



ANNUAL REPORT 2019-20

Queen Elizabeth Parks Project

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INTRODUCTION AND HIGHLIGHTS

Introduction

This is the Queen Elizabeth Parks Project Annual Report 2019/20. It contains highlights of the key aspects of the Project's performance and work including an account summary for the financial year running 1st April 2018 to the 31st March 2019 as well as an outline of the key priorities for the coming year.

The Project does not currently turn over sufficient funds to produce full audited accounts and report as required by the Charity Commission, however the project considers making its accounts and undertakings accessible to the wider community an important part of its charitable obligations.

Therefore, The Project Trustees have made their Annual Report available for download from the Project website.

Project Background – *'Connecting People and Wildlife'*

Officially created in 2009, The Queen Elizabeth Parks Project is small community conservation charity which brings together Rangers, Staff, Teachers and Volunteers working or living in and around the Queen Elizabeth National Park in Uganda and the Queen Elizabeth Country Park in the United Kingdom.

The Project was founded by Charles Etoru and Steve Peach who met at an International Ranger Federation Congress and where both representing 'Queen Elizabeth Parks'.

The Project operates under a 'Memorandum of Understanding' and is registered as a charity in the UK.

The Project's three core areas of work are Ranger Support, Community Conservation and Cultural and Environmental Education. The majority of the work is undertaken unpaid as most of the key project personnel work in a voluntary capacity.



Financial Highlights

The 2018/19 accounting period was a sedate one. As in previous years our main sources of income were the Park to Park Challenge, donations through PayPal and craft sales.

Income was down on previous years but some of this can be explained by the fact that a number of the activities we undertook during the year were funded directly by donors and benefactor individuals and organisations.

This means that some of this funding does not show up in our accounts and very much fits in with Project's ethos of being catalysts and facilitators, rather than always been the activity lead.

The main areas of expenditure were Education & Community 41%, Ranger Support 26% and travel 13% with Project admin costs remaining at about 3%.

Financial Statement 2018/19

Analysis		
Item	Income	Expenditure
Donations	958.05	
Sales	153	
Grants	0	
Talks	180	
Sponsorship	390	
Interest	0	
Other Income	22.4	
Admin and IT		81.99
Travel and Expenses		355.47
Promotion and Publicity		167.37
Education and Community		1060.81
Ranger Support		681.95
Equipment		228.01
Other Expenditure		
	1703.45	2575.6

Totals	
Income	1703.45
Expenditure	2575.6
Income over Expenditure	-872.15
Balance at Bank Year start	2037.11
Balance at Bank Year End	1030.84
Petty Cash Start	22.59

Operational Highlights

Community Engagement Work Shop – Follow Up

Last year the Queen Elizabeth Parks Project devised and delivered a Community Engagement Workshop for Uganda Wildlife Authority's Community Wardens and Senior Rangers.

The Workshop was mainly funded through a grant from the Thin Green Line Foundation and was endorsed by the International Ranger Federation.

Each of Uganda's National Parks was represented and a number of local community engagement experts took part including Chimpanzee Conservancy Association, Community Initiatives for Biodiversity Conservation, Makerere University College of Natural Sciences, Pan African Conservation and Education & Gabba Teacher Training College.

It was agreed that during 2019 the Project would make a follow up visit to Mount Elgon National Park to look at the impact of the Community Engagement workshop and explore ways of improving on future workshop provision and community engagement practice.

The visit took part in July with a team of three, Chair of Trustees, Jan Allnutt, Project Leader Steve Peach and a Ranger from Queen Elizabeth Country Park UK, Ashlea Walters.

The visit was led by Community Warden John Tugume and lasted for 3 days. During which time the team met with a variety of Rangers and other Park staff as well as engaging with members of the local community.

The Team had a really informative meeting with Conservation Area Manager Fred Kizza and agreed some ideas for future joint working that could be investigated.

The Project would like to thank Fred Kizza, John Tugume and all the staff at Mount Elgon National Park for their kind hospitality and support.

Ranger Support

A key Project activity is support for Rangers, especially our colleagues in Uganda.

During 2019 we were able to provide some Rangers with laptops which will help these Rangers both personally and professionally.

As always, the Project managed to recycle redundant uniform ensuring that a number of Rangers at the Queen Elizabeth National Park benefited. The Project also managed to donate some other items of equipment including cameras, binoculars, field guides and first aid kits.

During every visit to Uganda time is put aside to help with Ranger development and mentoring and this year a UK Ranger was also a beneficiary of this mentoring process. Ashlea Walters, Ranger from Queen Elizabeth National Park took part in an exchange visit spending time learning about a wide range of topics from Law Enforcement, Tourism, Education and Community Engagement.

The Project was also blessed with a visit to the UK of Director of Business and Tourism, Stephen Masaba and Warden Moses Tuinawe from Bwindi National Park and Warden Ronald Tindyebwa from Queen Elizabeth National Park.

The Team visit their UK counterpart Queen Elizabeth County Park, as well as Titchfield Haven National Nature Reserve.

Education

2019 saw a renewal of school partnerships with the British Council. Hambledon Primary and Liss Junior Schools took part in reciprocal visits with Rihamu and Kafuro Primary Schools.

The initial visit to Uganda happened in July with Paul Davis, Head Teacher from Hambledon and Jess Duncan, teacher from Liss spending a week undertaken a range of activities looking at societal needs and wants as well as strengthening the educational bonds between their Ugandan partner schools.

