



Winter 2019 UPDATE:
Milestones

2019 marks the 20th year NNF's founders have been working in Uganda, which inspired us to look at other significant achievements that should be celebrated.

We hope you enjoy this brief review and thank you for all that you have done to make this possible.

Wishing you all very Happy Holidays and all the best in the New Year!

Rebecca & Michael





Above: Kibale Chimpanzee, 2001

Below: Margaret, Rebecca & Michael, 2007



20 Years in Uganda

NNF Founders Rebecca and Michael started working in Uganda in 2000 as undergraduate researchers studying the leaping habits of monkeys, trying to understand why chimpanzees prefer to hunt red colobus over any other species.

While this work was rewarding, it also filled us with a desire to help the habitat, animals and people of Kibale.

In 2001 we returned and began the Kibale Forest Education Project, which brought over 2,500 Ugandan school children on field trips into Kibale over the course of its two and a half years of operation. When that initiative ended due to bureaucratic challenges, it encouraged us to design a program that would be long-lasting and more utilitarian in nature. To address the fuel wood crisis threatening Kibale, the current work began in 2006.

The personal relationships built over the past 20 years living and working in and around Kibale are what have made the conservation successes possible. Margaret Kemigisa, Project Manager, was the very first person we met in Kibale back in 2000! Several of the current staff participated as students touring the park in 2001-03, and many have been with the current project since its inception. Uganda and Kibale have deep roots in our hearts and we share that connection with anyone who will listen (or read)!

10 Years of Conservation Competitions

Started as a way to help convince people that NNF's efficient stoves can cook delicious food, the yearly Conservation Competitions have blossomed into highly anticipated events in each village. While these joyful celebrations of conservation have gained popularity over the decade, 2019's four competitions surprised us all! The enthusiasm, creativity, effort and community spirit radiated throughout the villages and led to highly successful and fully realized conservation festivals. With more than 2,700 in attendance, 2019's events hosted the **largest audiences so far**.

Dancer at Iruhuura Village's event, 2019



Record Month for Eco-Char

November saw the highest level of eco-char sales to date – 16 sack-fulls, each equating to over 125 lbs. of charcoal saved. The vast majority of the area's charcoal is made from old-growth hardwood trees, so this milestone shows a meaningful impact on preservation of wildlife habitat.

Combining both the eco-char (which burns like charcoal) and "kuchumbricks" (which burn like firewood), the project also passed another milestone this year – **more than 1,500,000 briquettes produced!**

Clockwise from top: Joshua, Ahabibu & Ronald in the eco-char drying tent



Science Centers Draw Huge Crowds

One part natural history museum, one part reading room, one part creativity expression zone and one part teaching center for the project's fuel-saving technologies, the five Kibale Science Centers have continued to grow in popularity, capacity and impact. 2019 is on track to have the highest visitation yet, with the milestone of **250,000 total visits** since inception already passed this year. The Kaburala Science Center, opened in 2006, was the first institution of its kind in Uganda. The love and appreciation shown by community members for these resources is outstanding. How many of us found a love for science and nature at a museum or zoo? It makes sense that Ugandans are equally enamored.

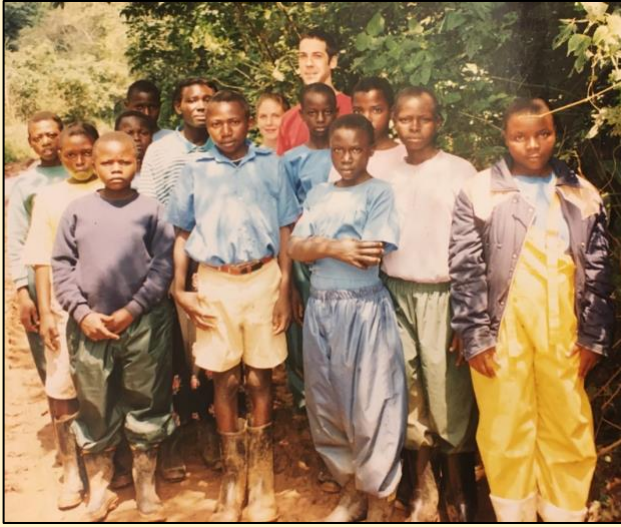


One-on-One Adds Up

NNF's approach has always required personal interactions with people who live alongside threatened ecosystems. NNF tailors its methodologies to the individual needs of the wildlife and people in each community. Through one-on-one interactions, the staff gains insight to help keep the programs organic and evolving in useful ways. Combining Uganda and Vietnam, 2019 saw the **400,000th logged interaction** with community members. Some of these are a visit to a Science Center, while others are as in depth as a week-long home-stay. By listening and recognizing that people's needs are as important as those of local wildlife, we are creating greater harmony between humans and nature.



Thank You!



It is only thanks to the generosity and foresight of organizations and individuals like YOU that NNF has been able to make these strides. Thank you for all you have done! While we have made tremendous progress together, the skyrocketing human populations and scarcity of cooking fuel in the places we work continue to threaten wild animals and wild places. There are many more milestones to be reached! Please consider making a donation before the end of this year to help insure that all of 2020's goals are met.



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Young dancers at Kaswa Conservation Competition, 2019; other photos on this page circa 2001