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# KASIISI PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT

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October 1<sup>st</sup> 2014-September 30<sup>th</sup> 2015

[www.kasiisiproject.org](http://www.kasiisiproject.org)



DryCreekCharity.org



the Jane Goodall Institute



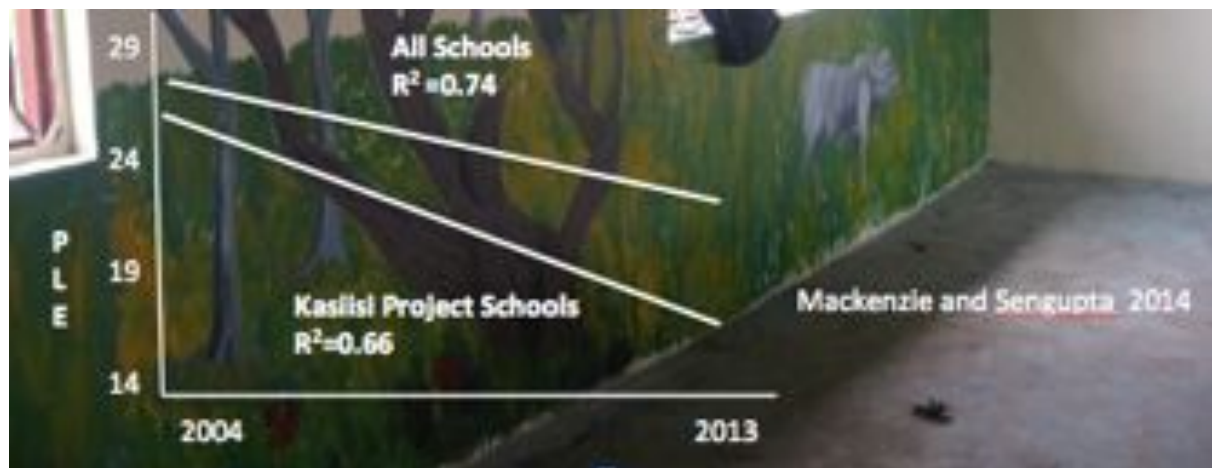
## Summary

Since October 2014 the Kasiisi Project has maintained or adapted existing programs and begun new ones. Our academic scores continued to improve and we now have 5 Peace Corps Volunteers working in our schools supporting health, literacy and agricultural development and outreach. Our second Princeton in Africa volunteer began a 12-month stint with us in August and we have had help from short-term volunteers in accounting and health education. 4 Kasiisi Scholars are working in our office and on our farms earning the money they need towards further education. Our Wildlife Clubs continue to grow and improve and our health education programs have become an increasingly integral part of the school curriculum. We have provided staff for the Kibale National Park Mobile Health Clinic and will be funding its operating costs for 2015-2016. Our scholars continue to enter the work force with the qualifications they need to get jobs and teachers are upgrading their qualifications with funding provided by the Kasiisi Project.

## **ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

The trend continues and for yet another consecutive year scores on the Primary Leaving Exams improved. The average PLE score in our 5 core schools – those where the bulk of our programs are carried out – continues to improve and in 3 of these schools girls outperformed boys. Kasiisi Primary School attained the second best score in the 2014 Primary Leaving Exams (PLE) for a government primary school in the whole of Kabarole District with 76% of its students attaining Grade 1 passes. For the first time we had students with an aggregate score of 5 – a girl at Kigarama and a boy at Kiko. The best score possible is a 4.

Independent research shows that Kasiisi Project schools significantly outperform their peers, indeed the second biggest predictor of academic success after their school district, is to be a Kasiisi Project school.



*Graph comparing scores for Kasiisi Project schools and peer schools over 10 years. Kasiisi project Schools improved at a significantly better rate than peer schools.*

## **ADMINISTRATION**

We have a few changes this year.

Emily Otali took over as our first Ugandan Project Director and Lydia Kasenene left Kasiisi Primary School to become the Deputy District Education Officer for Kabarole District – a promotion that will put her formidable talents to work for all schools in our area. Musinguzi Moses has succeeded her as principal of Kasiisi Primary School.





*The Kasiisi Project gang at the Marriage Introduction for Kasiisi Principal Musinguzi Moses  
 Emily Otali: Project Director, Amanyire James: Project Accountant, Hope Proscovia: Office Assistant, Tusiime Patrick: Health Coordinator, Katelyn Wigmore : Peace Corps Volunteer, Derek Jones : Accounting for International Development Volunteer, Martha Beirut: Princeton in Africa Volunteer, Rwabuhinga Francis : Conservation Education Coordinator*

Emily is the first African woman to earn a PhD in primatology and we are lucky to be able to share her administrative skills with the Kibale Chimpanzee Project. Moses is a long-term colleague and supporter of the Kasiisi Project. An excellent teacher with a passion for literacy and conservation, Moses spent a year working in Florida with Disney's Wild Animal Kingdom learning about conservation.