In March Stephen Thembo from Kafuro and Huda Shakila from Rihamu who are both Head Teachers at their schools visited the UK, to complete what was a very exciting and successful project.

The Project continues to hold School Cluster Meetings in both Uganda and UK and took part in visits and activities in most of the Project schools during 2019.



Community Engagement

The Project continues to undertake a range of community engagement activities from running an English theme 'Tea Party' for the Mweya Women's Group to connecting Uganda and UK Brownies and Girl Guides.

Connecting people and wildlife remains a key challenge and will always be at the centre of what the Project aims to do over the next few years.

The Park to Park Challenge

This was once again our biggest fundraising event of the year. Now firmly established in the Project's this 8.5mile walk from Staunton County Park to Queen Elizabeth County Park was really well supported by young pupils from Liss Junior School, Brownies from Clanfield and staff and families from Clanfield Junior School.

The Conservation Cup (Uganda)

2019 proved to be the most successful Conservation Cup to date. Thanks to continued support from CM Sports, ten schools took part in a Tag rugby, Football and 'Conservation' performance competition.

CM Sports ran coaching sessions during run up to the competition and so quite a large number of children across the area benefitted from their expertise and enthusiasm.

The event was attended by Local Education Official, Stephen Biru and Warden I/C Community Olivia Biira.

Events and Talks (UK)

The Project attended a number of events including several school fetes and also gave talks to a wide range of organisations including The Women's Institute, Wildlife Trusts, Horticultural Societies, Faith based Groups and Youth Groups.

The Project considers the talks an important part of our community engagement work so continues to offer these talks for free, although donations are always most welcome.

'Ada ya mja hunena, mwungwana ni kitendo'

A person's deeds are far more important than just empty talk

Looking Ahead

At the time writing this annual report both Uganda and the UK were in the middle of a lock down because of the Covid 19 virus.

This lock down and the effects of the virus will be shaping the work of the Project for many years to come.

The Project will therefore be focusing on the following areas for the foreseeable future.

Fund Raising:

The virus has impacted on both the Project's ability to generated income as well as having to spend funds to support Uganda colleagues during these difficult times.

Therefore, fund raising will be our number one priority. We will be looking at how we can increase regular individual giving as well as seeking more productive relationships with companies in Uganda and the UK.

Ranger Support:

Many Rangers will have suffered both personal and professional hardship during the virus lock down. The support of Rangers, including the development of training and mentoring opportunities and the provision of equipment will be the number two priority.

Education Support:

The Project's involvement in the educational twinning of schools underpins a lot of our mission to 'Connect People and Wildlife'.

Continuing this work and stabilising the existing schools' partnerships is our third priority area.

Community Engagement:

Support for community groups in Uganda is the fourth priority area. The Project will be investigating initiatives that have the most realistic chance of supporting our 'Connecting People and Wildlife' agenda whilst being able to encourage sustainable community development.

The Project will continue to focus on the activity of women's groups.

Project Development

The final priority will be to better embed the Project in the UWA structure at Queen Elizabeth National Park and build a stronger co-dependence between Park and Project staff.

This will include establishing Hippo House as an office as well as Project accommodation and signing a new MOU with UWA.

At the same time the Project will seek to increase its profile in the UK, particularly within the two National Parks in Hampshire.



Thanks, and Acknowledgements

The Queen Elizabeth Parks project would like to thank the following people and organisations.

CM Sports for their continued support of the Conservation Cup

(special thanks to Nick, Luke, Andy, Megan,



Uganda Wildlife Authority for their continued support and participation

(Special Thanks to Sam Mwandha, Stephen Masaba, John Makombo, Charles Tumwesigye, Fred Kizza, John Tugume, Edward Asalu, Ronald Tindyebwa, Olivia Biira and all our many friend and colleagues at Queen Elizabeth National Park and Mount Elgon National Park)



Range Land Safaris without whom the Project would not be able to function in Uganda!

(Special thanks to Ronnie Bwambale)



Project Information

Our Patrons, Special Advisors, Trustees, Rangers, Teachers, Volunteers and Supporters.

(**Special UK thanks** to Jan Allnutt, Adam Stanley, Stuart McIntosh, Karen Peach, Liz Bourne, Teresa and Andrew Negus, Patrick Muwanga, Rebecca Lodge, Ashlea Walters, Joe Williams, Ronnie Clark, Paul Davis, Jess Duncan, Charles Etoru)

(**Special Uganda thanks** to Safari Ben, Ronald Tindyebwa, Joshua and all the staff at Tembo and the Hostel, Ayikou Bibian, Jane Muthahinga, Stephanie Biira, Yowasi Byaruhanga, Baryaruha Ramathan, Stephen Thembo, Huda Shakila and everyone at Rihamu School)

Our Twinned Schools

Catherington Infants, Hambledon Primary, Hart Plan Junior, Herne Junior, Liss Junior, Sheet Primary, West Meon Primary,
Bukorwe Primary, Kafuro Primary, Katunguru Primary, Katwe Primary, Kymabura Primary, Mahyoro Primary, Nyakatonzi Primary, Rihamu Primary,

Project Trustees

Chair & Women's Group Support – Jan Allnutt

Uganda & UK Education Lead – Adam Stanley

Funding and Business Development Lead – Stuart McIntosh

Overall Project Lead – Steve Peach

Special Advisors

Ugandan Director – Ronnie Bwambale

Project Development – Patrick Muwanga

Project Leads

Communication – Liz Bourne

Women's Group and Events – Karen Peach

Uganda Education Leads – Huda Shakila, Stephen Thembo, Ramathan B

April 2020

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