



## Project Status

During the past five years the ABCP has gathered momentum, expanding its activities year by year. Our message about African blackwood conservation is being heard by an ever-increasing audience, both in schools and in public presentations. Many people who first see our website or hear about our work express great admiration for the energy and enthusiasm of Sebastian Chuwa, who implements all of our projects in Tanzania. Our seedling nurseries are distributing trees into surrounding villages and our educational programs are teaching Tanzanian children how to protect the priceless heritage of their beautiful land.

Without the generosity of our contributors we would never have been able to begin and continue this work. You have given us the basis to keep the project growing and the support to continue to investigate new opportunities.

Our thanks are extended to all those who have helped us during this period with their financial support and ongoing encouragement.



**In the end we will conserve  
only what we love.  
We will love only  
what we understand.  
We will understand  
only what we are taught.  
- Baba Dioum  
Senegalese Ecologist**



## Lindbergh Foundation

As reported in last year's newsletter, Sebastian was the recipient of a grant from the Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation. The main purpose of the grant was to support the pur-

chase of video equipment to allow Sebastian to make environmental videos and set up public presentations in the schools and communities of his area. The grant also contained funding for a field trip to take students to Lake Manarara and Ngorongoro National Parks.

Since receiving this grant, Sebastian



**In Dec. 2000, Sebastian Chuwa and Jane Goodall discuss conservation issues during the Mweka Symposium "African Wildlife Management in the New Millennium."**

has been working hard to fulfill its requirements. He has visited 34 schools, showing videos to a total of over 4000 students and adults. He has established 8 Mpingo Clubs and sent us video recordings of the students carefully tending their trees.

He has also sent video footage documenting the student field trips, our Moshi Mpingo plot and the educational programs he is establishing. In addition, during his safari season last spring he taped magnificent footage of African parklands and wildlife, including elephants, giraffes, lions, hippos, gazelles and wildebeest, birds, wildflowers and mpingo as they grow in the wild. We have purchased a video camera similar to Sebastian's along with editing software and from his raw video tapes have edited a video which we include with all of our grant applications. This presentation shows, often much better than words can express, the nature of Sebas-

tian's work and interaction with his community.

## Environmental Choir

One of the first projects Sebastian undertook with the Lindbergh funds was to record and videotape The Kibosho East Environmental Choir. Five years ago Sebastian began a collaboration with Mr. Sixtus Koromba, a local environmentalist who has considerable musical talents. Together they have composed music and lyrics for songs that teach about protecting the African wildlife and environment and protecting endangered species.

They have organized an adult and a children's choir which offer entertainment that is also a traditional form of teaching for community gatherings like Environmental Day activities.

Sebastian and Sixtus have now been able to record these groups at a studio in Moshi. With his new video camera, Sebastian has taped them singing in beautiful natural settings, combining the audio and video. He says this music is a great draw for the public presentations that he is doing. He shows the choir video before or after his



**Sebastian is interviewed by Radio Tanzania broadcaster Josephine Sanga about his being awarded a Lindbergh Grant. Her interview was broadcast in November, 2000.**

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**Sixtus Koromba leads the Kibosho East Environmental Choir as the adult choir performs at the Environmental Day Celebration, July 2000.**

fore or after his conservation presentations and some of his showings are drawing 700-800 people.

One of the songs that Sixtus wrote



**A group of students, teachers and parents poses before the hostel at Lake Manyara National Park last October during the educational safari funded by Sebastian's 2000 Lindbergh Grant.**

is a plea to stop poaching of the endangered Rhinoceros. Another is about Mpingo, the Tree of Music, and pleads with everyone to plant a tree so that it will not go extinct. "Green is Beauty" is an accolade to nature. The video Sebastian made for this song was taken at Fuya Falls, a beautiful waterfall very close to his home on Mt. Kilimanjaro. Some of the songs have English lyrics and some have Swahili lyrics. In the future, on our website and through the newsletter, we hope to be able to offer for sale recordings of this inspirational African environmental music.

Again, we extend our deepest gratitude to the Lindbergh Foundation (<http://www.lindberghfoundation.org/>)

for their generous support.