**Musinguzi Moses**



**Emily Otali and Elizabeth Ross**

The Kibale Forest Schools Program became a Ugandan Registered NGO thanks to the many people who spent hours on the paperwork and made frequent trips to Kamapala.

With help from our Kampala lawyer, Accounting for International Development and Keeping Children Safe we introduced new financial, sexual harassment, child safety and conflict of interest policies.

Employment contracts were rewritten and an employee handbook was approved.

## **CONSERVATION EDUCATION**

### Wildlife Club Development

With funding from Disney's Worldwide Conservation Fund we continued to make the main focus of our conservation education strengthening and supporting the school's Wildlife Clubs through trainings, group meetings and conservation activities. Schools engaged in an average of 6 activities a term.



*Learning about how "Snares" handicap chimpanzees - trying to tie a bracelet without fingers.*



***WLC students make chimpanzee masks***

### Clean Stove Project

This year we recruited Muhimbise Elius, teacher at Kasenda Primary School, to lead our Clean Stove Project, and with help from Jess Hartel of the Kibale Snare Removal Project we are now collecting data on tablets donated by JGI, that can be uploaded to the cloud and analyzed using Open Data Kit (ODK).

Preliminary data indicate that 87% of student built stoves are still in use after 18 months and that less than 15% needed urgent repairs. This project has now been adopted by all Kasiisi Project schools, 5 schools outside our program, 2 women's groups and the Uganda Wildlife Authority for their ranger field camps. Future plans include testing for emissions and fuel use and trialing new stove designs.





*Muhimbise Elius*



*Leaders Kigarama Stove Building Team*

### Community Birding



In 2015 we introduced a community birding program. Students learned to use binoculars identify birds and do censuses.

### Kibale Chimpanzee Debate Cup



7 Kasiisi project schools debated environmental topics at a 2-day residential debate competition. No school knew which topic they would be given and each had to debate both for and against each topic. All schools held dress rehearsals in their schools so that the information disseminated reached as many children as possible. Kigarama school trumped 3 time cup winners Kasiisi School by coming in first.

### Plant for the Planet

This year thanks to funding from Dry Creek Charity we sponsored a Plant for the Planet Academy in Fort Portal, to train student leaders in conservation. 12 Fort Portal town schools joined 14 Kasiisi Project rural schools in a one-day workshop to foster leadership in Kabarole youth. The end product was 104 young Ambassadors for the Environment, 0.5 km of road planted by the Academy participants and a further 2.5 km planted by the local council. In addition students returned to their own schools and spread the importance of planting trees to combat climate change.



*Trees planted by Plant for the Planet Participants and Fort Portal Council*



*Plant for the Planet Academy Fort Portal 2015*



*Young Ambassadors for the Planet and their teachers at the first Plant for the Planet Academy in Fort Portal*

### Water Project

The Cleveland Zoo sponsored Water Project entered its 4<sup>th</sup> year. With more teachers

Students competed for the Brevard Zoo Sports Cups and members of the Kibale Chimpanzee Project Snare Removal team gave talks in 9 schools.

### **CONSTRUCTION**

#### Latrines

Thanks to funding from The British and Foreign School Society to the Kasiisi Porridge Project we commenced building girl friendly latrines with washrooms at 3 Kasiisi project Schools – Kiamara, Kasenda and Nyabweya Primary School.

#### Dormitory

We completed also construction on the girl's wing of the Kasiisi School Dormitory







## **DORMITORY**

The Kasiisi School Dormitory opened in February 2014 with 8 girls. By September that number had risen to 44 students – 60% girls 40% boys.

Boarding facilities provide students with more study time, regular food, academic support and tutoring.



*Donated Bunk for Girl's Dorm*

When the boy's wing is completed the dormitory will have room for 200 students.

## **GIRLS AND HEALTH PROGRAMS**

Due to teacher strikes we were unable to run our sexual health Peer-Education program in 2015 but we expanded our health programs for girls and boys and included along with sexual health classes for both boys and girls, instruction covering general hygiene, nutrition, life skills and malaria prevention.



*Students learn about First Aid, Malaria and Hygiene: Kasiisi Project Health Project Coordinator Tusiimme Patrick talks about Mosquito Nets and young children learn to wash their hands properly*



In addition we took schools to visit their local health clinics.

Currently we are unable to bring the full range of health programs to all 14 schools so we are working on binders of lesson plans and activities enabling schools to run these programs themselves.

