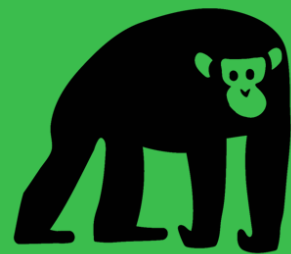


The Kasiisi project

CONSERVATION • EDUCATION • HEALTH



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-2020



Our Mission Statement

Conservation of Kibale National Park, Uganda through programs in schools and communities that support education, health and care for the environment

Your generosity
makes all our
programs possible

THANK YOU!



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Social Media **The Kasiisi** project

Thanks to old Kibale friend Eric Losh, www.ericlosh.com, we have a new dynamic logo highlighting the range of the work we do. We are so grateful for Eric's love of Kibale and his contribution to its health through his generous special "friends" rate. The Logo beautifully highlights the range of work we do in an informative yet youthful way, and we love his use of the colors of Uganda's national flag. An author as well as a designer and illustrator, Eric's children's book, "Chorus of Kibale", about a Red-Tailed Monkey living in Kibale Forest demonstrates his wonderful artistic skills.

With the assistance of Barb Cozzens and working closely with executive director Elizabeth Ross a new website was launched in the latter part of 2020, <https://www.kasiisiproject.org>. This new, clean & vibrant look allows for easy navigation for those seeking more information about Kasiisi. The various aspects of the project: Conservation, Education and Health are coupled with stunning photographs, interactive maps and graphics. In addition National Geographic Explorer Ronan Donovan created a short video called "A Way Forward For Kibale" which is included on the site. The new program "Kibale Explorer" highlights species that make Kibale Forest their home. Each is given a page with fun, playful and fascinating information for people both young and old to tap into. With the launch of our new website we have increased our presence on Facebook with weekly postings – highlighting our work with schools, our employee stories, our partners and the animals we work to protect.



<https://www.facebook.com/KasiisiProject>



Check out our new website
www.kasiisiproject.org

Updates from The Kasiisi Project Board



Without a doubt, 2020 has been our most challenging year since initiating our project twenty-three years ago. It has vigorously tested us, but the outcome has demonstrated the strength and resilience of our organization.

We owe our success to friends like you, our loyal and generous donors, who have continued to offer unwavering trust and support for our work. Thank you. We are deeply grateful for your partnership.

In January, we weathered the serious car accident of a critical staff member, whose leadership during convalescence was sorely missed. In March, COVID-19 caused schools to close, and our onsite operation was forced to shut down. Our staff adapted readily to the situation with creativity and ingenuity by implementing programs to educate our students at home. As a result, we were able to keep our staff employed and productive, and our mission intact. Looking back over this past year, we are astounded to recognize just how much was achieved through perseverance renewing our optimism for the future.

Without your steady backing, the past year would have undoubtedly taken a much different course. We are proud to have retained our staff, but finding salaries going forward is our single biggest concern. Without face-to-face student interactions, we have had to become more imaginative, but thanks to you, the luxury of time for planning ahead is on our side. It enables us to adapt our skills and experience quickly to new circumstances, and we are so very grateful.



Throughout the pandemic, we have been able to maintain most of our ongoing projects, albeit with modifications, always taking care to follow government, safety guidelines – the health and well-being of our staff and students a strict priority. We have continued to collect data on the health of wild African honeybees and on the transmission of respiratory viruses from children to chimpanzees.

We have connected with our students and their parents via weekly phone-in radio broadcasts and have initiated drawing and story-writing competitions.

Villages are also hosting competitions for the “Most Environmentally Friendly Household”, and we are evaluating our programs in new and ingenious ways. Funding has proved to be a challenge during 2020, since we rely heavily on grants from zoos, most of which have also suffered a significant decrease in income. However, generous COVID-19 “bump ups” from you, our donors, and from The James and Gloria Stewart Foundation, Dry Creek Charity, and The Great Island Foundation have kept us afloat. Additional support from the National Geographic Society has allowed Ugandan Director, Dr. Emily Oтали, to continue with her conservation projects.

