KASIISI PROJECT ANNUAL REPORT

Friends with Flowers and Water: Kanyiginya Vivian, Kigarama Primary School
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OCTOBER 2012 – SEPTEMBER 2013

www.kasiisiproject.org       www.greatapeeducation.com
SUMMARY

During this year the Kasiisi project has continued to grow and expand in many different and exciting directions. Our growing partnership with several US Universities has brought new technologies and bright and engaging young volunteers to our schools. We welcomed our first Peace Corps volunteer and hosted the US Ambassador, students Skyped with peers in the US and we cooked our first meal on gas from our own Biogas Digester. Our Conservation Education programs expanded, and the first class graduated from our pre-school. Two more scholarship students graduated from University and as always we were able to do all this only because of help from volunteers of all ages working hard in Uganda, the US and the UK as well as because of the generosity of our many wonderful donors.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Kasiisi was named a “Model School” by the Kabarole Education Office in 2013, and was visited by members of parliament and education officials from several different parts of Uganda. The new US Ambassador also visited the school and the project farm, as part of his inaugural tour of projects in Western Uganda where the US government was contributing aid – in our case through our Peace Corps Volunteer.
US Ambassador Scott DeLisi visits students at Kasiisi Primary School

Academic results in Kasiisi Project schools continued to improve –

**Mean PLE Scores for 5 Kasiisi Project Core Schools from 2004-2012**

LOWER SCORES ARE BETTER

Spearman r = -0.97

p = 0.004

Our scores continued to be significantly better than those in peer schools and our girls now do as well and sometimes better than our boys (see below).
ADMINISTRATION

New Staff

We welcomed Keith Miller as our first Peace Corps volunteer and then sadly lost him due to a damaged ACL. Ironically, since PCVs are not allowed to ride motor-bicycles, Keith was hit by a motorbike taxi, when standing at the side of the road. During his 10 months with us Keith worked hard on all parts of the project with a special focus on the project farm.

Amy Hanna who had worked for us for a year as Project Director left us, and Kanyanyuzi Esther joined our office team as Assistant Project Director.

Staff Recognition

Kasiisi Project Conservation Education Director Rwabuhinga Francis was honored with 2 awards for excellence in promoting the conservation of primates. He received the 2013 International Primatological Society Southwick Conservation Commitment Award and the American Society of Primatologists 2013 Conservation Award, awards which provide recognition and financial support for students and young investigators from habitat countries who demonstrate potential for making significant and continuing contributions to primate conservation.

Francis was also named Conservation Educator of the month for June by the Primate Education Network www.primateeducationnetwork.org.
Cadets from West Point returned for another visit to collaborate in building a second biogas digester, this time on the Kasiisi Project farm. The gas generated from this digester from farm waste will provide heat, light and cooking fuel for our animals, employees and farm volunteers.

The digester at Kasiisi Primary School is fulfilling its job of providing gas for cooking, replacing firewood, which is scare and smoky resulting in poor working conditions for our cooks. In addition we are helping address the baboon problem at the Makerere University Biological Field Station. Vegetable waste discarded in pits attracts baboons, dogs and other wild animals, all of which pose threats both to people and other wildlife in the National Park. Following a feasibility study by Marissa Cottrell, undergraduate from Grinell College, The Kasiisi Project is collaborating with MUBFS to bring kitchen waste from the field station to Kasiisi Primary School, increasing feedstock for our digester and reducing the numbers of baboons at MUBFS.
CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Wildlife Club Development

As the core of our long-term conservation education strategy, development of our Wildlife Clubs is an important part of our environmental programs. In 2013 this was focused primarily around the Great Ape Education Project – see below. All Wildlife Club Patrons received training in teaching the program from Michelle Slavin of NCZoo/UNITE - http://www.nczoo.org/education/UNITE.html

Great Ape Education Project www.greatapeeducation.com
2013 was an exciting and busy time for our Conservation Education Director Rwabuhinga Francis. The Great Ape Education Project was launched in January in partnership with Dutch filmmaker Nature For Kids www.natureforkids.nl, and conservation education colleagues North Carolina Zoo/UNITE http://www.nczoo.org/conservation/International/UNITE.html, and Martha Robbins from The Max Plank Institute.

The project combines Great Ape conservation movies made for African children, filmed on location in Uganda and starring local students, complemented by activities designed to reinforce the programs conservation message.

GAEP Magazines

Chimp Masks

Knuckle Walking
Water Project
Cleveland Zoo funded a second year of The Kasiisi Project Water Project and under the direction of Kasiisi schoolteacher Musinguzi Moses, children from 8 schools tested water quality and studied the factors that impact it.

