instructions, we can avoid the virus. - Mabel Nyakahuma

The beginning of the year was filled with double blessings but by March the virus had come. Even when the Science Centers were closed we did not forget to teach ourselves what we would have taught others about protecting nature. - Kenneth Kahuma

The pandemic came into the world and swept the rich and poor, the black and white, the tall and short. My work was suspended, I missed the chimpanzees. My family struggled to eat, I had land but no seeds to plant, we had no sanitizers. I expect a new year to come and help us. I have learned how to save money to help my family in the future. - Nelson Tugume

I missed meeting, having serious discussions and sharing lots of ideas with Science Center visitors. I was concerned and scared for people all over the world. - Sam Murungi

It was a real loss to have to stop teaching - Pakarasio



Vietnam Stoves

NNF partners with Denver Zoo for our programs in Vietnam. NNF's expertise with stoves and community gatherings harmoniously compliments Denver's education and research work. Only NNF's activities are reported here. Thanks to Disney Conservation Fund, Margot Marsh Biodiversity Foundation and National Geographic for overall support of this joint endeavor.

- 26% of surveyed homes had an efficient stove, with 78% of those having more than one.
- 182 stoves were built in Tùng Bá, Yên Định, Minh Sơn and Thượng Tân communes. (View a map of the areas NNF is working around Khau Ca Forest [here](#).)
- In total, 871 stoves have been built since 2015, of three different types: One for people, one for pigs and one for rice wine. Calculations using 2020 survey data show that NNF stoves save at least 35,890 lbs. of wood daily, **more than 13.1 million lbs.** (or approximately 5,240 cords of firewood saved) over the course of the year.
- Wood savings differ by stove type: Rice wine stoves are 52% more efficient, pig stoves use 55% less wood and family stoves use an astonishing 67% less wood than traditional cooking hearths. While the family stoves are by far the most efficient, the amount of wood used for cooking for livestock and distilling alcohol far exceeds the amount used to cook for people, so most households prefer the larger stoves. In 2020, pig stoves made up the majority of stoves built by a large margin. With electricity and gas available in some areas, other cooking methods are also used; some households surveyed used up to 8 different cooking methods.
 - Traditional pig stoves used 66.1 lbs. of wood daily, while efficient stoves used only 30.1 lbs. Families with efficient stoves also have 9% more animals on average, indicating an even greater savings on a per-animal basis.
 - Traditional rice wine stoves used 76.1 lbs. of wood per pot, while the efficient stoves used only 36.8 lbs. Both groups distilled ~one pot monthly.



Monkey Day

Two Virtual Conservation Events were created for 2020, replacing in-person Monkey Day gatherings, to continue promoting our commitment to and celebration of Vietnamese conservation. Nothing like these events had ever been attempted in these remote regions, challenging cultural norms (*a festival on the phone?*). Small groups of neighbors were safely organized at multiple homes, arriving well ahead of the 8am start time to join with partners 12 time zones away in the USA. Network capabilities in Vietnam are truly amazing: somehow, homes with no running water or electricity were posting monkey selfies on [Facebook](#)! Above and beyond the 180 who registered, the events logged over 4,500 engagements from across Vietnam and the world. This overwhelming attendance confirmed the collective interest in the survival of the forest and wildlife, which, though infrequently emoted, is abundant and unmistakable. This event was created in partnership with Denver Zoo, The Vietnam Forestry Department and the local Youth Unions. Special thanks to translator Nha Tran who also assisted throughout development of this new initiative.

The inaugural Virtual Conservation Events in Vietnam included various conservation-based activities:

- Video messages from local government and forestry officials
- Four rounds of trivia focusing on Khau Ca Forest, Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkeys, efficient stoves and environmentally friendly behaviors
- Special performances by Vietnamese flutist Quốc Trung
- Award ceremonies for extraordinary achievement in conservation outreach and advocacy
- Animal encounters with Denver Zoo's pot-bellied pig, barn owl and wood turtle
- Awards for the photography and drawing competitions held earlier that month
- A special [video](#) created by staff showcasing wild monkeys and the trek to locate them in the forest
- A pledge to help endangered wildlife and habitats remain protected and intact
- Selfies taken with Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey photos



Each participating household culminated the event with a meal to commemorate the moment.

In one activity, participants were asked to share messages with the Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey and some were quite poignant:

Guys, let's join hands. Let's protect nature together. Determine to fulfill the commitment. End all illegal logging activities and cutting down of forest trees for house construction, firewood. Do not reduce the habitat of animals for agricultural purposes. End all hunting activities. For meat, medicine, and wildlife trade. Thank you all.

Kieu village calls people to consciously protect nature. Protect our life source.

The forest is the heart. It's the liver. Our lungs.

My message is to live, thrive and develop well.

We received this feedback after the event from one of our new Vietnamese conservation friends:

This is my first time participating in an event about the Tonkin Snub-nosed Monkey. I am extremely excited about this event. It helps us to understand more deeply about this rare animal. Understand their characteristics and ways.

This is also an opportunity for young people to exchange practical experiences from other teams. Wishing more monkey festivals more and more developed and spread further to all of you in all parts of the country.



Publicity & Partnerships

Co-Founders Rebecca and Michael were featured in virtual conservation events by three partners: Oakland Zoo's Cocktails and Conservation, Columbus Zoo's Wine for Wildlife and Fresno Chaffee Zoo's Safari Night.

*Thank You for making this work possible, on behalf of the
wildlife of Kibale & Khau Ca and all their neighbors!*

Thank You!



...and many private donors- thank you all!