Schools are due to open in October 2020 for top primary and secondary classes (those taking public exams), and for all children in January 2021. With your help, we hope to reach these milestones with a full complement of critical and loyal staff needed to “hit the ground running”. We are taking this time to invest in long-term planning for a successful future and are hoping for “business as usual” in 2021.

With many thanks for your enduring support, we look forward to greet the New Year with you at our side,

Terry Eastman, Sean Rush, Christine Fairclough, Beth Armstrong, John Slyconish, Richard Wrangham, Zarin Machanda, and Elizabeth Ross



And from our Ugandan Partner The Kibale Forest Schools' Program



The Kibale Forest Schools' Program held its annual organizational meeting in early March 2020, attended by School Principals, Wildlife Club Patrons, Healthcare Professionals and the Chairs of School Management Committees, Parent Teachers' Associations, and Local Parish Councils. We reviewed the activities of 2019 and outlined plans for 2020 and were all set for the new academic year. Then on March 18th the Ugandan Government closed all schools and all our activities were seriously affected. We are grateful to the Kasiisi Project board for continuing to pay staff since the closure of schools. In general, the staff have continued to keep busy, working almost full-time collecting data, doing analyses, producing radio talk shows, arranging competitions in the villages and collecting nasal swabs. The fact that they continued to receive their full salaries motivated staff to continue working to the best of their abilities despite difficulties.

This year's conservation theme was "Conservation of Kibale National Park and its Wildlife". We had conservation education grants from the Disney Conservation Fund for chimpanzee conservation education and the National Geographic Society for a citizen science project to study health of African Honeybees. An International Elephant Foundation grant is on hold for now. The health education theme for the year was "Healthy Children and Communities, our Priority" with a goal "To Ensure Healthy Children and Communities, Promote Well Being".

We were unable to carry out planned activities and resorted to radio talk shows as a means of reaching our communities throughout the lockdown, while the Health Team continued with collecting nasal swabs for the Healthy Children/ Healthy Chimps program and accompanied Uganda Wildlife Authority staff to deliver health services on the mobile clinic. We used Radio Talk shows based on our health and conservation themes for the year.



Schools reopened on October 15th for school and college classes whose students are candidates for public exams. Eleven scholars returned to 11th and 12th grade and college. In our 16 primary schools over 90% of students reported back to Grade 6, studying for exams they will take next March. Dropouts have been almost entirely girls through pregnancy, early marriage and entering the job market, reinforcing the importance of schools for girls.

We have been able to continue our building work including roofing a dormitory at Rutooma Primary School, constructing 2 blocks of pit latrines and showers for girls at Komyampere and Rweteera, and providing fencing and water tanks for our volunteer housing. Drilling began for new bore holes at 2 schools.

The Kibale Forest Schools' Program Board of Directors, under new management held its 2020 AGM on July 2nd. We wait until life is more normal to enroll a local board to help oversee KFSP management, and most importantly, be our link to the community. We are currently in the process of renewing the Kibale Forest Schools' Program NGO registration which expires in November 2020. All schools are due to open in January 2021. We hope that infection rates will stay low and that we will be able to get back to normal programming next year.

Keep safe and thank you from Uganda!



Emily Otali, Ph.D.
Director: Kibale Forest Schools' Program
Director: Kibale Chimpanzee Project



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



WHY YOU SUPPORTED US

"Discovering the plight of young girls as they reach puberty and learning what the project was doing to help ensure they could continue to get an education and have a voice in their future continues to inspire me in my own work"

"It warms our hearts to plant trees under whose shade others can sit"

"I have supported the Kasiisi Project since 2006. I never cease to be amazed by the range and strength of their projects. "

Kasiisi's efforts are concentrated, effective, and fat-free. It is one of the most consistently excellent projects the Stewart Foundation supports

"Their conservation work has a dual focus that values both wildlife and people"

WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

"The Kasiisi Project laid for me the foundation of a desirable life. I have education, self esteem and a career. I can support myself and my family"
TUHAISE SHAMILA
KASIISI SCHOLAR
REGISTERED NURSE

"The Kasiisi Project has been an ideal partner responsible for conservation programs relevant to both the forest and the community"
UGANDA WILDLIFE
AUTHORITY

