



ANNUAL REPORT

2022



**WE ARE BACK
IN SCHOOL
AFTER
2
YEARS!**



Gold
Transparency
2023

Candid.

MISSION STATEMENT

Conservation and Development

Conservation of Kibale National Park, Uganda
through community based programs that promote
education, health and care for
the environment



Your generosity
makes all our
programs possible

THANK YOU!



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From our Schools

Kigarama Primary Schools
Kigarama Village
Fort Portal
Uganda

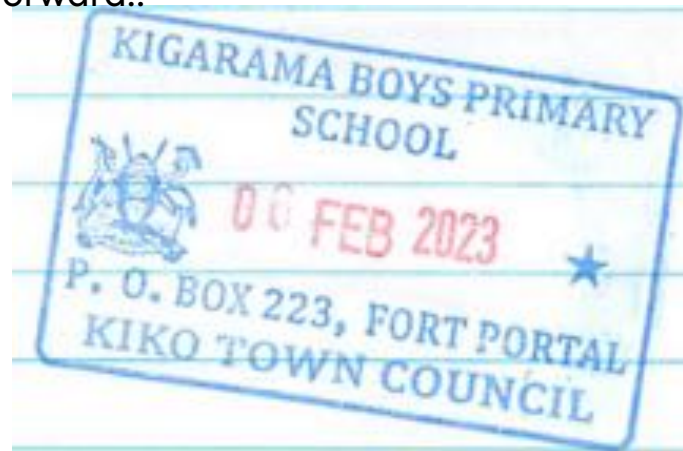
To: The Funders
Kibale Forest Schools' Programme

On behalf of the sixteen schools supported by the funders of KFSP we would like to appreciate the support availed to our schools and the community at large. Located around Kibale National Park, Uganda, these schools have benefitted from programmes that educate on how to conserve the environment through tree planting, energy saving stoves, rubbish disposal and income generation and reduction in conflict with elephants. We also appreciate funders of KFSP for improving health of children and community, supporting girl's education, school infrastructure renovation, sports, girl and boy scouts, scholarships, teacher training and libraries. We hope for more collaboration, support and guidance to propel our schools and communities forward..

Thank you!

On behalf of the sixteen KFSP schools

Yours Sincerely
Komuntale Grace
Head Teacher



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



www.kasiisiproject.org



Updates from The Kasiisi Project Board

We couldn't
do it
without you

Despite 2022 being another year of great challenge, we are happy to report that The Kasiisi Project was able to overcome its obstacles and find success in our mission. We owe our good fortune to you, our loyal donors and friends, and to our devoted, adaptable, and resilient Ugandan staff -- all of you make our work possible. Thank you!

Not only did the past year bring new outbreaks of Covid-19 and its variants to Uganda, but a serious outbreak of the Ebola virus also threatened the communities in and around Kibale. Fortunately, that latter crisis has passed, but not the adverse effects to fundraising that have accompanied it in a time of ongoing, economic uncertainty in the U.S. and elsewhere in the world. The challenges never seem to end.

However, despite some limitations, the schools in our area remained open, making it possible for us to continue reaching the majority of students in our local communities. The mobile health clinic we help fund and operate remained open and functional for the local populace, and we continued to expand the medical research project looking into the transmission of the Covid-19 virus between primates and man. Additionally, our bee hive project, meant to prevent elephants from trampling local agricultural fields, was kept functional by dedicated staff. All in all, we accomplished a lot in 2022 and are proud of what we have done.



