

**Rwenzori Development  
Foundation Newsletter  
December 2020**





# RWENZORI NEWS

*Rwenzori Development Foundation Christmas Newsletter, December 2020*

## RDF UPDATE

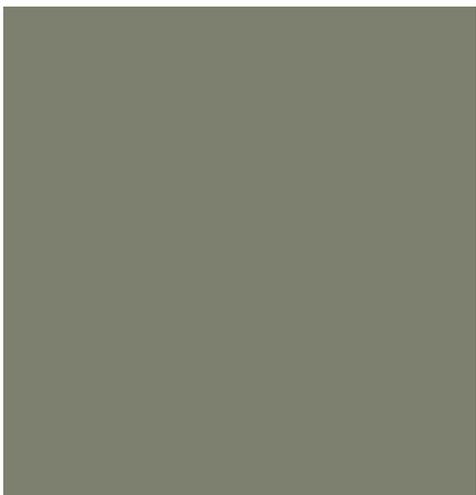
The Rwenzori Development Foundation is delighted to be getting in touch after a short break to tell you all the exciting work we've been up to. Firstly, thank you all for your continued support. The charity simply wouldn't exist without you. At this time of global pandemic, never has there been a more important time to support communities in South Western Uganda and help them respond to the huge challenges ahead.

The arrival of the Covid pandemic encouraged Rwenzori Development Foundation to consolidate our work and increase the projects we are supporting in Uganda. We have reinstated our Ugandan Advisory Board which will be chaired by Tinka John. The Advisory Board will help identify projects for the Rwenzori Development Foundation to support in the future. This year, we have supported three new exciting projects: the Sitara Foundation, the child sponsorship programme of the Rwenzori Trust and the Bigodi wetlands project (WREFI), which you can read more about in this newsletter.

We are delighted to welcome to the charity our new treasurer, Florence Creedy-Smith, who takes over from Rebecca (Becky) Flynn. Becky handed over the role as she took on a new responsibility, welcoming her daughter Polly to the world in October 2020. Becky has been our treasurer, and a trustee, for ten years and we are utterly indebted to her tireless work for the charity. We want to send our thank and congratulations to Becky and her family, and thank you all for your continued support.

Sending seasonal best wishes to you all and our friends in Uganda,

Kate, Amanda, Esther and Florence



## SITARA THE AFRICAN CHILD

*Providing vital care packages and access to education through the pandemic*

‘Sitara The African Child’ is a charity in Masaka Bwala village in southern Uganda, near the capital Kampala. It supports approximately 50 children under 10, from disadvantaged families, giving them the bare essential that they need to develop and grow. The Foundation provides breakfast and lunch, five days a week, boiled drinking water and second hand clothes collected in the UK. It also provides early years education to children whose parents cannot afford to send

them to school. The foundation is still very small but over the Covid-19 period it has grown dramatically as many more families struggle to feed their children. With the donation from the Rwenzori Development Foundation, we have provided breakfast and lunch (as well as much needed utensils to cook and serve) for approximately 50 children for a period of about 5 months.

# THE RWENZORI TRUST

## *Advancing Education in Uganda*

The Rwenzori Trust (RT) was established in 1992 with the aim of advancing education in Uganda for the public benefit. In 2008 the child sponsorship project (CSP) was set up to subsidise education fees for secondary and tertiary education for young people who have a link with the village of Ruboni in the Kasese District in Western Uganda. For the past few years, the CSP has supported 43 young people at any given time, by paying a portion of their education fees. The CSP has a number of key features which have made it a highly effective and efficient model for delivering life-changing charitable aid: Payment is made at the beginning of each term to the educational institutions, and (crucially) not via the families of the students. Payment is never 100% of the educational fees. Families and supporters of the students must make at least some contribution, which ensures that they really value the support that the CSP gives.

Admission to the CSP is by an application form submitted to the local community and selection is made by a committee of village elders and local authority figures. The selection criteria are set out in a formal document and include priority to orphans and other disadvantaged community members. ·

Perhaps best of all, the CSP have dozens of “graduates” who have gone on to find paid employment, breaking the cycle of subsistence farming poverty (in an age where subsistence farming is less and less viable), and their success is a source of pride for the whole community. With the donation from the Rwenzori Development Foundation we have ensured that these young people’s education can continue for at least the next 4/5 months.

Find out more at: [www.rwenzoritrust.org](http://www.rwenzoritrust.org)





## KAFRED'S RIVERBANK

### *Conservation and Education Project*

Kibale National Park in western Uganda is an important repository of biodiversity. The park has a recorded 351 tree species, 70 mammal species (including 13 species of primates) and over 375 species of birds. KAFRED's Bigodi Wetland Sanctuary, a conservation area (CA) is one of the important wildlife corridors that leads into the Kibale National Park.

Land surrounding conservation areas are heavily populated in Uganda, with locals extracting resources such as trees for fuel, charcoal and building poles. Extraction of these resources, coupled by poor farming practices, the use of agrochemicals, and the clearing of wetlands and forests for agriculture have negatively affected the streams and rivers that feed into the conservation areas. This has resulted in early season drying up and flooding of streams and rivers. This in turn has a grave impact on the biodiversity of these areas and on the human population. The overall goal of this project is to raise awareness and equip locals with knowledge and practical skills to restore degraded riverbank areas.

The project will target local community groups, around the Bigodi Wetland area, in conservation workshops followed by planting programmes. Participants will include people who own land next to the wetland, local council chairpersons and religious leaders. During the workshop participants will learn about the vital role riverbanks play in healthy ecosystems and commit to the number and species of indigenous trees they will plant. With the funding from the RDF, KAFRED can pay the facilitators, hire a venue, pay for expenses and buy the tree seedlings and gardening tool (pangas, hoes, watering cans) needed for the project. See more at :[www.Bigoditourism.com](http://www.Bigoditourism.com)





## Rwenzori

### Development Foundation

Address: 22 Kiver Road,  
N19 4PD, United Kingdom

Website: [www.rwenzori.org](http://www.rwenzori.org)

Email: [info@rwenzori.org](mailto:info@rwenzori.org)

To make a donation visit:  
[www.rwenzori.org/donate](http://www.rwenzori.org/donate)



Tinka John, Chair of Advisory Board



Gorretti Bagaya, Advisory Board Member

Registered Charity No. 1082294