"The Kasiisi Project made me a responsible and capable family and community member. The incredible support I have been receiving towards my education instilled in me the love and capacity to care for others."
TUSIIME PATRICK
KASIISI SCHOLAR
MEDICAL OFFICER

"You have rendered invaluable assistance to our schools. touching many lives making a big difference in Western Uganda"
ADYERI MOSES
PRINCIPAL
KASIISI SCHOOL



HOW YOU SUPPORTED US

Private donations

\$85,350



Foundations

\$115,000



Great Island Foundation
James and Gloria Stewart
Foundation
Dry Creek Charity
Rush Foundation

Grants

\$67,222



the Jane Goodall Institute

CONSERVATION, FOOD &
HEALTH FOUNDATION

OKC ZOO

akron
ZOO

IDEA WILD

for girls sake
life changing, world changing

Volunteering

Educational Resources

Social Media

Editing Materials

Analyzing Data

Writing Grants

Fund Raising

Tax Preparation

Number of
Volunteers

15



10

WHAT YOU ACHIEVED IN 2020

You made sure our project survived despite all the challenges. Inability to travel to Uganda did not stop you volunteering your skills, and because of you we have retained our skilled staff. Your confidence in us allows us to continue to contribute to the survival of a rare and precious ecosystem and its neighboring communities.

CONSERVATION

You protected the precious biodiversity of Kibale Forest by supporting conservation education and community outreach

HEALTH

You reduced teen pregnancy, early marriage and loss of education by enabling us to help parents become the best sources of sexual health information for their children

EDUCATION

You supported 41 students in high school and college who would otherwise have dropped out

YOU ASSISTED

16
Schools

70
Villages

8000
Children

YOU HELPED CONSERVE

1450
Chimpanzees
400
Elephants

325
Bird Species
13
Primate Species

Covid-19

Impact of COVID-19

The global COVID-19 pandemic has impacted our project in two important ways --government restrictions and reduced donations. While we have survived and are cautiously optimistic about the future, the challenges remain, and continue to test our resilience.

The Ugandan government led an early and strong response to the virus in March. They closed the borders and shut all schools. This meant that we were unable to carry out the majority of our programs as planned. Our office closed and staff began to work from home. Grant-funded projects were delayed, eliminating our ability to pay staff salaries from those restricted funds. Unrestricted donor funding, critical for salaries and administrative expenses fell by 20%, and zoo grants an important source of support, are increasingly more competitive, as their reserves decline.

Fortunately, there were silver linings that kept us going. Several generous donors offered extra COVID funding, enabling us to continue paying our staff on full salary through the end of 2020. Funding bodies allowed us to delay programs, and the National Geographic Society came to the rescue of our Ugandan Director, Emily Otali, by encouraging her to apply for additional funding to keep her conservation projects afloat. Despite general reticence to commit new funding, our generous donors stood by us, and we are most grateful for their support. Zoo grants, continue to be one of our open question marks.

Looking forward, Ugandan schools plan to open fully in January 2021, and funding permitted, we are cautiously optimistic about returning to near-normal programming by summer. In the meantime, we have moved forward with projects that do not require face-to-face interactions, and we are adapting others as best we can.

In conclusion, our biggest challenge continues to be funding, with the top slot filled by the absolutely critical, unrestricted monies for projects not covered by grants. Having invested 21+ years of time and resources into training and team-building, our #1 goal is to come through this epidemic with skilled staff intact and enough money in the bank to give the project the very best chance of surviving.



Uganda's Covid-19 Stats

(as of October 31st 2020)