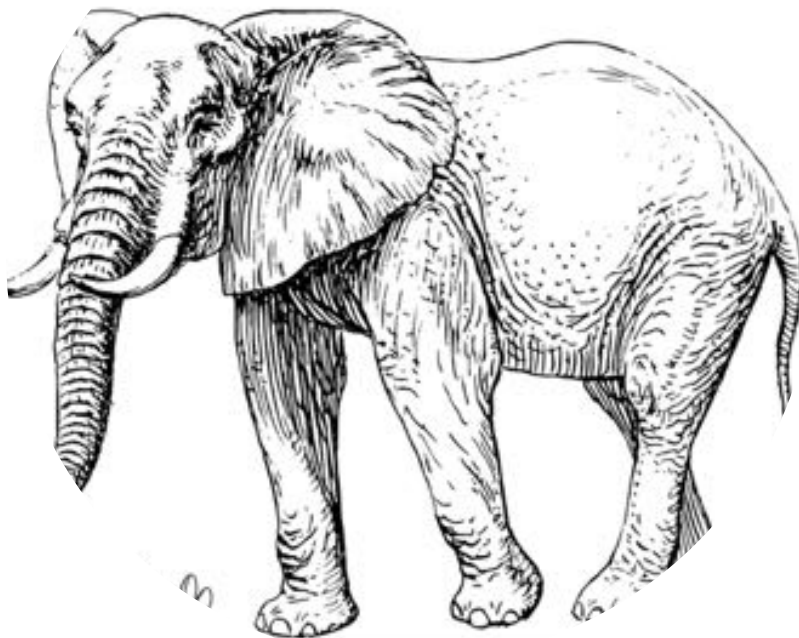
We remain optimistic about the future of Kasiisi despite the never ending challenges. Thank you for your trust in us and for your endless generosity, as donors. Every dollar makes a difference, and we are forever grateful for every penny.

With kind regards and our great gratitude,

The Kasiisi Project Board

Terry Eastman (Chair) , John Slyconish (Treasurer), Beth Armstrong (Secretary), Sean Rush,

Zarin Machanda, Richard Wrangam, Elizabeth Ross



From our Ugandan Partner, The Kibale Forest Schools' Program



We are grateful that we were able to carry out most of our planned activities in schools and communities despite the struggles of coping with the “New Normal” after a long lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

We could not have our annual big meetings where we bring in all our stakeholders and partners to plan together for the development of our schools and communities because of restricted public gatherings. However, we held smaller meetings with head teachers and district officials to share with them our proposed plans and seek guidance on whether or not we should resume activities in schools and communities. We realized in our meetings that our input in schools as they recovered from the lockdown was crucial. We were given go-ahead to implement our health and conservation education programs in schools and communities as we observed standard health procedures. I am glad and proud of the KFSP staff for not being hesitant to resume the implementation of activities with the high risks that were involved.

I want to thank our stakeholders especially the headteachers of 16 KFSP-affiliated schools and the district officials in the departments of education and health for their continued support and cooperation with us. Their advice and participation in our planning and implementation of programs mean so much to us.

We cannot do much without the support of our funders and generous donors. On a special note, we were so honored to receive funds to support schools with infrastructure development when they reopened to a lot of setbacks. And to the school management, thank you for utilizing the opportunity transparently to make improvements in your schools. I cannot thank our funders enough because they have done and continue to do so much for the sustainability of KFSP programs in schools and communities.

We are always happy to see children in school and we look forward to doing our best for our schools and communities.



Thank you!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tusiime Patrick".

Tusiime Patrick BSc..
Field Director:
Kibale Forest Schools
Program



And From Our Country Director

Emily Otali

The Ugandan economy reopened in early 2022, after two years of total lockdown due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and the schools reopened with it. At KFSP, we returned to the office and worked with schools that were struggling to return to a “new-normal”, with limited resources and increased number of students. This was despite a loss of almost 30% of our pupils to early marriage, increased teen pregnancies and the informal economy, as the impact of COVID on family budgets had parents sending their children to cheaper rural schools. The population in all our schools therefore increased and not only did our head teachers have to worry about children's health and learning, but did so without enough desks and chairs for the new numbers.

Much as we were able to resume our programs it was under difficult circumstances as schools focused on catching up with the missed class work. Then as the year was coming to a close, they had to close again because of the Ebola outbreak. We are proud that we covered as much as we did given the circumstances.

