



RUAHA CONSERVATION FUND



ENVIRONMENTAL ART BY MSEMBE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Some time ago I was given a large box of high quality colouring pencils, paper, pencils, rubbers and sharpeners, sufficient for 50 students, by Bessie and Chip Turner of South Africa. I have been waiting for the right opportunity in which to use this wonderful donation, then a few weeks ago, Msembe school, which is where all the park Rangers children go, asked me if I could assist them with some art materials. An international group of vet students and qualified vets (Envirovets) were to visit the school, and the head teacher wanted to display artwork, by the standard 7 students (12-13 year olds) depicting environmental issues and facts in and around Ruaha Park. This was the perfect time to use the box of materials. I went down to help the children display the work, the

drawings were large and each with their individual style. I was incredibly impressed by their achievements, I am sure you will be also. They receive no art practice at school at all. Beside each drawing are interesting facts to explain the artwork. The enthusiasm of the boys was tangible. One boy in particular, so was keen for me to critique his work he rushed off and brought back another batch of work he had done and asked me to look at them as well. His eyes were sparkling with excitement as I commented on his achievements. The photos below depict the 5 boys standing by their respective artworks, these 5 really excelled themselves. I will follow up with some art lessons for these talented boys in the future. We are very grateful to Bessie and Chip for their donation.



SCHOOL TRIPS TO RUAHA PARK



The annual school trips were their usual success!

LAST YEAR WE SENT
600 STUDENTS FOR AN
OUTING TO THE PARK!

1. THE DAY BEGINS EARLY FOR THE EXCITED CHILDREN. THEY ARE FROM STANDARD 6, WHICH MEANS THEY ARE ABOUT 11 YEARS OLD.
2. AT THE PARK ENTRANCE GATE THEY COLLECT A PARK GUIDE WHO GIVES THEM AN EXCITING TOUR.
3. THEY RETURN TO HQ FOR A LATE, BUT DELICIOUS LUNCH, AND THEN LEAVE FOR HOME VIA THE HIPPO AND CROC

The annual school trips to Ruaha Park are without doubt the highlight of the year for all the children and is an eagerly awaited event.

The trips took place during a week in November last year. Most of the groups saw lions, some saw ostrich and cheetah, which was very unusual, and of course many elephants, buffalo, zebra, giraffe and all the more usual antelope and small mammals.

A memorable time for all!

Thank you!

To our Dutch donors for their continued support. Harry and Ans have sponsored these trips for the past 9 years, plus the other annual activities, such as World Environmental day celebrations, and the overnight stay in Ruaha for the top 21 students in the 7 primary schools.

We would not have been able to ensure the continuity of our programs without these two very special people! Thank you

FUNDING FOR THE PRIMARY SCHOOLS.

When Rob and I were exhibiting at the Houston Zoo, in Texas, USA, earlier this year, their community conservation program kindly donated to RCF (Ruaha Conservation Fund) a princely sum of \$5,000. After much deliberation we have decided that, in conjunction with Jongomero Camp, we will ask the 7 primary schools to come up with a wish list of items they need to the value of \$1,000 per school. We will then buy the equipment and items they require and send them down to the respective schools. These schools are all run by the Government, therefore, funding is minimal, and so the schools are in need of everything from teaching aids, text books, desks and chairs, to cement. We are very grateful to the Houston Zoo for this generous donation and to Jongomero Camp for their constant efforts to work with the communities. This photo shows a classroom in Idodi Primary school.



CLASS ROOM IN A PRIMARY SCHOOL

ENVIRONMENTAL DAY CELEBRATIONS

As you may already know we support 7 primary schools (Primary school children are aged 7 to 13 years) in the immediate vicinity of Ruaha Park. On June 5th we had environmental day celebrations at the Makifu and Mauhninga schools, then the following week end Idodi, Kitanewa, Kitesi, Tungamalenga and Msembe Schools celebrated their Environmental day. It has been split up to avoid transport costs. As usual the schools put on a wonderful array of songs and plays highlighting environmental issues and events.

We then awarded the 3 top, scholastic students in each school, prizes; books, geometry sets and pens, plus, an overnight stay for the 21 students will be organized later on this year. As always, this day is well organized by the schools' committees, and a much enjoyed, festive event. Most schools in rural Tanzania, do not have the resources to stage events such as this.



PHOTO COLLAGE



Bringing the books to the primary schools



environmental initiatives in the primary schools and villages

SOLAR LIGHTING NOW INSTALLED.

The solar lighting, kindly donated to us by Connie Moosbauer, from Austria, was installed into one of the dormitories in Idodi Secondary school.

Finally, I would like to end this update by telling you how ones efforts can continue by themselves; some years ago, with the help and expertise of Ben Please we made a short film in Kiswahili, depicting the problems faced by Wild Dogs in the village areas surrounding the Ruaha Park. Dr Dulle interviewed the various stakeholders, hearing their issues, their reasons why Wild dogs were a problem for them, then we interviewed stakeholders inside the park, the Chief Park warden, Park Ecologist, the guides at Jongomero and Mdonya Camp, this was skilfully put together with music from the schools, to form a good overview of the pros and cons. The outcome showing how Wild dogs were indeed beneficial to the

people of Tanzania,. Anyway, to our delight, during the Environmental week in June, the Tanzania Broadcasting company aired this film on National TV.

They have continued to show on TV, parts of the film in other environmental programs over the past few weeks. So we are very grateful to all involved for making this happen.

Thank you all for your support and interest!

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