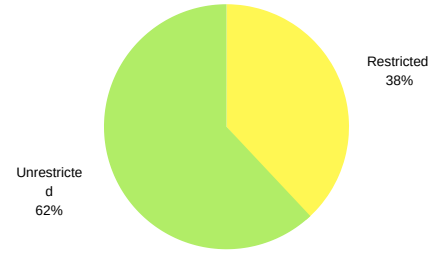
Cases: 12,410

Deaths: 110

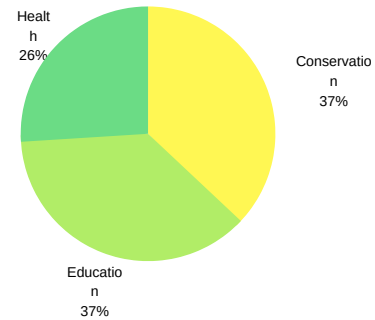
Financial Information

Statement of Activities Financial Year 2019-220				
	Unrestricted	Restricted	TOTAL	
REVENUE				
Contributions and gifts	166,627	49,425	216,052	
Grants		61,550	61,550	
Other revenue		1,875	1,875	
TOTAL REVENUE	166,627	112,850	279,477	
EXPENSES				
Fundraising	5,411		5,411	
Program	198,844		198,844	
Grants			0	
Management, Administrative	26,677		26,677	
Other Expenses			0	
TOTAL EXPENSES	230,932		230,932	
			Change in net assets	
			48,545	
			Beginning net assets	
			216,417	
			Ending net assets	
			264,962	

INCOME
\$279,477

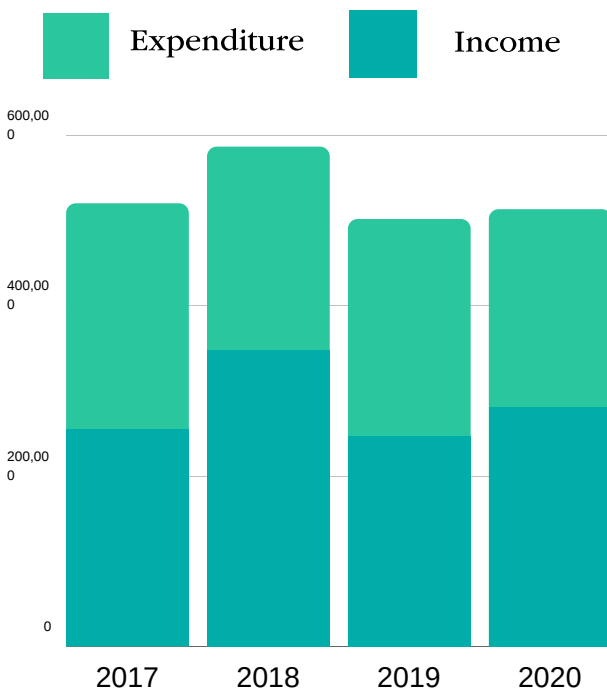


EXPENDITURE
\$230,952

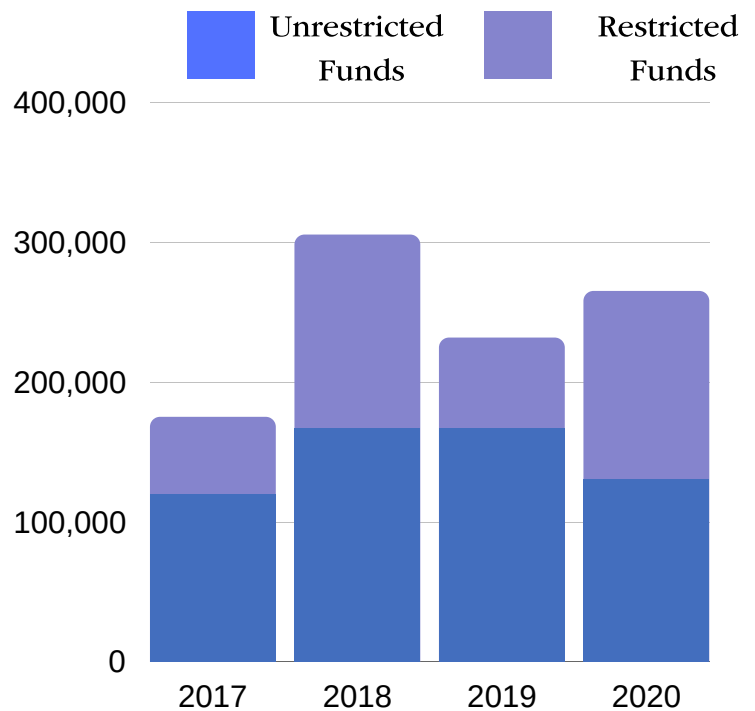


Statement of Financial Position end of Financial Year 2019-2020			
ASSETS		LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
Cash	264,952.00	Accounts Payable	
Accounts Receivable		Short term debt	
Inventories		Long term Debt	
Prepaid Expenses		Accrued Expenses	
Pledges Receivable		Net Assets	
		Unrestricted	130,566.42
		Restricted	134,385.58
TOTAL ASSETTS	264,952.00	TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	264,952.00