The great news is that , partly thanks to the academic support we were able to provide during school closures, all schools have caught up, term dates have returned to their normal schedule and we therefore look forward to da much more productive 2023. Many thanks to all our supporters - we are so grateful.

Happy New Year, 2023 to us all.



Emily Otali, Ph.D.

Director: Kibale Forest Schools' Program

Director: Kibale Chimpanzee Project



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH 7

The Kasiisi project



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

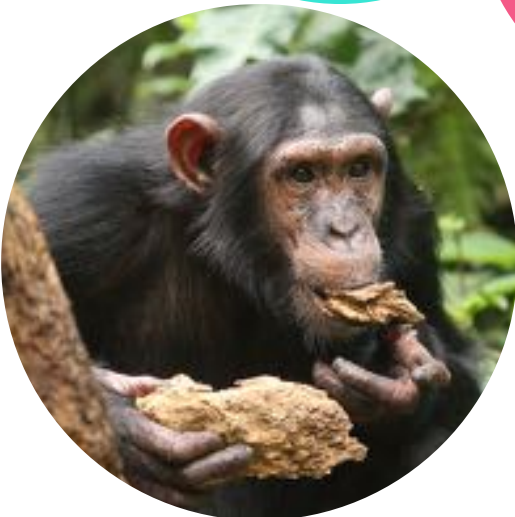
WHY YOUR SUPPORT MATTERS

I am writing this letter to thank you for giving me school work to help me in my exams. Thank you very much.
AYABALE JAMES
NYABWEYA PRIMARY SCHOOL

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

" I humbly thank you so much for giving us school work in this pandemic. It helped me remember things we had forgotten and will help me catch up"
AKANDWANAHO BUREA
BUNYAGABU PRIMARY SCHOOL

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



CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT

HOW YOU SUPPORTED US

Private donations

Foundations

Grants

\$105,560

\$314,738

\$68,880



arcus
FOUNDATION

INTERNATIONAL
ELEPHANT
FOUNDATION.ORG

NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

the Jane Goodall Institute

OKC ZOO

akron
ZOO

IDEA WILD

Disney
CONSERVATION
FUND

Volunteering

Educational Resources
Social Media
Editing Materials
Analyzing Data
Writing Grants
Fund Raising
Tax Preparation

Great Island Foundation
James and Gloria Stewart
Foundation
Dry Creek Charity
Rush Foundation
ARCUS Foundation
Disney Conservation Fund

Number of
Volunteers

9



WHAT YOU ACHIEVED IN 2022

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 expert 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 helped protect the precious biodiversity of Kibale National Park, its over 400 endangered chimpanzees, more than 300 elephants including *Loxodonta Cyclotis*, the critically endangered African Forest Elephant

HEALTH

You helped us improve children's lives through supporting health education in schools, reducing teen pregnancy and early marriages

EDUCATION

You helped us set the feet of over 9,000 children back on the path of academic success after 2 years of school closures

YOU HELPED
BRING
EDUCATION
TO
16
SCHOOLS
170
VILLAGES
9,500
CHILDREN



YOU HELPED
PROTECT
1,450
CHIIMPANZEES
400
ELEPHANTS
325
BIRD SPECIES
13
PRIMATE
SPECIES

Financial Information

Kasili Project Inc Statement of Activity January - December 2022

REVENUE

Unrestricted	
Non-Restricted Income - General	\$200,811
Interest	\$40

Restricted

Conservation Education	\$116,261
Health	\$12,051
Schools	\$102,695
Volunteers	\$61,062

Gross Profit	\$491,920
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EXPENDITURE

Uganda	
Agriculture	\$6,775
Conservation Education	\$91,968
Guest House	\$8,846
Volunteers	\$52,098
Health	\$39,371
Schools	\$130,270
General Project Running Costs	\$110,645
Total	\$439,973