### Cottonwood Foundation

Last year we reported that through a grant from the Cottonwood Foundation (<http://www.cottonwoodfdn.org/>), we have been able to purchase a water tank for the Moshi Mpingo Plot. This tank has now allowed us to move our mpingo nursery from Mary Sambeke's house into the Mpingo Plot area, thus greatly facilitating our planting and distribution efforts. Up until now the tank has had to be filled by hand by volunteers. This year, however, a second grant from Cottonwood went towards the purchase of a pump.

With the aid of volunteers a pipe has been run from the Kikafu River to the Moshi Plot. Two underground concrete tanks were constructed to serve for filtering and storing water and a concrete block pump shelter will be built to protect the pump. In addition to helping our own efforts, this transport system will supply water to 58 families in the area. Sebastian has consulted with the village leaders of Kiyungi, where the project is located, and they are ready to help with the tree planting project and will see to the protection of the pipes which were buried in crossing the villager's farms. Mr. Chuwa has received a letter of appreciation from the village and a request for more trees to plant.

We extend our thanks to Director Paul Moss and the Cottonwood Foundation for their interest and support for our project. Small organizations trying to build a program often experience difficulty in finding funding. Large founda-



**A concrete tank has been formed and poured at the Moshi Mpingo Plot as part of the installation of the new water pump.**

tions tend to support well-established organizations and others work within a narrow geographical area, thus ruling

out programs in such places as Tanzania. Consequently we are very grateful for foundations such as Cottonwood, which are specifically oriented towards helping beginning projects get on their feet and will support programs in many areas of the world.

### On the Web

Our most beneficial tools in making contacts for the ABCP are through the Internet and email. Through our website we receive inquiries from people around the world who are interested in mpingo conservation and education. For our



**Sebastian holds the new water pump funded by the Cottonwood Foundation for the irrigation project at the ABCP Moshi Mpingo Plot.**

fundraising activities we can find a vast amount of information on the web about foundations and funding sources. We have also been able to use this tool to research topics that expand our knowledge base about Africa, agroforestry and conservation. This information adds depth and dimension to our grant writing activities.

### Mweka Seminar

Because of our Internet research we have been able to open up new venues for the project. Last October we saw notice on the US AID website about a conference to be held at the Mweka College of Wildlife Management, a leading institution in African conservation. The

conference theme was "Wildlife Management in the New Millennium" and the keynote speaker was Jane Goodall. Sebastian was able to give a talk at this conference about mpingo conservation, explaining the work of the ABCP in tree planting and education. Jane Goodall requested an interview with Sebastian after the conference and they spoke about their respective educational programs. Jane Goodall has a program called "Roots and Shoots" which facilitates youth conservation activities, similar to Sebastian's Mpingo Clubs.



Sebastian points out one of the thriving Mpingo saplings to his son Michael at the Moshi Mpingo Plot earlier this year.

### UNEP Eco-Schools Seminar

Another contact came through our involvement in a discussion group on the Mountain Forum (<http://www.mtnforum.org>). We were contacted by a representative from UNEP, the United Nations Environmental Program, who invited Sebastian to attend a seminar in Mombasa, Kenya.

The theme of the seminar was

**"Treat the Earth well. It was not given to you by your parents. It was loaned to you by your children."  
— Kenyan Proverb**

"Environmental Action Learning Coordination Seminar for Countries of the Eastern African Sub-region — The Eco-school approach." This is part of an initiative launched by UNEP in August 1999 called The Environmental Action Learning (EAL) program for Africa. Its basic idea is to involve local schools in designing and implementing programs which address the specific needs of their communities in mitigating environmental degradation. The program is highly action-oriented and emphasizes micro-

projects, run jointly by schools and the community, such as land and water conservation, solid waste management, sanitation and environmental health.

Sebastian was able to offer input from his own experiences and show part of a video that we had put together about his work. Other participants requested copies of the video to show in their local regions. Sebastian is currently working with 5 other representatives from Tanzania to draw up an action plan for the whole country and apply for funding from UNEP for implementation. He will serve as co-ordinator of the Northern Region.

### BP & Charles Mmbaga

Special thanks are again due to British Petroleum-Tanzania, for a fuel donation to the ABCP for the second year in a row. Fuel is very expensive in Tanzania and BP's assistance has been very helpful for Sebastian's travels to present educational programs and in transporting seedlings and nursery equipment.