Income and Expenditure 2017-2020

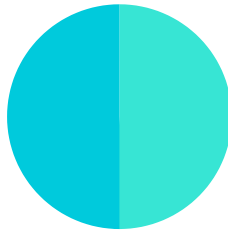


End of year balances 2017-2020



Programs 2020

Programs Modified
50%



Programs Suspended
50%

Conservation

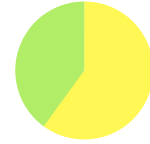
Programs Modified
66.7%



Programs Suspended
33.3%

Education

Programs Modified
40%



Programs Suspended
60%

Health

Programs
Suspended
33.3%



Programs
Modified
66.7%

CONSERVATION

Conservation Education - Uganda



Our greatest challenge in conservation education for 2020 has been

reconfiguring the way we deliver our programs, as we were no longer able to interact with our children and with their communities in person. In 2019, chimpanzees were designated as the major focus of our conservation education, with a goal of increasing children's knowledge of their neighboring great apes and of improving attitudes towards them. Under normal circumstances, this effort involves staff interactions with children in close-quartered, classroom sessions, and in person meetings with each schools' Wildlife Club. However, during the COVID school shutdown, substantial

modifications to our approach became necessary. In order to fulfill the grant requirements required to fund conservation education programs, we needed to improvise new, ingenious techniques for reaching our audiences. To date, we have a) switched the bulk of our informative content to radio broadcasts, and b) taken our former, schools-based programs into the villages, where it was possible to maintain safe, social distancing.

Radio Broadcasts

Ugandan residents access a great deal of necessary information via the radio, making broadcasting an effective way to reach a widespread audience. Faced with school closings, and the benefit of prior radio programming experience we adapted quickly

and connected readily with students, parent, communities, and districts, via weekly phone-in broadcasts. Moderated by a professional, a typical broadcast is two hours long and focuses on a specific topic. Knowledgeable guests teach the subject and answer listener questions. Competitions encourage regular attendance and new participation. Each week, the broadcast begins with a question based on the previous week's program, and the first person to call in with the correct answer wins a prize. Challenges have included limited time for questions and poor network connectivity, but a dedicated phone line has provided a successful way of answering additional questions at a later time.

Village based conservation education

Once confined to their homes, children from our schools had become bored and needed educational stimulation, so we decided to go to them. With limited access to paper, pencils, and crayons in their villages, we raised funds and were able to distribute these materials to 250 children living in 8 villages that send students to our schools. We developed art and story-telling competitions promoting the environment and literacy, which were judged by artists and awarded with prizes. COVID safety regulations were strictly enforced during the process of drop-off and pickup of completed entries.

Reach of
radio
broadcasts
**50
Mile
Radius**

Number of
Children
Submitting
Conservation Art
Entries

215



Conservation Education - USA

In 2020, thanks to the hard work and imagination of our Acting Executive Director, Barbara Cozzens, we succeeded in delivering our conservation messages to an online audience of children for the first time. This was accomplished through a program called “Kibale Explorer”, which included postings about the special animals living in Kibale Forest, along with a first-ever Youth Art Contest. In many respects, 2020 could accurately be described as a ‘year of firsts’ for our project.



Winning Entry
by Melaina Ashworth,
aged 13

Kibale Explorer

Topics

- Elephant
- Pangolin
- Turaco
- Chimpanzees
- Kibale Forest



KIBALE EXPLORER
The Kasiisi Project & Kibale Forest Schools Program



Our Closest Cousin

https://www.kasiisiproject.org/uploads/3/7/8/9/37899645/ke_chimp.pdf

in the
Animal
Kingdom



KIBALE EXPLORER
The Kasiisi Project & Kibale Forest Schools Program

The Big Friendly Giant!

