



UWEC to become Body Corporate

“UWEC is undergoing a transformation process from being a Trust to be a statutory organisation that is body corporate and legally mandated to manage public facilities.” The Director of Tourism, Wildlife and Antiquities in the Ministry of Tourism, Trade and Industry, Mr. Justus Tindikarukayo said. He was speaking at the staff end of year 2009 party.

Mr. Tindikarukayo congratulated UWEC staff upon successful completion of 2009, and encouraged them to maintain commitment towards their work, because the transformation will require hard work.

Today, UWEC is the leading conservation education centre in the Sub Saharan Africa region. It also leads in creating awareness among Ugandans so as to promote biodiversity conservation.

On transformation, UWEC’s roles will expand. Currently, UWEC is responsible for con-

servation education of the Ugandan public, Rescue and Rehabilitation of injured animals, Captive breeding of threatened animal species and to serve as a recreation park for the Ugandan public. On transformation, these roles will expand and be deepened.

“UWEC has been able to offer captive breeding of endangered wildlife species from time to time. Several Ugandan wildlife species have made it to the CITES list of endangered species,” he said and added, “And, their survival will greatly impacted by efforts at breeding them in captivity and re-introducing them back in the wild. And, this is attributed to UWEC.”

Mr. Tindikarukayo applauded UWEC mode conservation education, where information dissemination is combined with entertainment.

After UWEC has become a statutory organisation, it will have its facilities as a ‘window on Uganda’s wildlife,’ and



Mr. Tindikarukayo addresses staff at the End of year party. Looking on is UWEC Education and Information manager, Mr. James Musinguzi

UWEC introduces Giraffe Conservation Programme

UWEC has introduced a giraffe conservation programme and brought three giraffes. Rothschild giraffes have become a target for poachers in East Africa and Africa as a whole. In Uganda, these giraffes can be found in two parks (Kidepo and Murchison Falls).

Giraffe plight has been overlooked in conservation circles because giraffes are not under the CITES.

Currently, giraffe numbers are esti-

mated to be less than 100,000. This reduction is as a result of poaching, war, advancing deserts and exploding human populations that have left the giraffe habitats destroyed and fragmented.

In Africa, giraffes are hunted down for their skin, bones and hair. The giraffe skin is used for making drums, wattertight bowls and shoes.

Their bones are used as grinders. There is a tradition belief that the bones can help bring rain. Some people believe their hair can induce fertility. UWEC is not only keeping them for edutainment purposes but for multiplication under the captive breeding programme. They will then be released into the wilderness.

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Editorial

Dear Reader,

Happy 2010! Welcome to our first issue of *Wildlife Talk*.

This newsletter gives you a variety of wildlife information, from news to leisure. In this issue, we bring you news updates from the centre. We give facts on wild animals. We have a section on humour, take time off, laugh, and break a rib!

Wildlife Talk will come out on a quarterly basis to update you on the activities at UWEC. We would like to hear from you. Feel free to send comments and articles to us. Ask us any questions, and we shall respond. Please send your comments and articles to; management@uwec.ug **Cheers!**

READER'S COLUMN

Your Questions Answered:

Why are there no elephants at the centre?

Elephants are not kept under any programme at the UWEC because they are expensive to maintain. They eat a lot of food. Also, it is estimated that if they are to be kept here, they are likely to consume food amount doubling or tripling that that all animals currently at the centre feed on.

Is UWEC a zoo?

UWEC is not a zoo. It was once a zoo. The centre is continually referred to as 'the zoo' because of its earlier status. It started as an animal orphanage in 1952, giving sanctuary to young animals. These were animals found abandoned in protected areas due to death or poaching of parent animals.

The centre later became a zoo in the early 1960's where exotic species like bears and tigers would also be kept as an attraction.

Gradually, the zoo ran down because of political turmoil and inadequate funding until May 1994 when the World Conservation Society (formerly New York Zoological Society) proposed the zoo be transformed into a conservation education centre.

This would help promote conservation awareness to the Ugandan public, hence the name; Uganda Wildlife Education Centre (UWEC) today.

Please send comments to; management@uwec.ug

UWEC boosts Environmental Conservation Education Capacity

In a bid to promote integration of Environmental Conservation in the primary school curriculum, UWEC has trained teachers. This will help have environmental conservation fully embedded into the school curriculum.

At the Primary School Educators' training workshop held at the centre, UWEC Executive Director, Dr. Andrew Seguya warned teachers, "Global warming is clearly manifesting itself today, thus an urgency to conserve the environment." He said today's young generation has lost a personal attachment to nature conservation at an early stage.

"Institutions like UWEC play a big role in helping the young generation develop a deep understanding of nature and its ways." Dr. Seguya said.

The workshop theme was; **"Combining formal and non formal education in order to promote conservation and sustainable development."**

Dr. Seguya emphasized the need to teach children about the current environmental issues affecting Uganda.