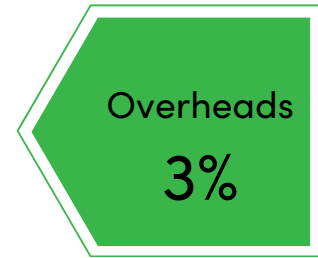
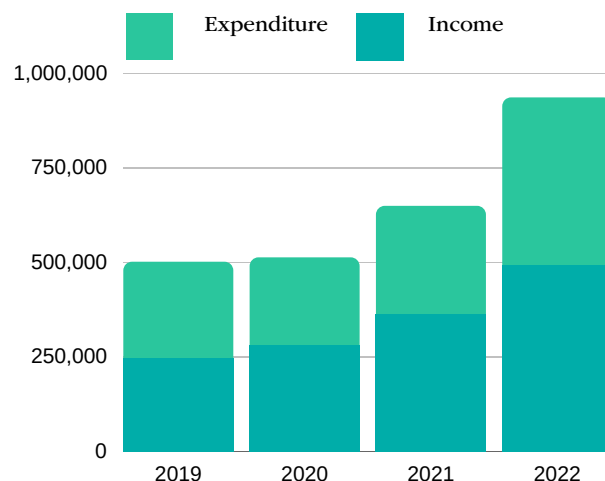
USA	
Advertising and Marketing	\$6,177
Printing and Postage	\$377
Information Technology	\$1,630
Insurance	\$1,539
Office Expenses	\$573
Other	\$197
Travel	\$117
Professional Fees	\$3,027
Total	\$13,637

Gross Expenditure	\$453,610
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Kasili Project Inc Statement of Financial Position As of December 31, 2022

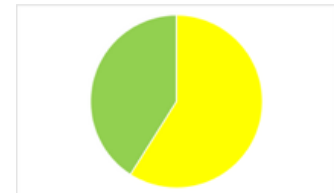
	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Bank of America Checking 1	170,058.90
Bank of America Checking 2	1,855.19
Bank of America Savings	146,775.50
Total Bank Accounts	\$318,689.59
Total Current Assets	\$318,689.59
TOTAL ASSETS	\$318,689.59
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Restricted net assets	107,579.00
Unrestricted net assets	172,802.80
Net Revenue	38,307.79
Total Equity	\$318,689.59
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$318,689.59

Income and Expenditure 2019-2022



INCOME
\$491,920

RESTRICTED 59%



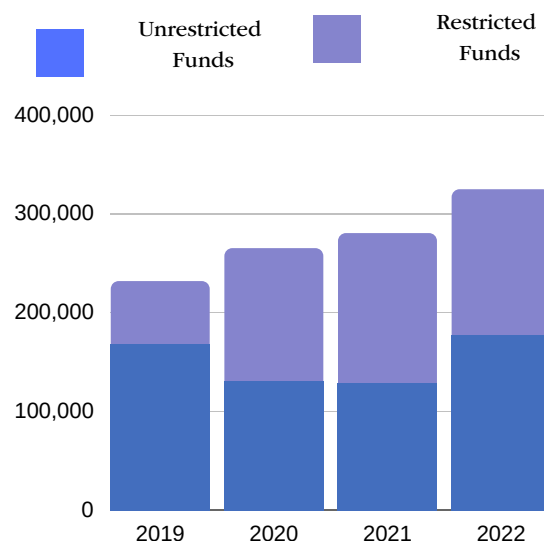
UNRESTRICTED 41%

EXPENDITURE
\$453,610



CONSERVATION 37%
HEALTH 16%
EDUCATION 47%

End of year balances 2019-2022



VOLUNTEERS AND RESEARCH

In 2022 we hosted 11 students through the Laidlaw Foundation "Laidlaw Scholars Leadership and Research Programme"- designed to create a new generation of leaders who care about solving intractable problems; who behave with integrity and are determined to make the world a better place."