It's a hot, sunny day on the African savanna and all the animals are desperate to find some cool water to drink. Just when all hope seems lost, the ground begins to shake and a herd of African Elephants appears on the horizon. The herd has traveled through this area countless times over the years and decides to take a break from their long journey to rest and cool off. A few elephants move towards a dried out riverbed, and begin to dig into the ground using their strong tusks. Within minutes, the elephants have broken through the surface, uncovering a vast supply of water lurking underneath. As they use their long trunks to drink, and pour water on themselves, other animals start crowding around the newly formed watering hole, reaping the benefits of the elephants' immense power. Just as quickly as they appeared, the herd is on the move again, leaving massive footprints in their wake.

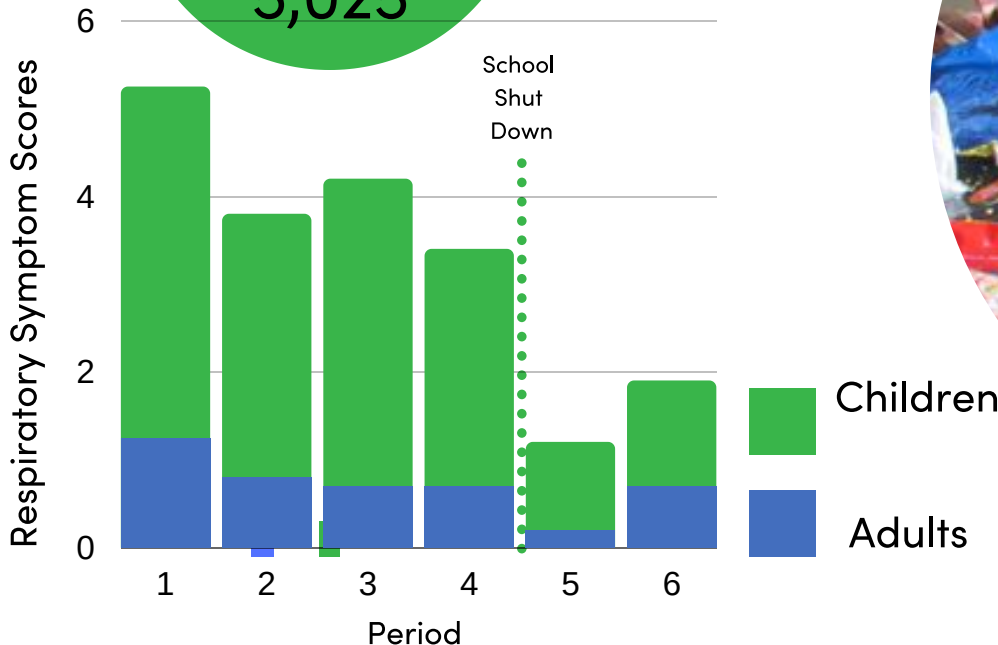
Conservation - Healthy Children:Healthy Chimps



This project addresses the threat to wild chimpanzees from human respiratory diseases, which are most likely pediatric in origin. Always of critical importance to conservation of great apes, this subject is particularly pertinent right now. SARS-CoV-2 virus, the causative agent for the COVID-19 epidemic, has the dangerous potential to “spill back” across the animal/human barrier from humans to chimpanzees, and it is considered to be a grave threat to chimpanzee conservation.

Despite closures and reduced sample sizes, our staff has been able to maintain regular collections of nasal swabs from Field Assistants and their children. This project, as far as we are aware, is the only cohort study of respiratory disease transmission in chimpanzees and people in Africa to have been conducted during the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, it is of paramount importance to continue this project, in order to safeguard ape health during a critical juncture in global public health. Early data indicate a significant decline in respiratory symptoms in children since the schools closed, whereas adult symptoms have barely changed. It remains to be seen whether, or not, this is mirrored by a parallel drop in human viruses in the fecal samples of chimpanzees from neighboring communities.

of Viral Samples Collected
5,025



Conservation - African Honey Bees



Thanks to additional funding from the National Geographic Society, we have continued monitoring our bee hives around Kibale National Park throughout the pandemic. We had successfully recruited beekeepers from 10, forest-edge apiaries and invited them to join a Citizen Science Project designed to establish baseline data for the health of wild African honeybees. With minor adjustments, the first year of this project has remained on track. Staff beekeeping seminars have been well received and will hopefully increase colony size, honey yields, and elephant deterrent properties of the beehive “fences”.



