



## Project Status

The year 2001-02 has seen increased attention directed towards our work, with Sebastian Chuwa receiving an international award and being asked to present his ideas at an important conference within Africa.

Our work has received support from New England Biolabs Foundation and the Cottonwood Foundation. Sebastian continues to use video equipment provided by the Lindbergh foundation to move forward our educational projects, and he continues to collect seeds, plant trees and inspire this project.

## Spirit of the Land Award

On February 19, 2002 Sebastian Chuwa was presented the Spirit of the Land Award, at a ceremony during the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah.

In 1994 the International Olympic Committee adopted environment as the third principle of Olympism (along with sport and culture) and during the 2002 Olympics, one of the primary goals of the Salt Lake Olympic Committee was to ensure the protection of Utah's environment. To this end it



**Sebastian Chuwa in Salt Lake City, Utah where he received the Spirit of the Land Award presented by the Salt Lake Olympic Committee at the 2002 Winter Olympics, Feb. 19, 2002.**

guests from around the world about green practices, to leave a legacy of environmental improvement and to honor individuals who have made substantial educational efforts on behalf of the environment.

The "Spirit of the Land" award was presented to 5 international and 10 US conservationists who made outstanding contributions in the field of environmental education during 2001. Our application was based on the work that Sebastian did in implementing the Lindbergh Foundation grant in 2001.

While in the US, Sebastian was able to visit friends and supporters in California and North Carolina.

He also came to Texas and James Harris, co-founder of the ABCP and Bette Stockbauer, co-director, were able to meet him for the first time in person.

## Cottonwood Foundation

For several years we have been discussing with Sebastian the idea of purchasing a powerful computer with the capability of doing film editing. In the summer of 2000 we sent him a digital video camera purchased with funding from the Lindbergh Foundation and he has recorded many hours of footage related to African wildlife and the conser-

vation efforts of his community.

The Cottonwood Foundation, (<http://www.cottonwoodfdn.org/>), which funded our water system at the Moshi Mpingo Plot, has kindly granted us further funding to purchase a computer for this and other project uses.

During the four days that Sebastian spent in Texas, James was able to instruct him in video editing, based on his own experience in producing a video about ABCP work.

Sebastian wishes to produce conservation videos with subject matter pertinent to environmental problems in Northern Tanzania. These will be narrated in Kiswahili, the predominant language of the region.

Sebastian will also use the new computer for GIS work, recording mpingo locations during his travels and producing maps for use in his conservation programs. It will also be helpful for desktop publishing activities for his student programs.

Sebastian Chuwa and the ABCP wish ABCPxtend their thanks to the Cottonwood Foundation for their ongoing support of our efforts in Tanzania the the work of the ABCP.

talents. Together they have composed



**Sebastian learning video editing on his new computer, provided by a Cottonwood Foundation Grant, during his visit to the US in March 2002.**

—◆—  
**A handful of pine-seed will cover mountains with the green majesty of a forest. I, too, will set my face to the wind and throw my handful of seed on high. — Fiona MacLeod**  
 —◆—

established the "Spirit of the Land" program which embodies a commitment to raise the general consciousness of its

The ABCP wishes to once again extend its thanks to the Cottonwood Foundation for its ongoing support for our efforts in Tanzania.

### New England Biolabs Foundation

During the past two years we have reported on the activities of the Mpingo Women's Group, an organization of 26 women who are instituting programs for self-reliance and environmental conservation in Kikafu chini, south of Moshi. The area is prime mpingo habitat and the women are planting seedlings to insure survival of the tree in their area.

This year they were awarded a grant



As well as planting mpingos, banana trees and maize, the Mpingo Women's Group has started a beekeeping project and its members gather honey from beehives such as the one hanging in the tree behind them.

from New England Biolabs Foundation, an independent private foundation, founded in 1982 by the president of New England Biolabs, Inc., to support grassroots organizations working with the environment, social change, the arts, elementary education, and science. The Foundation's funding priorities are primarily targeted to environmental issues.

From the NEBF website (<http://www.nebf.org/>): "One Trustee passionately believes in the power of grassroots movements to bring about changes.

Another is convinced that economic incentives, coupled with judicious management of the environment, is the key to a sustainable world. A third thinks that science and art are two complementary manifestations of our humanity."

This grant will allow the women to purchase gardening, tree nursery and bee-keeping equipment, and alternative energy stoves which use rice husks, their local crop, as fuel. It will fund an educational trip to Olmotonyi Forest College and Njiro Wildlife Research Center to learn more about forestry practices and bee-keeping. It also gives them a stipend for educational materials for youth groups.

Sebastian has acted as counselor to this group since its inception, five years ago, regularly visiting them and offering advice on their various projects.

### 10,000 Mpingos

As a result of our educational efforts in Kilimanjaro Region, awareness about mpingo conservation has grown. After he received the Lindbergh grant, Sebastian said that requests for mpingo tree seedlings had increased at nurseries throughout the area.

Sebastian has been influential in starting not only youth groups which operate nurseries, but also several adult groups which are planting and distributing mpingo, along with a variety of other hardwood species.

Besides the Mpingo Women's Group (mentioned above) Sebastian has also influenced the organization of the



Members of the Green Garden Women's Group in Moshi lift hay off newly sprouted mpingo seedlings in seedbed.

Green Garden Women's Group in Moshi. This group runs a nursery, sponsors a fuelwood planting program on Mt.