### Girl Guides

In 2015 we sent Kasiisi Girl and Boy scouts to the national camps at Kazi in Kampala.

### Bikes for Girls



This year thanks to the generosity of the Bradley Family we started a bike program to help girls get to school. Students are taught to ride a bike, instructed in road safety, given road tests, helmets and lent the bicycles.

### Let Girls Lead



Peace Corps Volunteer and Kasiisi Project Girls' Health Program Coordinator, Katelyn Wigmore, took 2 Kasiisi Project Scholars, Gift Winnie and Nsemerirwe Priscillar to a 4 day workshop in Kampala held by Let Girls Lead and the Girls' Voices Initiative , a first for Uganda

*Gift and Winnie at  
Let Girls Lead workshop*



## Mobile Clinic



We provided 3 members of our staff as clinical officers - a nurse, a medical officer and a lab technician - 2 days a week to the *Kibale National Park Uganda Wildlife Authority Mobile Clinic*. The clinic delivers health care to villages around Kibale National Park, which are far from other medical resources. Initially Funded by the Kibale Health and Conservation Project the Mobile Clinic will be supported for 2015-2016 by the Kasiisi Project.



*Tugume Vicent, Kasiisi Scholar and Lab technician and Tusiime Patrick Kasiisi Scholar, Medical Officer and Kasiisi Project Health Coordinator working with the Mobile Clinic*



## Music, Dance and Drama

We held a music, dance and drama competition where students – girls and boys highlighted the challenges of early marriage, teen pregnancy and HIV-AIDS through skits, poems, songs and dance.

## Sanitary Pads



We continued to provide sanitary pads to girls in 5 schools thanks to generous donations from Just Go Girl. We also started teaching about reusable menstrual pads (RUMPS) thanks to Peace Corps Health Volunteer Katelyn Wigmore. Girls, boys and teachers from 2 schools attended workshops to learn to make them and requests have come in from all remaining 12 schools to bring the workshops to their students.

*Students and teachers learn to make RUMPS*



## **INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION**

### Brookwood School, MA

For the fourth year Brookwood School in Manchester, MA engaged with Kasiisi Project schools in collaborative learning projects. Using e-mail and Skype students from Brookwood and Kiko schools, compared challenges to girls in both cultures and discussed threats to chimpanzees following a talk by Kibale Chimpanzee Project researcher, Dr. Zarin Machanda on her research.

Brookwood also partnered with Kiko School and The Urban Assembly School in the Bronx in an extended photography exhibition featuring photographs from Uganda, The Bronx and Manchester, MA.



*Photos taken by Kiko students for the 2015 Kasiisi Photo Project*

### Urban Assembly School, Bronx, NY

Students from the Urban Assembly Schools wrote and illustrated books for children in Uganda,





### Harvard University

Students from the Harvard Kasiisi Project Group worked on new environmental, nutrition and health initiatives and a student development group helped with developing software to measure stove emissions.

### MIT

We continued our collaboration with MIT to develop sensors to measure emissions and use of improved cook-stoves.

### **KASIISI PROJECT FARM**



The focus this year was on increased arable farming and bees. We partnered with local beekeeper Mujuni, which resulted in an apiary with 30 colonized beehives, 30 more currently being colonized throughout the farm and our first harvest of 10 litres of honey.

*Harvesting honey from Kasiisi Project Hives*

We planted mango trees, passion fruit, bananas, eggplant and green peppers and have been selling produce in the local markets.



*Eggplants, bananas and baby mango trees on the project farm*

We were assigned a Peace Corps Volunteer to work on our farm who is working on experimental beds to ensure crop production during the dry season – particularly greens for our chickens.



*Experimental beds  
Kasiisi Farm*

3 recent Ugandan University and Agricultural College graduates interned with us between graduation and finding jobs and Kasiisi Project Scholars have been working on the farm as part of a new program to earn support for further education.

### **KASIISI PORRIDGE PROJECT**

Approximately 1200 students from Kasiisi and Kyanyawara schools continued to receive lunch.

### **LITERACY**

Kigarama Library received 3000 new books in 2015 thanks to donations from Tricon Church in Concord, MA and Bookaid International, UK.





*Teachers consult encyclopedias*



*Books laid out in Kigarama Library*



Book groups, libraries and reading circles continued at Kasiisi, Kigarama and Kyanyawara schools.

We have Peace Corps Volunteers at Kigarama, Kyakatarara and Kyanyawara primary schools working to improve literacy in all these schools.