They worked with our staff to improve health and conservation programs and to promote project sustainability.



Graduate students from Boston College studied children's understanding of supernatural agents: what properties can be attributed to religious vs non-religious entities; children's willingness to intervene on behalf of others in the face of wrongdoing (dependent on their belief in a punitive God) and children's expectations of God's parochialism (to what extent will God favor religious in-group members in an allocation task)

CONSERVATION



The International Elephant Foundation knows that there is no one-size-fits-all with conservation, and partnering with local experts like The Kibale Forest Schools Program makes the greatest, sustainable positive impact. Over many years we have seen the dedication, adaptability, and creativity that KFSP brings to community outreach and education and proudly support this work. Making the world smaller by building connections between communities and wildlife is exactly how to protect and preserve elephants and IEF is proud to partner with their efforts.

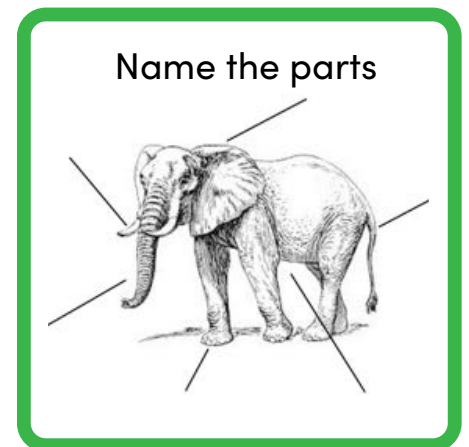
Conservation Education

Our school based conservation education programs are focused primarily in school Wildlife Clubs. At the beginning of 2022, we began by enrolling a total of 700 new members. Schools with an enrollment below 500 children have 30 club members and those with more than 500 children have 50. Member knowledge and attitudes to the environment and its wildlife were evaluated before activities began. After a break of 2 years, our programs in 2022 were mainly designed to be environmental refresher courses for naive and experienced students with a focus on our key species, chimpanzees and elephants.



Curriculum Development

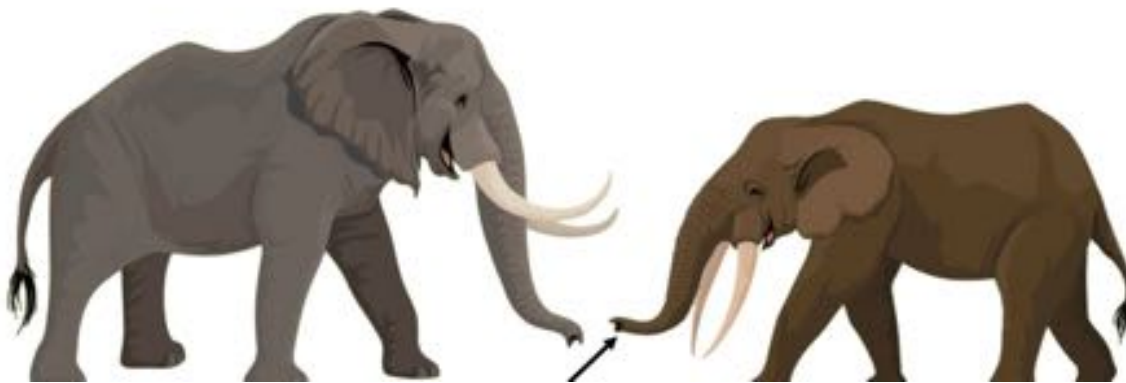
During the summer we worked with a group of students from the Laidlaw Scholarship Program to develop and implement new curricula to teach elephant and chimpanzee conservation. Posters, worksheets and games were designed to increase knowledge, awareness, respect, and empathy towards elephants and chimpanzees.