On May 29 an article entitled "Chuwa, the Man Behind the Mpingo Project" was published in *The Guardian*, a leading Dar es Salaam newspaper. It covered recent developments in Sebastian's environmental work and was written by Charles Mmbaga, Public Relations Officer for British Petroleum, who has been very helpful in his support of the work of the ABCP over the years.

### Kilimanjaro Environmental Conservation Management Trust Fund

Several years ago, Terry Harnwell and John Parkin, in a desire to publicize and bring together information about conservation efforts in Africa, designed an ambitious website, [www.africanconservation.com](http://www.africanconservation.com), and included an overview of the work the ABCP is doing in Africa. Last year Terry visited Sebastian in Tanzania, where he gave her a tour of the Moshi Mpingo Plot and told her about his conservation work in Kilimanjaro Region.

In May Terry and John completed a website, free of charge, for the Kilimanjaro Environmental Conservation Management Trust Fund, of which Sebastian is the chairman. This organization is funded by political and business leaders in the Kilimanjaro district for the purpose of instituting conservation activities



Members of a new Mpingo Club founded by Sebastian in the Kilimanjaro Region as one of the projects funded by the Lindbergh Grant project pose with Mt. Kilimanjaro visible in the background.

in the area. If you wish to read about the work of the Fund, please see: [www.kilimanjarotrust.org](http://www.kilimanjarotrust.org).

### Counselor of Kibosho East

In October of 2000 Sebastian was elected to political office as counselor of his district of Kibosho East. In this position he is serving as a member of the financial committee. He writes, "This is a very good post because it gives me a say in the local and central government. I have organized 5 village meetings talking about developments like needing to build a government secondary school in our area, needing to build a bridge for the benefit of 3 villages in the area, encouraging families to have sanitary toilets and bathrooms, and at the same time helping our environment with tree planting campaigns. We are also helping people to educate themselves about AIDS because it can push our development backwards.

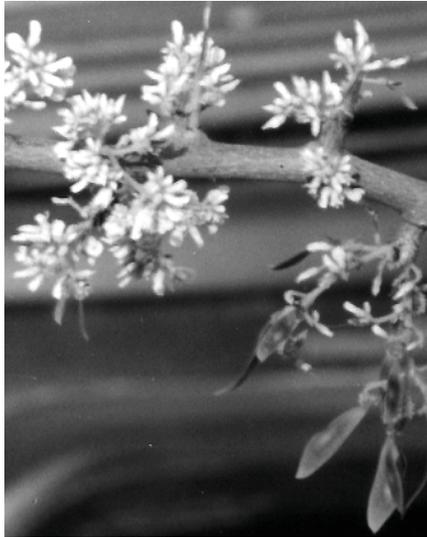
These two positions work together because when I am going outside of my own district of Kibosho East I can use my leadership as chairman of the Trust Fund (which covers the whole region of Kilimanjaro) to ask other district counselors to help me arrange meetings with people and schools in their areas."

### 5-year Nursery Program for Northern Tanzania

In last year's newsletter we briefly described our plans to develop a program that would extend our nursery, tree-planting and educational programs into a wider area. During the past year we have been working with Sebastian in drawing up a detailed description of how he intends to proceed if we are successful in finding funding for this project.

Our targeted area is northeastern

Tanzania, in the regions of Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Tanga. This area of the country contains some of the best known wildlife habitats in all of Africa, including the Serengeti Plain, Ngorongoro Crater Conservation Area, Mt. Kilimanjaro, Lake Manyara and Tarangire National Parks, Olduvai Gorge and the Eastern Arc mountains, listed by Conservation International as one of 25 hotspots for the preservation of biodiversity in the world.



Mpingo flowers, 2001.

The ecological health of this region is of supreme importance, not only to Africa, but to the whole world, because tourists and filmmakers from numerous countries visit the region and are entranced by its wildlife and natural wonders. Because of various economic opportunities that exist in these areas, population growth has soared. Most of Tanzania's population subsists through agriculture and uses wood for heating and cooking. Consequently land clearing for farming and tree cutting for fuelwood and charcoal are taking an immense toll on the local forests. Tanzania itself is so poor (near the top of the list of Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) of the world) it lacks the means to institute programs which would insure a sustainable use of its resources.