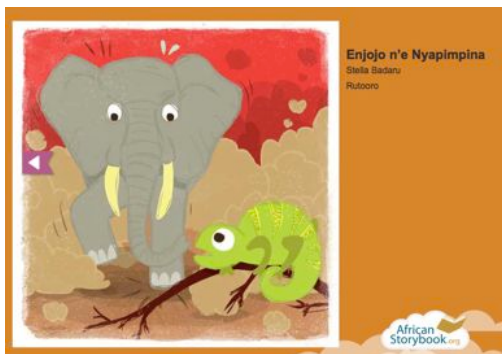
*Barbara Stevens – Kasiisi Project Literacy Director  
- leads a book group at Kigarama*

### Drop everything and read

8 Kasiisi Project schools participated in **Drop Everything And Read Day**.



*Students at Kyakatarara and Parents at Kigarama  
“Drop Everything and Read”*



### African Storybook Project

Teachers at Kasiisi Project Schools signed contracts with the African Storybook Project to write and translate stories into Rutooro, putting more local language books into the hands of our youngest children.

## PRE-SCHOOL

The Kasiisi-Weston Stars Pre-school graduated its third class in November 2014 and continues to grow. The numbers of students has remained static over the past year but the nursery schools continues to break even

## SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2014 the Kasiisi Project, thanks to support from The Dobbyn Foundation, The African Orphan Foundation and many generous supporters, sponsored 50 students in secondary school and college. 9 graduated out of the program to go on to further education and jobs as nurses, agricultural technicians, doctors and teachers.



*Dr. Turyagumanawe  
2015*

Turyagumanawe John became the second Kasiisi Project scholar to graduate from medical school.

We started a new program in 2015 in which scholars work for the project for a year to earn tuition for the next stage of their education. They are paid a small allowance and the rest of their salary is banked for them



*Kasiisi Scholars  
Mixing feed on the farm*

## VOLUNTEERS

As always we would not have been able to do what we do without all the wonderful support we get from volunteers working both in Uganda and at home.

### Peace Corps Volunteers.

Katelyn Wigmore started her second year working with our health programs. David Mcholland joined us as an agricultural volunteer on our farm and Airi O'Brien is providing literacy support at Kyanyawara Primary School.





In addition Marguerite Fredricksen and Tahrira Khanom are developing literacy programs at 2 more Kasiisi Project schools – Kigarama and Kyakatara.



*Tahrira, Katelyn, Marguerite, Ugandan colleagues, and Kasiisi Project students at a Peace Corps sponsored workshop on leadership.*

### Princeton in Africa Volunteer



Martha Beirut is our second Princeton in Africa Volunteer. She replaces Max as assistant to the Field Director with special responsibility for conservation education.

*Martha, Pamela and "Police" – the farm dog*

### Ugandan Volunteers

Kasiisi Project Scholars including Ategeka Christopher and Tugume Vicent worked for the project during their school holidays.



*Pam discusses strategy with farm manager Arumbu Abel*

Ategeka Christopher, Hope Proscovia, Tulinde Michael and Twesige Richard are enrolled in a new program in which scholars work for the project for a year, mostly on the project farm. Their earnings are banked except for a small allowance and then used to help pay tuition.

Pamela Otali, who had just finished a Master's degree in Development interned with us for 6 months as acting Field Director.

Expatriate Short-Term Volunteers

We had 2 Accounting for International Development volunteers, Leslie Jackson and Derek Jones helping us with Quick Books, rewriting our financial policies and developing robust acquisition strategies to avoid opportunities for misuse of funding.



Deanna Salameh a school nurse from Newton, MA worked with our health team to provide support to their educational outreach and Suraiya Luecke a Berkeley undergraduate worked with our girl’s program.

*Deanna Salameh and Suraiya Luecke with Kasiisi students*



Marianne Staniunas, honey buyer for Southend Formaggio, Boston visited us for 2 weeks to help with developing a strategic plan for our honey project.

*Marianne all suited up for honey harvesting on the Kasiisi Farm*

**Financial Report 10/14-19/15**

<b>INCOME</b>	
<b>Unrestricted</b>	\$103, 943
<b>Restricted</b>	
International Collaboration (Brookwood School)	\$500
Bunks for girls	\$1,522
Bursaries for teachers	\$150
Conservation Education	\$20,944
Volunteer Housing	\$3,547
Farm	\$1,761
Guesthouse	\$880
Girl’s Program	\$34,876
Health	\$7,850
Kitchens	\$3,941
Literacy	\$5,000
Scholarships	\$21,648
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$206,563
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	



Administration	\$4651
Fund Raising	\$220
Petty Cash	\$278
Programming	\$208,369
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$213,518</b>
Admin costs as % expenditure	2.2%
Fundraising costs as % expenditure	0.1%
Travel costs as % expenditure	3.4%