Savannah vs Forest Elephants in Uganda Fact-Check

Species: _____ vs Species: _____

Instructions: connect the fact with the correct elephant species



World Chimpanzee Day

On July 14th we celebrated World Chimpanzee Day. Partnering with Uganda Wildlife Authority rangers, we participated in school assemblies to share threats to chimpanzees and the importance of their conservation.



Pseudospondias Microcarpa (PSD) Nursery Bed Project

In collaboration with the Kibale Chimpanzee Project our conservation education team gave talks to wildlife clubs on the potential health benefits of PSD leaves, for chimpanzees. The team helped schools prepare nursery beds and plant PSD seeds to raise saplings for ongoing research aimed at identifying pharmacologically active substances in young leaves.



Chimpanzee Food from Fruit
Human Medicine from Bark
Chimpanzee Medicine from Leaves?



World Wildlife Day

World wildlife day was celebrated on 3rd March, 2022. All 16-schools participated in the National Art and Essay competition organized by The Uganda Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities. Students sorted rubbish into compostable and non-biodegradable pits, planted indigenous treea, wrote and performed poetry, listened to guest lectures from the Uganda Wildlife Authority and made posters celebrating Uganda's wildlife.

CHILDREN
PARTICIPATED IN
CELEBRATING
WORLD WILDLIFE
DAY

600



16

Healthy Children: Healthy Apes



Thanks to funding from the Arcus Foundation we expanded our project tracking the pathway of pediatric respiratory viruses from children to chimpanzees to 3 more great ape sites - two chimpanzee and one mountain gorilla, changing the name of the project to Healthy Children: Healthy Apes. Viral analyses at the University of Wisconsin identified the common viruses that cause respiratory disease in children and chimpanzees.. Results so far were shared with everyone who took part in the project and with local health education and protected area authorities

"Healthy Children, Healthy Chimps" was a three-year-long study of respiratory illness in Kabale District that took place before, during, and after COVID-19 lockdown. We took samples and asked about the health of (1) young children attending three local primary schools, (2) adults working at Makerere University Biological Field Station, and (3) chimpanzees living in Kibale National Park. We wanted to understand and predict patterns of respiratory illness in both people and chimpanzees to see if these patterns are related and to find ways to keep children and chimpanzees healthy in the future.

Conclusions:

Respiratory illness in children is very common and peaks in February each year. The same respiratory viruses in communities near Kibale affect chimpanzees, too.

Keeping people healthy (through lockdown, but also through normal good hygiene practices like handwashing and masking) benefits children and also chimpanzees.

A circular logo with the text "HEALTHY CHILDREN" at the top and "HEALTHY CHIMPS" at the bottom. In the center is a map of Africa with two silhouettes of people jumping over it.

A photograph of a man in a white lab coat and gloves examining the head of a young child sitting in a chair.

For more information, please contact:

Kibale Forest Schools Program
P.O. Box 205
Fort Portal, Uganda
Tel: 0393241052

Many thanks to our sponsors:

A row of logos for the project's sponsors, including NIH, Arcus Foundation, Kibale Forest Schools Program, Morris Animal Foundation, and others.

LESSONS LEARNED FROM A ONE HEALTH COHORT STUDY NEAR KIBALE NATIONAL PARK

A row of logos for partner organizations, including AKFSP, The Kasiisi project, WISCONSIN, KIBALE CHIMPANZEE PROJECT, and others.



.....

Common Colds, Common Patterns

Children felt sick from respiratory illness often (80% of the time)! Adults felt sick much less often (25% of the time). This pattern is normal compared to other parts of the world, but illness in children in our study was higher than official counts. This means respiratory disease in children may be underestimated here.

There were no differences between Kanyawars Nursery School and Kiko Primary School, but children at Rwebesera Primary School felt sick more often than children at the other two schools.

Children felt sick in February more often than any other month of the year. Chimpanzees get sick from respiratory disease most often in March (right after February).