Number of hives
being monitored:
32

Number of data
points
collected:
163,000

Number of forest
edge beekeepers
enrolled in
program:
10

Number of
beekeepers
attending
training
workshops:
12

Number of active
hives
in Kasiisi apiary:
57

Kilograms of
honey harvested
from
Kasiisi apiary:
100

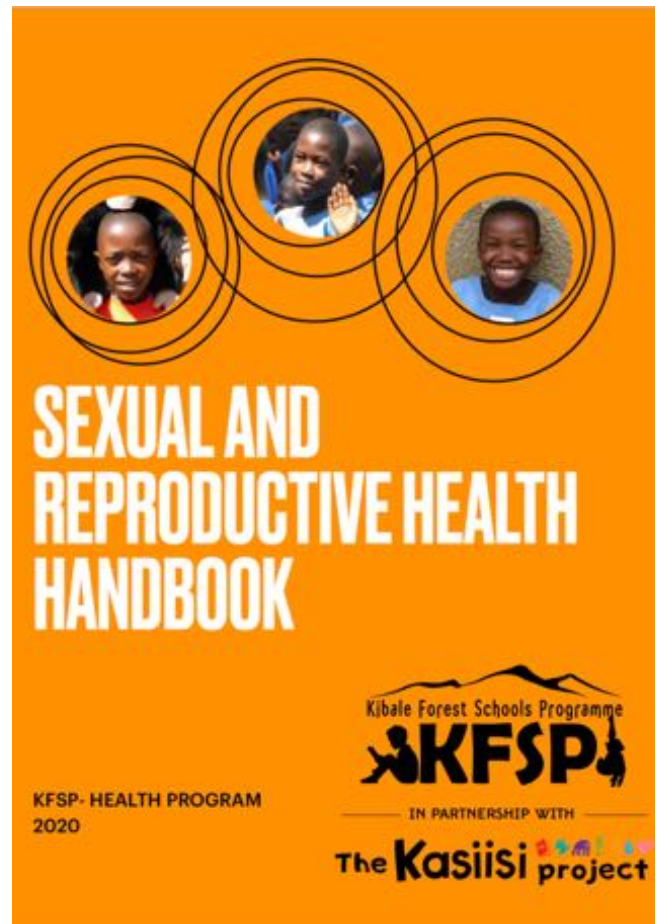


EDUCATION

When the Ugandan government closed schools in March, our education programs were the hardest hit. Primary school children lost their classes, and while our secondary and college scholars had some access to distance learning for the first semester, few rural villages had sufficient technology to allow students to log in. Our project continued adding infrastructure as we could -- notably, new bore holes for a well but, with head teachers in distant villages and lack of manpower to turn the drill, we were able to only begin construction.

HEALTH

With schools closed, we were unable to carry out normal, after-school, health education activities that had been designed to support classroom curricula. Typically, Kibale Mobile Clinic staff pay visits to remote villages as often as twice a week. During the pandemic, the effort was grounded, and all vaccination programs were delayed. However, we were able to continue producing first drafts of sexual health booklets for parents which provide help with communication skills and accurate reproductive information for discussions with their children. The booklets are written in English and Rutooro, the local language. When formatting and the final selection of illustrations have been completed, the books will be given to education, health, political, and cultural leaders for final official approval. A first batch comprised of 500 Rutooro and 100 English copies will then be printed and distributed to 5 local schools for feedback and evaluations from parents and their children.





WANT TO HELP?

Contact us

www.kasiisiproject.org

1 Carley Rd., Lexington, MA 02421

781 801 6994

Kasiisi
Project

Kibale Forest
Schools' Program

Board of
Directors

Board of
Directors

Advisory
Board

Terry Eastman
Sean Rush
Zarin Machanda
John Slyconish
Chris Fairclough
Beth Armstrong
Richard Wrangham
Elizabeth Ross

Clare Murumba Price
Emily Otali
Richard Wrangham
Elizabeth Ross

Advisory
Board

PROGRAMS
CONSERVATION
EDUCATION
HEALTH