UWEC is currently holding thematic guided tours to enable children appreciate nature.

....today's young generation has lost a personal attachment to nature conservation at an early stage.

HUMOUR FOR YOU

Some of these questions make you think, while others are amusing. Enjoy!!

Why are they called apartments, when they're all stuck together? Why do scientists call it research when looking for something new? Isn't it a bit unnerving that doctors call what they do "practice"? How come *price* and *worth* mean the same thing, but *priceless* and *worthless* are opposites? Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways? Why is the time of the day with the slowest traffic called the rush hour? Isn't it strange that a physician has nothing to do with physics?

(Adapted from Jerry Seinfeld's stand-up comedy and TV serial)

UWEC Keepers Rescue Giraffe from Drowning

UWEC team rescued a giraffe cow from drowning in a pond within Murchison Falls National Park at Amuru district.

The giraffe was found injured from a snare that could have belonged to a poacher.

The snare was found around the giraffe's neck, which it left wounded.

On getting ensnared, the giraffe had lost balance and ended up drowning in a nearby pond, where the UWEC staff found it.

It was pulled out of the muddy pond water.

And, later the snare was removed.

The giraffe was released back to the wilderness to join other herds.



The UWEC team station ropes to lift the giraffe out of the pond.

JOIN FRIENDS OF UWEC

SPONSOR OR ADOPT AN ANIMAL AT UWEC



Are you a corporate company? An individual? Or family? Do you love animals? Do you care about animal wellbeing? Subscribe to Friends of UWEC.

FUWEC is an annual program designed to involve the general public in boosting self sustainability of Uganda Wildlife Education Centre.

Join the programme by subscribing. With this programme, UWEC can work together with the public to; feed and treat the animals, enable breeding and treating of threatened and endangered species, rescue and rehabilitate injured and confiscated animals, and promote Conservation Education and sustainable land management systems.

UWEC Updates

New staff:

New employees that have joined UWEC include;

Ms. Kelvin Mary Nsangi (Marketing and Public Relations Officer)

Mr. Isaac Mujaasi (Onsite Education Officer)

Ms. Clare Wandera (Education Assistant)

Mr. Bashir Nionzima (Driver)

Ms. Edith Nabaloga (Cashier)

Mr. James Azia (Cashier)

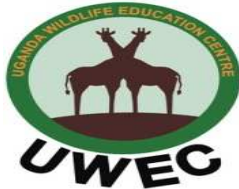
Employee of the Year 2009:

Mr. Oyet Kennedy was voted 2009 Employee of the Year by staff.

Mr. Oyet, is one of the longest serving employees at UWEC.

He joined the centre in 1999 as a volunteer in the Maintenance department. He was later taken on as a full time employee in January 2006 as a Technician.

He is renowned for his passion and dedication towards work and fellow staff.



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*...Conservation through
Education*

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Our Mission

“To promote and create an understanding of conserving Biodiversity in Uganda among the public with specific emphasis to the young generation”

Our Vision

To be the leading Centre in biodiversity Conservation Education in Africa

Our Values

Love, Respect and care for wildlife.

Our Mandated roles

Conservation Education of the Ugandan public.

Rescue and Rehabilitation of injured animals.

Captive breeding unit of threatened species.

A recreation park for the Ugandan public.

All these we do so as to promote sustainable development.

Wildlife Facts PARROTS

Parakeets and budgies, cockatiels and conures, macaws, cockatoos and amazons... you just can't help being intrigued by parrots.

The parrot order name is Psittaciformes. There are 315 species of parrot in the world, but only two species have occurred in North America. One is the thick-billed parrot of Mexico, which is now rare. The other was the Carolina parakeet, which is now extinct. The other parrot species that live in the western hemisphere are found in the Amazon Basin. In the eastern hemisphere, parrots are found in the Australia, East Indies, Pacific Islands and Africa.

Parrots are forest birds. They eat seeds, nuts, fruits and berries, and a few eat insects and nectar. They have very thick bills and fleshy little tongues which allow them to crack

and eat hard-shelled nuts.

Parrots hold their food in one foot while they are eating, and can be right-handed or left-handed.

Parrots live in flocks when they're not nesting. The flocks get very noisy and parrots are well-



known for their

squawking and screaming. Some parrots are very good at mimicking

sounds and can learn to imitate our speech as well as the calls of other birds and animals.

Parrot sizes range from the pygmy parrot of New Guinea at 8.4 cm (3.3 in) to the hyacinth macaw of South America at 100 cm (39.4 in).

Because parrots were captured excessively for the pet trade, many of them were seriously threatened with endangerment and extinction. It is no longer legal to trade in endangered species, and the interests of parrots are being protected world-wide.

*(Adapted from
www.iwrc-online.org)*