



“Mentor a Child to Protect Threatened National Parks and Game Reserves”

CHILDREN CONSERVATIONISTS PROGRAMME
The Anti-Poaching Campaign Newsletter 2022



The Children Conservationists Programme (CCP) wishes to usher you into the new year with news stories about our anti-poaching drive that concluded the year 2021. Thanks to you our esteemed donors for your financial support to this campaign. We bring you highlights of what your funds were able to accomplish in this drive.

With the halt in tourism caused by COVID-19 pandemic, many people who depended on the tourism sector resorted to poaching and other illegal activities in the protected areas. The poaching activities escalated in 2021 as people looked for survival means. CCP has been driving an anti-poaching campaign to reduce the illegal activities in the national parks.



Conservation talks with the community of Kitabu-Queen Elizabeth National Park

Community conservation dialogues: We visited 5 communities located between 2-5kms around Queen Elizabeth and semiliki national parks. Some of these communities are hotspots of poaching with many families depending on poaching activities for their livelihoods. In Kitabu community for instance, young children are initiated into poaching at early ages. We interacted with the youth school dropouts and reformed poachers and listened to their astounding testimonies. The turn up was overwhelming. The desire to change is there but overstepped by limited choices of livelihoods. The communities were very receptive to our wildlife conservation dialogues.

**“I started poaching at the age of 9years until in 2000 when I was shot at by the park rangers. Also due to old age I can no longer do the poaching, however I still love bush meat.....”
 an ex-poacher confessed**

Straightening the tree while it is still young: It is clear that the mindset of poaching still lingers within the reformed poachers just that they no longer have the means to do it. CCP’s conservation education program is urgently needed in these communities to tame the children while they are still young. Like the African saying, ‘a tree is straightened while it is still young’, children need to be groomed at an early age to love and conserve the environment. CCP has already identified a primary school within Kitabu community near Queen Elizabeth National Park to start the conservation education program for the children.

Formation of community conservation groups: Since they are large communities the best approach was to organize the youth into groups. Together with the local leaders, CCP mobilized and formulated groups in these communities and selected names of animals for the groups. ‘We have decided to give wildlife names to these groups to inspire them to love wildlife and slowly change

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their mindset’, Vincent CCP founder. Buffalo, Lions, Elephant, and Zebra groups were formed. We aim to transform these groups into ambassadors of conservation for the present and future generations to come.



With the Chairperson of Kitabu and a group of ex-poachers



CCP volunteer giving a conservation talk to the children.



The Buffalo group composed of young teenage mothers

Saving the bush meat: your donations dear donors have given us a steppingstone to explore alternative income sources for the youth school dropouts around Queen Elizabeth National Park. The groups made choices of saloon, beekeeping, handcrafts, food vending, tailoring and shoe making as possible businesses to be supported by CCP. The groups have further submitted their detailed business plans seeking for a financial boost in their selected businesses. We request for more support for the groups to start-up fully their business enterprises. Through your donations from the anti-poaching campaign, we provided 6 machines including 3 deep frying and 3 popcorn machines to our groups-- Buffalo, Elephant, and Lion groups to enable them start food vending businesses.



Donated machines to the groups

Environmental Restoration: We also planted trees around the communities of semiliki national park as a conservation measure but also to help address the problem of fuel wood since people cut trees in the park for fuelwood. We planted 100 eucalyptus trees and 50 fruit trees.



CCP volunteer handing over tree seedlings for planting

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Tree planting in action

COVID-19 Relief: we donated food items to our handcraft groups in Semiliki National Park. Like other economies, COVID-19 did not spare the incomes of our women groups in Semiliki national park. The market for handcrafts went down completely due to the pandemic and the group is no longer able to sell their products. The groups have been struggling to meet the food needs of their families. Thanks to your donations we supported 2 handcraft women groups with food items.



Food items donated to the handcrafts groups



Displaying the group's handcraft products

Appreciation to our volunteer from Switzerland: CCP received a volunteer from Switzerland who played a big role in driving our anti-poaching campaign. We appreciate Carmen Fenner for coming to volunteer at CCP. Her visit was a milestone for CCP's anti-poaching programme. Carmen conducted a mini fundraising among her colleagues in Europe to raise funds for the anti-poaching campaign. During her stay, she actively participated in our activities of mentoring children and youth, planting trees and initiated the business planning concept for the groups around Queen Elizabeth and Semiliki national parks. The groups (forming the large part of ex-poachers) have already submitted to CCP their business proposals. Appreciation to all our esteemed donors and partners we look forward to walking with you throughout this journey in 2022 and beyond.

For more information, visit our
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