Our 5-year program will establish community nurseries in the targeted areas of Hai, Moshi, Same, Mombo, Handeni, Pangani, Babati, Simanjiro and Mbulu, all of which are prime mpingo growing habitat. In Same mpingo is practically extinct and Sebastian is al-



A couple of nursery assistants help Sebastian gather Mpingo seeds for sprouting for next year's plantings.

ready working with another Malihai patron in supplying her with seedlings for her local clubs.

In addition Sebastian will consult with government and school officials to set up teaching programs in the schools of the area, establishing Malihai Clubs and Mpingo Clubs. These clubs will establish nurseries and distribute trees to the surrounding communities.

This is an ambitious program but one which we feel will have far-reaching effects. This spring we spent several months completing applications for three major environmental awards for Sebastian and we continue to search for foundations which will fund programs in Africa. We appreciate any information our readers may have about such organizations. Our first priority will be to find funding for a 4-wheel drive vehicle. Sebastian has been working for many years

**"We cannot solve the problems that we have created with the same thinking that created them."  
— Albert Einstein**

now without his own means of transportation. Since it is very expensive to rent vehicles, owning his own vehicle will be necessary to implement a program such as we envision.

On our website we have posted four documents: "5-Year Program" describes the project, "Nursery Locations" gives background information about ecological problems in the areas where we wish to establish nurseries, "Tree List" contains the tree species we will plant, and "Map" is a map showing the 9 locations where we will establish nurseries.

#### Condolences

On February 7, 2001, Anne Morrow Lindbergh died at the age of 95. She was an author, an aviator, a mother, an artist and a philosopher. She and her

husband, Charles Lindbergh, were pioneers in the field of aviation. They were also pioneers in speaking out for environmental protections and foreseeing many decades ago that humanity would have to take steps to achieve a balance between the developments of modern technology and the preservation of our natural resources. Their legacy, the Lindbergh Foundation, is devoted to supporting programs which implement this ideal and is a living memorial in our world to their remarkable gifts.

The ABCP also wishes to extend its deepest condolences to Mary Sambeke, whose husband, Mzee Joseph Sambeke Mallya, died in May. Mr. and Mrs. Sambeke operated a florist shop in Moshi and were well known and respected citizens. They have been true friends of the ABCP. Mary allowed us to establish our mpingo nursery in her yard for several years and has helped the project in numerous other ways. 1200 people attended Mr. Sambeke's funeral.

#### FFI Mpingo Conference

In November of last year Flora and



These shelves of Mpingo carvings were photographed by Sebastian at a government museum tourist shop in Arusha. A great amount of Mpingo is utilized in-country for artwork such as this designed for the tourist trade.

Fauna International (FFI) received funding from the Government of Germany to be spent on a trade study investigating FSC style certification of mpingo. Coming in October they will sponsor a meeting in Dar es Salaam, bringing together forestry, governmental and business representatives to develop guidelines for sustainable management for the species, including discussion of certification to better regulate its use. Sebastian will attend this important meeting and deliver an address about the work of the ABCP.

#### Bush-link Radio E-mail

Three years ago we assisted Sebastian with setting up email service and he now considers it essential for his work. Communication, however, has been sporadic because, lacking telephone service, he has had to travel to Moshi or Arusha

**“Power over life must be balanced by reverence for life.”**  
Anne Morrow Lindbergh

to access his email. Just recently these problems were solved with the installation of a radio system with antenna at his home on Mt. Kilimanjaro. This is facilitating communications tremendously and will enable us to implement our program much more efficiently. We are grateful for help from the Rafiki Foundation, which helped to finance the cost of this installation.

### Community Involvement

Through the various conferences and meetings that Sebastian has been attending during the past year, he has



**Sebastian shot this remarkable photo of a dust devil behind a lone mpingo left after a wildfire in Simanjiro, Arusha, Tanzania in Aug. 1997. To secure a brighter future for this species than that shown here is the inspiration of our project.**

been able to inform many people about the difficulties standing in the way of securing a sustainable future for mpingo and is establishing contact with groups which are willing to help in our replanting efforts.

