



RUAHA CONSERVATION FUND



Makifu school Library

The Library was completed in August last year (2015). It has been a great success. The students use the facility for study periods and also for extra classes. The books that you see on the shelves seem rather sparse! We are waiting for the new books for the new syllabus to appear in print. This seems to be taking rather longer than expected. But the head of the school is adamant that we wait, so as to get the latest version needed. However, in the mean time, we have been purchasing a few books, that may be of use to the students. Books written in Kiswahili are the most popular.

The photos below, depict the interior of the library, and the teachers, with Rob and Teresa O'Regan, visiting from Ireland, in November 2015. On this occasion we brought some books and new games uniforms for the students.



MAKIFU SCHOOL LIBRARY



1. Students in the new games uniforms posing for a photo, top left.
2. Some of the books we brought for the library and the head teacher, center
3. The library in action, left and top right
4. Becky and Tony Geiselman on their last visit to Ruaha. Cullen Geiselman, Tony's daughter not in the photo, donated to this project as well.

SCHOOL TRIPS TO RUAHA

Once again the annual school trips to the park were a huge success. They took place in September 2015. I had the opportunity to speak with one of the students, Joseph Hwaga, who was on one of the tours this year. He told me he had been looking forward to this trip for several years. He had not been disappointed. They saw lions, elephants, giraffe and all the animals he had heard about. His father worked in one of the camps in the park, and so he had heard many stories about what it was like.

He enjoyed seeing the crocodiles and hippos in the river commented that the lunch at head quarters was also delicious! Especially the 'soda' he had with it.

Its thanks to Harry Vlek and Ans De Winter that important, and memorable trips take place. Our sincere thanks to you both.



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Mkuyu Guiding School



Leonard the young man with a big vision.

<http://www.mkuyu-guideschool.org>

The key program of Mkuyu Guiding School is maintaining a Bush School focus, providing an outdoor learning environment based on real life experiences that foster knowledge and appreciation of the land, and its plants and animals.



Mkuyu Guiding school gives hope to young school leavers from all walks of life and all levels of education.

Mkuyu Guiding school was started by a young man called Leonard Fidelis. He saw a need for, hands on, practical courses to be made available to the average Tanzanian. He launched out on his own by making himself available to anyone who needed help in this area. We first met him in 2013 when we employed him, to help us train up our Masai guides for the cultural tourism program.

Classes take place outdoors under a grass roof banda, as do meal and study times. Accommodation is simple - tents beneath bandas. This means that students spend a significant amount of time outside in close contact with nature. Such experience is priceless, developing keen skills and knowledge of the bush alongside a deep appreciation of nature. This unique and intensive experience gives Mkuyu students a strong competitive edge for employment.

*** We have purchased a new lap top computer for Mkuyu School, to assist them with their studies.**

This is their first computer.

*** We have sponsored a young man from a poor family, to attend the school for the full 6 month course**

*** Brian Bode has donated some excellent guiding books to assist with their studies.**

We certainly will be focusing attention on this inspirational school, we would like to raise some funds to help with some of the developments.

We hope to encourage top level, guide trainers, to visit on a regular basis to keep upping the standards.

PHOTOS FROM 2015 AND 2016



FLOODING RIVERS DESTROY CROPS



farmer Hamisi



village life



new computer for Mkuyu guide school

random projects

Environmental film shows

We gave \$1000 to Wild Life Connections to purchase a generator.

This will assist them with their environmental film shows in the villages.

These are films in Kiswahili made by Simon Trevor, the founder of AEFF

Hannah Shaw

www.thewildlifeconnection.org

Lucy Ng'ang'a

[<aeff@africaonline.co.ke>](mailto:aeff@africaonline.co.ke)

FLOODING IN THE VILLAGES

Farmers in the villages on the eastern boundary of the park have been hit by massive floods and had their crops ruined. As a result we have identified one of the farmers, in Mapogoro village, Hamisi, and will be giving him funds to replant his crops and hope that they survive to maturity. The money for this project has been generated from the sale of the park maps.

THANK YOU!

We have had some great support from Margaret Smith from Ireland, who is sponsoring Amani through secondary school in Idodi and purchasing books for the Makifu Library. Thank you Margaret!

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