



PROJECT OVERVIEW



Connecting communities and wildlife

A project from





CONTENTS

Introduction	4
Ranger training, support and exchange trips	6
School twinning and education projects	10
Community engagement initiatives	14
The next five years	16
How we are funded	18
How you can help	20
Project partners	22
Contact us	24



Jan Allnutt of QEPTP meets rangers from Queen Elizabeth National Park at Bukorwe

INTRODUCTION

4
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Queen Elizabeth Parks Twinning Project (QEPTP) is a Nature’s Frontline project, connecting the communities and staff of **Queen Elizabeth National Park** in Uganda and **Queen Elizabeth Country Park** in Hampshire, UK.

QEPTP is a project of cultural exchange and mutual support that focuses on wildlife conservation through working closely with and empowering local communities and supporting education initiatives; and exchanging ideas and best practice between the staff of the two Queen Elizabeth parks.



Fundamental to the success of our project is the jointly held belief that wildlife conservation is best served by innovative ways of engaging with **people.**

There are three key areas to our project, all with conservation at their heart:

Ranger training, support and exchange trips

School twinning and education projects

Community engagement initiatives

Nature's Frontline is a UK-based organisation dedicated to helping rangers tell their stories and sharing them with a larger audience. Nature's Frontline oversees a number of projects aimed at supporting ranger-led conservation initiatives.



RANGER TRAINING SUPPORT AND EXCHANGE TRIPS

6

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We support conservation in both Queen Elizabeth Parks by encouraging rangers and other park staff to participate in exchange visits and other training opportunities.

By providing these opportunities, the park staff, volunteers and communities surrounding the parks have a positive impact on conservation.



We support:

Training and mentoring

Workshops have been developed to support ranger development.

Exchange visits

Park rangers from both parks have participated in exchange visits, helping develop ideas and key skills.

Encouraging positive connections

Between rangers and the park communities.

8
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RANGER TRAINING SUPPORT AND EXCHANGE TRIPS

Key achievements

32 rangers and volunteer rangers have taken part in exchange visits

Field equipment, uniform and books donated to Ugandan rangers

UK rangers have put telemetry skills learnt in Uganda in to practise in the UK

Developing a training workshop, 'The Art of Interpretation'

Establishing an informal link with Queen's Park Rangers FC, leading to donations of football kit, and the establishment of a 'Queen's Park rangers' football team in Uganda



SCHOOL TWINNING & EDUCATION PROJECTS

10

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We believe that education is the key to successful and sustainable conservation.

By supporting schools and bringing conservation into the classroom, children in both the UK and Uganda understand the importance of their local parks and the wildlife within them.



Ideas and information exchanged include subjects such as culture, citizenship, geography, and environmental studies

Education initiatives developed

Fourteen Ugandan and UK schools involved in twinning

Facilitation of Teacher Cluster Groups in both Uganda and the UK

Organisation of environmental and sustainability training events

Plan to get a laptop or tablet plus internet connection into each of our Ugandan twinned schools



12

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The exchange visits and improved communication between the schools has created the ultimate opportunity for cultural learning and an excellent basis to develop joint pupil learning experiences



Key achievements

Sixteen teachers have taken part in teacher exchange visits

Five twinned school blog sites set up

Two successful British Council 'Connecting classrooms' grant applications

A new toilet block at Bukorwe School

Laptops or tablets plus internet connection established at five Ugandan schools

The setting up of a weather station in Bukorwe and Clanfield schools, to swap climate information



14

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We visit community groups both in Uganda and the UK, engaging with people and talking about the role of rangers, culture exchange and local community involvement in wildlife conservation.

In Uganda

We support the work of the Queen Elizabeth National Park's community team and seek to support those communities involved in ecotourism initiatives, social enterprises and environmental improvements.

Examples: supporting craft initiatives at Katunguru, Kikironko and Katwe.



The Katunguru
Women's Project

In the UK

We give talks, attend events and support those who wish to engage in cultural partnership. We also provide opportunities for people to take part in voluntary work in both Queen Elizabeth Parks.

Example: 'Art for Africa' combined community participation with fundraising and cultural activity. Volunteers created a giant collage of a lion, raising vital funds for the project and raising awareness of the work we do.

Ranger exchange visits and training

Minimum of two exchange visits per year

Ranger 'Art of Interpretation' workshop in Uganda in 2015, 2017 and 2019

Media production training pilot in Uganda in 2015

Ranger training workshop in UK in 2018

Creation of an educational centre at Bukorwe Ranger Station

Continue with support of Ugandan rangers

Establishment of John Muir Award at both Queen Elizabeth Parks by 2019

Paid ranger (part time) to organise QEPTP activities in Uganda by 2019

School twinning and education projects

Two teacher exchange visits per year

All Ugandan twinned schools to have tablet and internet access by 2017

Establishment of an after-school Twinning Project club at each of the UK twinned schools by 2018

Four cluster meetings per year, per country

African/English-themed events at each twinned school once per year by 2018

Provision of electricity to Katunguru Primary School by 2019

Establishment of a Conservation Club (in Uganda) and Honorary Park Rangers (in UK) at all twinned schools by 2019

Paid teacher (part time) to run the school twinning and education projects programme in the UK by 2019

Management and administration

Seek funding for a part-time administrator or project officer by 2019

Create a programme of fundraising activities and events

Investigate grant aid opportunities and apply where appropriate

Develop partnerships with likeminded organisations

Community engagement initiatives

Investigate the feasibility of a community facility or building in QENP to be used for the development of eco-tourism and sustainability projects

Continue with support for craft/souvenirs initiatives in Uganda

Minimum of fifty community visits, events and talks per year

QEPTP to support the development of community-based volunteer rangers through training, mentoring and funding activities

Other key targets

Develop the use of Hippo House as the QEPTP Uganda headquarters and confirm its legal status

Make repairs to Hippo House by 2017

To continue to work closely with and support the development of Range Land Safaris

HOW WE ARE FUNDED

18
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We are currently entirely funded through donations, grants and the fundraising activities of the project team. Because everyone involved does so voluntarily, administration costs are kept to a minimum.

The core areas of expenditure are:

Training and education projects

Exchange visits

Supporting local community initiatives



We have received a number of kind donations of equipment and logistical support from other organisations:

Denplan

Harper Collins Publishers

Power Traveller

Queen's Park Rangers FC

Hampshire Transport Management



20

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We need help in three core areas:

Funding

We rely on donations, grants and partnerships in order to facilitate our work. We are constantly looking for new funding opportunities and support from UK and Ugandan businesses. If you can help with funding ideas or own a business that would like to support our project, please get in touch.

Volunteers

We rely on volunteers for both day-to-day running and fundraising activities. If you have skills that you think might be of use to our project in either the UK or Uganda, please get in touch.



Publicity

Because the core part of our mission is social engagement to further conservation, we need people to support us through our social media channels:

 @QEPtwinning

 /qeptp



PROJECT PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS

22

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We are indebted to the following organisations who support our project:

Uganda Wildlife Authority

PACE

International Ranger Federation

University of Exeter Banded Mongoose Project

Range Land Safaris, Uganda





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