The most common viruses detected in people were "common cold" viruses:

rhinovirus
metapneumovirus
parainfluenza virus

These are the same viruses that have caused deadly respiratory disease in chimpanzees in Kibale National Park over at least the past 10 years.

.....

COVID-19

COVID-19 was very rare (only 5 cases out of 2,000 nasal swabs) and so was flu (4 cases).

Lockdown for COVID-19 greatly reduced all respiratory illness in children. After lockdown ended, illness stayed lower than before COVID-19.

Lockdown greatly reduced respiratory illness in Kibale chimpanzees, too. They have not had an outbreak since January 2020 (as of January 2023).

LESSONS LEARNED FROM A ONE HEALTH COHORT STUDY NEAR KIBALE NATIONAL PARK





Participating
Beekeepers
60

Health Data Points
Collected

780,672

Colony Productivity
Data points

63,912

Physical Hive
Checks

1654

Rainfall Data
Points

1534

iNaturalist
Flower Records

2,200

African Honey Bees



Using devices that continuously record hive temperature, humidity and weight we monitored colony health, size and productivity, along with ambient temperatures and rain fall. We ground-truthed our data with physical hive checks and collection of daily rainfall data.



NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC

**akron
zoo**

**OKC
ZOO**

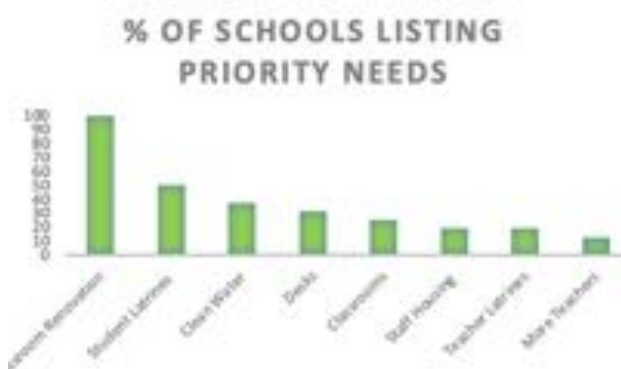




EDUCATION



What Schools Needed

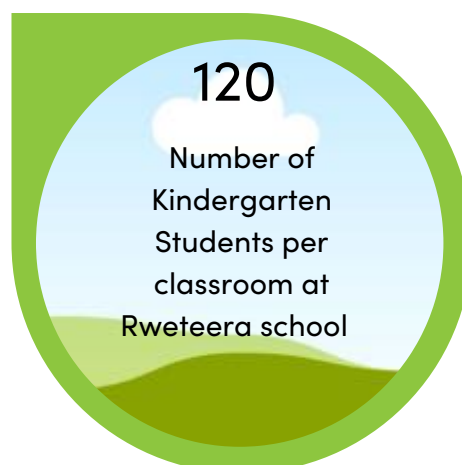
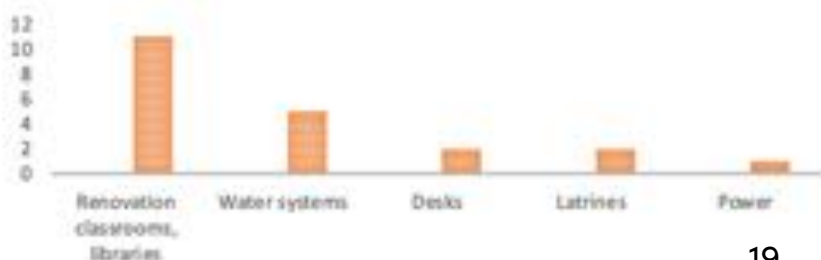


When the Ugandan government closed schools our education programs were the hardest hit. There were no classes for Primary School children, and while our secondary and college scholars had some access to distance learning for the first semester, few rural villages had sufficient technology to allow students to log in. Despite our program bringing school work into the villages both children and their schools suffered from 2 years of neglect and lack of government funding. During the pandemic we continued adding infrastructure as we could - notably, new bore holes for clean water, but with head teachers in distant villages, and a lack of manpower to turn the drill, we were able to only take initial steps. Since schools opened we assigned Head Teachers \$1,000 each to spend on their most pressing needs. However, many schools lack clean water, latrines and enough desks, in addition to needing general repairs of floors, windows, roofs and furniture.