Measuring Water Temperature

Water Project Coordinator Moses Musinguzi Teaching about water quality

Clean Stove Project
For a second year a Kasiisi Project school was involved in the Clean Stove Project, a program directed by Rich Lehrer and Sven Holch from Brookwood School in Manchester. As part of this project, children from Rweteera Primary School joined peers in schools in the US, Brazil, Rwanda, Tanzania and India to design and build clean burning fuel-efficient stoves. The children were then able to talk about challenges and successes via Skype.

Camp Uganda
We sent students from Iruhuura school to Camp Uganda’s program at the Uganda Wildlife Education Center in Entebbe. On their return the students working with the school Wildlife Club formed Grass Roots Action for a Clean Environment https://www.facebook.com/IruhuuraPrimarySchoolSavingForestTeam and have been building clean burning fuel efficient stoves in their homes and communities – 36 so far.

Traditional 3 Stone Fire
High emission, Uses a lot of Fuel

Fuel Efficient Rocket Stove
Low Emission, Fuel Efficient
Kibale Chimpanzee Project Debate Cup
Teams from 5 Kasiisi Project Schools competed for the Kibale Chimpanzee Debate Cup. The teams debated environmental topics and after a close fought competition, judged by a range of volunteers, Kasiisi Primary School became the first winners.

Brevard Zoo Sports Cups
Students from 5 schools competed for the Brevard Zoo Sports Cups in soccer and netbal

Snare Removal Project
Funded by JGI(Netherlands) and JGI (Austria) members of the Kibale Snare Removal Project gave talks in 3 Kasiisi Project schools about the dangers to people, domestic animals and biodiversity that results from illegal snaring.
DORMITORY

We continued to work on the dormitory at Kasiisi. We installed underground water tanks and windows and doors in the girl's wing and completed the showers and worked on the exterior of the whole building.

GIRLS PROGRAMS

We have continued to provide programs addressing the special needs of girls in all 14 Kasiisi Project Schools. This approach has resulted in the girls in our schools doing as well as the boys, and sometimes better.

Peer Education Workshop

We held peer education classes for girls and teachers from all 14 schools and continued to supply sanitary pads in 5.
Girl Rising

The movie Girl Rising [www.girlrising.org](http://www.girlrising.org) premiered in Uganda at Kasiisi Primary School and was shown to pupils at 3 other Kasiisi Project Schools. Thanks to Brookwood School, Massachusetts and colleagues Rich Lehrer and Sven Hoch, who visited the project in the summer, our students were able to see this groundbreaking feature film about the strength of the human spirit and the power of education to transform societies.

Girl Guides

We sent the Kasiisi Girl Scout troupe to the national camp at Kazi in Kampala – as the only troupe from Kabarole at the camp they represented the district. Our Boy Scouts went to camp too!
GRANTS

In 2013 the Kasiisi project was awarded 4 new grants: 3 for our conservation programs from Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund, Cleveland Zoo and Columbus Zoo and 1 for our Girl's Programs from the Lalor Burdick Foundation.

In addition, along with NCZoo/UNITE and The Kibale Fuel Wood Project we were awarded a Pedal Power Cinema system by the Great Ape Film Initiative www.gafi4apes.org which will allow us to show films in schools and communities with no electricity in 2014.

GUESTHOUSE

The guesthouse continued to be used through 2012. A new shower block was built and we welcomed our first tourist clients through a new collaboration with RAW AFRICA, an Australian Safari Company associated with Zoos Victoria.
Client feedback continued to be very positive and we look forward in increasing our occupancy rates in 2014.
HARVARD TRIP

Funded by the Harvard Presidential Initiative Award, 2 faculty members brought 8 Harvard College undergraduates to Kasiisi for 10 days as part of a J-Term initiative where students studied issues related to international education, development and the environment alongside peers from Mountains of the Moon University in Fort Portal.

KASIISI PROJECT FARM

The Kasiisi Project Farm supported by the Kasiisi Porridge Project (UK) [www.kasiisiporridge.org](http://www.kasiisiporridge.org) has continued to grow. We are currently producing over 800 eggs a day – 85% of our chickens lay every day – and our sows have given birth to their second litter of piglets. Irumbu Abel, a Kasiisi Project Scholar, gained a certificate in Agro-Veterinary Sciences and returned to the project to manage the farm.

Kasiisi Scholars Bagambisa David (L)
(Agro-Vet student) and (R) Irumbu Abel
(Kasiisi Farm Manager)
This year we welcomed students from a local agricultural college and from the Mountains of the Moon University in Fort Portal who did the internships portion of their course with us.