In June Sebastian attended a meeting of foresters and representatives of the timber industry from northern Tanzania. He was asked to address the group on the international importance of African blackwood as a commercial species and the threats to its sustainable future. He also outlined the work of the ABCP in working for conservation of the species. His talk raised a lot of interest



**Members of the Mpingo Women’s Group at Kikafu chini pose in front of a maize field which they have planted. The ABCP has supported this group with a small stipend which they have used to plant maize and other garden crops, to start a bee-keeping operation and to plant mpingo.**

in our replanting program and several leaders of local industries approached him afterwards to arrange a follow-up meeting to discuss how they can be involved in replanting efforts and supporting the ABCP. Another group from Moshi, the Green Garden Women’s Group, also asked his advice about mpingo propagation and visited Sebastian at his home, where he gave them mpingo seeds and planting instructions.

He is supplying mpingo seeds to a biologist whom he met at the Mweka Conference from the Mbarara University of Science and Technology in Uganda. He is advising a woman from Singida, a district south of Mt. Kilimanjaro, who visited him last year, toured the Moshi Mpingo Plot and is attempting to start an mpingo plantation.

Our Mpingo Clubs are planting hundreds of trees and helping to spread the word about conservation of the species. Sebastian has been showing the “Tree of Music” video at his public presentations and raising awareness in this way.

The Mpingo Women’s Group also helps with the replanting effort. Members of this group meet weekly and are conducting agricultural initiatives in Kikafu chini, south of Moshi.

### History of ABCP

The ABCP is a US non-profit 501(c)(3) organization which was founded in 1996 by James Harris and Sebastian Chuwa for the purpose of instituting replanting and educational programs related to the conservation of African blackwood (*Dalbergia melanoxylon*).

This wood is used by African carvers and by the woodwind industry in the manufacture of clarinets, piccolos, flutes, oboes and bagpipes.

There is growing international concern that the wood is being harvested at an unsustainable rate and that it may in the future become a threatened species.

James Harris and Bette Stockbauer devote their time to fundraising efforts in the US and Sebastian Chuwa administers the program in Tanzania. James and Bette personally cover all administrative costs in the US, including printing and postage. All donations collected go directly to the work in Africa.

## Support ABCP and Get a Copy of the "Tree of Music" Video

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the "Tree of Music" video, which was originally broadcast in 1992 on the US PBS *Nature* series and was the inspiration for the founding of the ABCP, please let us know (see order details on the donation form). We have purchased copies of the video from The Television Trust for the Environment (TVE) in the UK, to which the BBC has granted international distribution rights for the film. As US Directors of the ABCP, we have decided to donate the videos, which we purchased with our own funds, to the project so the entire amount you pay for the videos will be used as a contribution to the ABCP. The video is available from us only in NTSC format for US viewers. We are offering the video for the same \$40 price as it is offered on the TVE website, plus shipping and handling. Contributors donating \$200 or more to the ABCP may receive a copy of the video as a premium if they so desire.

For those in countries other than the United States, the film is still available to individuals from TVE in PAL format for \$40 payable by international cheque or money order. You may order the film online from the TVE website by first loading the Search page (<http://nt.oneworld.org/cfdocs/tve/mp6/search.cfm>), typing in *Mpingo* in the "Search titles for:" box and then clicking the "Start Search" button. This should bring up the results page with information about the film, called "Mpingo - The Tree That Makes Music" (the UK title), and a link to place an order. After placing the order, TVE will send the customer a pro-forma invoice by international mail confirming payment and order details.

—James Harris & Bette Stockbauer

### Mpingo— The Tree That Makes Music A BBC-TV VIDEO



At a musical instrument factory in France, skilled craftsmen work fragments of African blackwood into clarinets and flutes for the international market. But in the early 1980s, with more and more wood cracking under pressure on the lathes, investigations turn to the plains of Tanzania, and to the Mpingo tree - the source of the remarkable black heartwood. The Mpingo takes over 70 years to reach commercial maturity. Prized by musicians around the world, it is also much sought after by Tanzania's Makonde woodcarvers whose sculptures play an important role in cultural life. Michael Gunton's exquisite film links the instruments of today with the forests where people first made music, and shows how sustainable management of Mpingo plantations benefits local communities and international markets alike. (Source: TVE website)

**African Blackwood Conservation Project**  
**P. O. Box 26 Red Rock, TX 78662 USA**



So that  
 the song  
 of the  
 Tree of Music  
 will not go  
 silent...