As children returned to school great emphasis was placed on prevention of COVID. All teachers were vaccinated and hand washing stations were set up with all children required to wash their hands frequently. Desks were disinfected and everyone wore masks. Teachers screened children for signs of COVID every morning and any students showing symptoms were isolated.

Teachers reported students had forgotten most of what they knew before lockdown, and curricula were modified to help them catch up. In addition they had been much more engaged in social and economic activities during school closures, making them less interested in education. Schools are providing counselling and support to help them settle back into school work again.

SCHOOL CHOICE OF HOW TO SPEND \$1,000 EMERGENCY FUNDING ON SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE



Scholarships

In 2022, with generous support from all of you who sponsor our scholars, 43 young people attended good secondary schools and colleges.



Secondary School
Scholars
25



Nurses, Pharmacists,
Operating Theatre
Technicians

7



Medical School **1**

Makerere University **1**

Hotels % Tourism **3**

Electricians & Plumbers **4**

Teaching **1**

Mechanics **1**



**KASIISI
SCHOLARS**

2022

GIRLS

24

BOYS

18

HEALTH



6,000

Children reached
by our
health education
programs

Due to post COVID struggles in schools recovering from lockdown, getting health programs going again took time. However, after consultation with head teachers and district education and health officials, priority topics were chosen and we were given the go-ahead to introduce a number of initiatives.

Schools

Our health team worked with the senior men and women teachers of our 16 primary schools to form health clubs and to select peer-educators to share accurate information with their classmates. We gave talks to create awareness about growing up and the challenges puberty can bring. Our health team spoke to 800 student members of the health clubs, and reached out to over 5,000 more through peer-to-peer education.

With help from the Laidlaw scholars, our health team worked with schools and health authorities to develop tools to create awareness in schools and communities, about sexual and reproductive health, food and nutrition, hygiene and sanitation.

We commemorated 2 important days - Global Hand Washing Day and World Aids Day.

Global Hand-washing Day Unite for Universal Hygiene

Handwashing, Tippy Taps, Poems, Plays

5,000

Children

250

Parents



World AIDS Day

HIV testing, HIV Counselling,
Cervical HPV Smears

People Tested for HIV

300



Mobile Clinic Outreach

We collaborated with Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) and Government Health facilities to offer free medical services to 7 communities reaching over 900 people living near Kibale National Park.

People Served by Mobile Clinic
900

Training Village Health Teams and Teachers

Together with the students from the Laidlaw Scholarship Program, we trained 18 VHTs on the management of common health issues and emergencies in schools and communities.

Village Health Team Members Attending Training Workshops **18**

GIRL GUIDES



for girlsake

As part of our goal to help schools foster strong, confident girls, we support Girl Guides. Funded by Forgirlsake and in collaboration with the Uganda Girl Guides Association, KFSP conducted a 2-day training for 16 female teachers, helping expand Guides into all our schools.

Subsequently, a competitive 2-day camp was hosted by KFSP at the Kasiisi farm. All 16 schools participated, with 157 girls and female teachers attending. The camp created an opportunity for the girls to practice and learn teamwork, resolve conflicts and improve their communication skills. It promoted healthy social development along with offering adventure, challenge, and fun. The girls learned leadership skills, made happy memories and developed an appreciation for nature.



New Girl Guide
Leaders Trained

16



Girls attending
Girl
Guide Camp

157





WANT TO HELP? Contact us

www.kasiisiprject.org
1 Carley Rd., Lexington, MA 02421
781 801 6994

Kasiisi Project

Kibale Forest Schools' Program



Suzi Eszterhas