

Project Update: November 2011

KISTOC FIELD REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The year 2011 has not been a very easy one for the KISTOC fraternity and stakeholders. The programs that were set out to be done at the first half of the year were a flop due to funds getting lost. However we have managed to get back to our feet by changing the leadership of KISTOC.

With our meager resources and making sacrifices here and there, we have managed to carry out our laid out programme for the two months of October and November. We had to hire a projector to enable us do our work. We appreciate the encouragement you Jan and Grace has given us to reach this far. We are now more focused than ever before and it is our prayers and hope that you continue to work with KISTOC and give us assistance where necessary.

Peter is also a big asset to us and I have seen how instrumental he has been in propagating the conservation message to our school clubs. It's our wish that he continues to work with us with your seconding.

SCHOOLS REPORT

1. JOEL OMINO PRIMARY SCHOOL

This was the first school we visited; we met the patron Ms Gladys together with the ever active club members.

We managed to talk to the members but under a heavy downpour of rain for one and a half hours. We couldn't use our projector due to a low power voltage output from the mains and we also forgot to carry our cameras on this first outing, so no pictures to support our visit.

There was active participation during the talk on biodiversity and conservation by the pupils. The club members requested to be taken for a trip into Lake Victoria and its environs. They also requested for a fish aquarium and a camera to cover their activities.

A questionnaire to be given to the club members before the schools close in mid November.

2. Dr. Aloo Gumbi Mixed Sec. School

We were welcomed by the patron Ms Ruth Otieno and we had our presentation on conservation and biodiversity for one hour.

There was active participation from members and they asked us many questions concerning the otter and its habitat. This was after showing them a three minute video named "my friend the otter" showing how the otter hunts and feeds on crabs and fish.

The club members have continued to plant more trees in the school compound as one of their major activity.

The club needs some funding to continue planting more trees. They also requested if KISTOC could arrange for some trips to the wetland areas around the lake.

3. ARYA PRIMARY SCHOOL

This is one of the new schools that has been added to the membership of KISTOC clubs this year. Under the able patronage of Madam B. Lare the club of young boys and girls were very impressive in their participation during the conservation talk.

They have tree planting activities in the school and have been involved in cleaning of some of the streets in Kisumu town.

It's also one of the schools in which Peter had put up an aquarium before and they requested to have a new aquarium put up in the school.

The patron is a very active conservationist and has attended a number of workshops organized by Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) and Wildlife clubs of Kenya (WCK).

4. KASAGAM SECONDARY SCHOOL

This is a mixed school where both girls and boys have developed a lot of interest on the animal called Otter. The patron is Mr. Ojwang K. who has worked tirelessly to make sure that the club remains true to its image.

The club members were very enthusiastic on the biodiversity and conservation talk and asked many questions on conservation.

The club member reminded us to inform you (Jan) of the trip you promised them and when it will take place, they also requested for a camera to cover their activities like afforestation going on in the school.

5. NYABONDO HIGH SCHOOL

This is a boy's secondary school lying in the Nyabondo plateau and it is the furthest KISTOC member school.

Mr. Jared Opanga who is also the KISTOC Treasurer doubles up as the school club patron.

Four KISTOC patrons were present during our presentation at the school and these were Ms Roselyn Abunge of Kisumu Girls, Mr. Ken Ojwang, Mr. Opanga and myself. This is a show of solidarity and how we intend to continue working together as a team.

Mr. Nyamenya Peter really made the talk interesting by injecting a lot of reality in the conservation of wildlife.

The tree nursery project by the club is ongoing but needs more support. The camera you (Jan) donated to the club was faulty and has never been used.

The club members too requested for a trip to compliment their activities. The questionnaires to be given out as the boys go home for the long December holidays.

6. KISUMU GIRLS H. SCHOOL

This is a girls only secondary school situated in within Kisumu town and the patron of the club is non other than KISTOC secretary Ms Roselyn Abunge who has been with KISTOC since its inception. The club

has been involved in town cleaning activities, especially the market areas and the town streets. The club members have a lot of artwork depicting our cultural African heritage that are related to the use of some materials from the wetlands.

The girls were very impressed with the three minute video “my friend the otter” as this gave them an insight of how the otter lives and in what kind of habitat. The talk majorly covered the biodiversity and conservation around the lake.

Participation of the club members was very good and at the end of it all the club gave a presentation on culture and heritage.

The members here also requested for a trip to the lake and its environs.

CONCLUSION

The only school that we were unable to visit was a primary school by the name of Xaverian primary school. Twice we booked to have the club members and for all those times the school had some activities going on. The school is right at the centre of the town and therefore very crucial for education activities within the municipality. We shall visit the school in our next round of activities next year for the schools that we didn't visit.

Peter and I are the ones who presented to the club members as we went round to schools, but we are working on a programme that is all conclusive and all the patrons will be in a position to give a presentation where possible.

It will be necessary to organize trips for the clubs to increase their level of interest and to motivate them and to make them appreciate the biodiversity of our wetlands and environment as a whole.

The libraries will circulate from next term when schools open.