Abel with Agricultural Interns

Kasiisi Farm Piglets

LITERACY

With funds donated by The Trinitarian Congregational Church in Concord, Mass we built a third Kasiisi Project library at Kigarama Primary School. In July Kasiisi Project Literacy Director Barbara Stevens assisted by Wayne Lobb, Kathleen Dwyer and Courtney and Ian Masotti stocked it with books donated by Book Aid International (www.bookaid.org), Weston Public Schools and other donors.

Kasiisi Primary School showed particular improvement in English scores a result of the work of the Kasiisi Project Literacy Program.
Graph showing average PLE English scores (lower is better) from 2008-2012 at 3 Kasiisi Project Core Schools – only Kasiisi School shows consistent improvement in English scores. Only Kasiisi School at this point benefitted from the Literacy Program.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITIONS

Photographs taken of their environment by children from Kigarama Primary School as part of a program offered by Harvard Graduate Liyun Ji were paired with those taken by children from The school in the Bronx and with support from Wildlife Conservation Society put on show at the Bronx Zoo, The Harvard Club in New York and MishMash in Kampala.
PRE-SCHOOL

The Kasiisi Project pre-school graduated its first class in December 2012. As a result of excellent fiscal management by the Pre-School Management Committee the school has become self-supporting in 2 years – a terrific feat. Plans for the future of the pre-school include income-generating activities for the buildings. In 2012 we rented out one room to a private Kindergarten.
NEW PROJECT HOUSE

Thanks to a generous donation from private donor we were able to buy land to build a new project house. This house will accommodate the project director as well as volunteers and the overflow from our guesthouse. We are still obtaining title to the land but expect to start building in early 2014.

SCHOLARSHIPS

In 2012-2013 The Kasiisi Project supported 2 primary aged students and 61 in post-primary education: 4 at University, 20 in vocational training, 36 in secondary school and 1 in Graduate School.

Project Conservation Education Director, Rwabuhinga Francis graduated from university with a Bachelor’s Degree in Environmental Sciences, Tibisiimwe Irene with a degree in Accounting and Nyakata Flavian with a degree in Urban Planning. Kyomhendo James received a full scholarship to medical school from the Ugandan government.
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. We calculated that in the fiscal year 2013-2014 we benefitted from over $200,000 worth of volunteer help.

Harvard Graduate Allison Rosenberg arrived in Uganda in June and has been working with teachers and students to improve science teaching and computer learning at in our schools. She has been engaged with the Water Project and since August, when we lost our Peace Corps volunteer has been acting Project Director.

Allison Rosenberg Builds Classroom Aides with Teachers

Harvard student Megan Murdoch studied traditional Ugandan dance and taught ballet classes to the Girl Guides. She originally intended to hold classes 2 days a week but the demand was so strong that she ended up teaching every day.

Megan

Marissa Feeding the Digester
Grinnell College undergraduate Marissa Cotterell studied the feasibility of removing kitchen waste from MUBFS to feed our Biogas Digester

Members of the MIT D-Lab visited Kasiisi in November to investigate a collaboration between the University and in January MIT faculty Jessica Huang and Aron Walker and led a workshop with science teachers from several schools to figure out how to introduce practical science into large classes. An Education and Development class was then offered at MIT by the D-Lab in the spring and a group of undergraduates working with long time Kasiisi partners, Weston Public Schools, developed a

Jessica Huang from MIT consults with Kasiisi Project Teachers about How to do practical science in huge classes

Harvard undergraduates formed the Harvard Kasiisi Group and produced a plan and curriculum for a planned agricultural club.

Old friends from Weston School District returned to share teaching methods and to host the first Kasiisi Project Technology Cup.
Working with Teachers on Engineering Projects

Chris Bowie, a previous volunteer, returned to Kasiisi to study the use of English in Ugandan Education as part of his degree course from Durham University, UK.

Abby Payne a volunteer with Accounting for International Development joined us for 3 months in September to take our accounting to the next level by putting all our accounts onto Quickbooks.

We also had our first “paying volunteers”. A husband and wife team from Australia, travelling with RAW Africa joined us for 10 days. Involved in a program to protect Orangutans they gave talks in 3 schools about this Asian ape and helped out with the Water Project.
FINANCIAL REPORT KASIISI PROJECT

INCOME

Unrestricted $89674

Restricted

Teacher Bursaries 1400
Conservation Education 56469
Community Health Worker 1400
Girls Program 26285
Literacy Program 24102
Nursery 5097
Farm 750
Salary 100
Scholarships 31525
Biogas 20548
Guesthouse 13169
Harvard Trip 14540
Total $195385

Total Income $285,059

EXPENDITURE

Program 237826
Fundraising 3231
Baskets 2144
Admin 17481

Total Expenditure $260,682