Rows of potted tree seedlings in Green Garden Women's Group Nursery. They will distribute these seedlings to area farmers for planting.

Kilimanjaro and grows mpingo in their nursery for distribution.

During the coming year Sebastian will coordinate a program with several of these groups and begin an ambitious tree planting project, hoping to distribute 10-15,000 mpingo seedlings from nurseries in the Moshi area. These will include five Mpingo Youth Groups, the two women's groups and the Moshi Mpingo Plot.

### Celebrating the Lindbergh Legacy

The year 2002 commemorates the 75th anniversary of Charles Lindbergh's historic transatlantic flight from New York to Paris in 1927. Upon his return to the US, he embarked on a tour of 80 cities and revisited Little Falls, Minnesota, the town where he grew up and where he saw his first airplane.

To commemorate these important events, the Charles A. and Anne Morrow Lindbergh Foundation held a 75th Anniversary Celebration & Symposium in Little Falls on August 8-11.

The focal point of the conference was a two-day Educational symposium entitled, "Global Vision/Global Solutions." Past Lindbergh grant recipients presented information about their funded projects and the progression of their work since receiving funding.

Scientists, educators and conservationists from various fields presented information on their work ranging over a wide variety of topics including the writing of an environmental history of the world, DNA research for mosquito control, safe pesticide production, teaching paper making in the Amazon for the preservation of indigenous cultures, detection of particulates in jet exhaust and a project for de-inking paper. One after-

noon session brought together several scientists who are working on water purification and pollution detection issues.

Bette Stockbauer, co-director of the ABCP, spoke about our work with Sebastian in implementing the Lindbergh Foundation Grant.

Anne and Charles Lindbergh were passionate about aviation because they were convinced that it would be a key force in uniting the nations of the world.



**Bette Stockbauer delivered a PowerPoint presentation profiling Sebastian's conservation work at the Lindbergh 75th Anniversary Celebration at Little Falls, MN.**

But during their many decades of flying to open up new air routes they were witness to a far less beneficent effect of globalization, environmental destruction on a previously unprecedented scale.

Beginning in the 1960's they became equally strong proponents for environmental preservation, supporting a wide variety of conservation measures and speaking of the importance of preserving a balance between technology and the environment.

Lindbergh was influenced to take action in 1964, after he went on safari in Africa with Ian Grimwood, the chief game warden of Kenya, and became aware of the widespread destruction of habitat and wildlife throughout Africa.

Writing of his experience in Africa, Lindbergh said: "Lying under an acacia tree with the sounds of the dawn around me, I realized more clearly facts that man should never overlook: that the construction of an airplane, for instance, is simple when compared to the evolutionary achievement of a bird; that airplanes depend upon an advanced civilization, and that where civilization is most advanced, few birds exist. I realized that if I had to choose, I would rather have birds than airplanes."

The Lindbergh Foundation was founded in 1977, three years after his death and the 50th anniversary of his flight across the Atlantic.

Today the Lindbergh Foundation, headed by the Lindbergh's youngest daughter, Reeve Lindbergh, author of

### In Memorium Joachim Chuwa

It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of Joachim Chuwa, Sebastian's beloved brother and close companion.

Joachim died on June 9, 2002 in an automobile accident caused by a driver who was driving under the influence of alcohol. He supported Sebastian in all of his conservation work and assisted him particularly with photographing many of the environmental events which Sebastian organized.

Joachim was born June 15, 1951. He is survived by his wife, Calista, and six children.

family, is carrying through on this work. The concept of balance between technology and environment is still the philosophical underpinning of the organization.

Our Lindbergh-sponsored grant has given great impetus to our work and it is a pleasure and an honor to be affiliated with such a progressive and compassionate organization.

### Wood Artisans of East Africa

The woodcarvers of eastern Africa have been dependent on African blackwood for many generations. Using handtools such as adzes, rasps and saws these artists produce highly creative sculptures based on subject matter from both the natural and supernatural world.

**"I realized that if I had to choose, I would rather have birds than airplanes."  
Charles A. Lindbergh**

The best known artists are the Makonde of Tanzania. This group, which originated in highland areas south of Tanzania migrated north at the turn of the century and has now established artist co-operatives in Dar es Salaam and other major cities in Tanzania.

Makonde work is of three different styles, reflecting different African social and spiritual values. *Binadamu* work depicts men and women pursuing traditional societal roles and tasks. *Ujamaa* carvings are patterned on the important east African political idea of Unity and usually depict numerous groups of fig-

### Did you know?

- The African blackwood tree takes 100-200 years to reach a harvestable size.
- There are many areas in Tanzania where mpingo is now extinct.
- Africa is the only continent in which the standard of living is expected to decrease during the next century and Tanzania has one of the lowest per capita incomes in the world —\$240 per year. Extreme poverty often leads to increased dependence on natural resources and can have devastating effects on the natural environment.
- Within Africa, widespread fires that are set for brush control and agricultural clearing are destroying mpingo seedlings which are not fire resistant until they are about 2 years old. Fire may be affecting mature trees too, because instrument manufacturers report an increasing number of instrument blanks blowing apart on the lathe as they are milled and they attribute this to tiny cracks in the wood.
- Charcoal making is a growing industry in Africa because it is widely used in large cities for cooking and heating. Mpingo is a preferred species for this use because of its density.
- Many musicians and woodturners think there is no substitute for mpingo.
- Because of splits, bark intrusions, knots and imperfections, up to 90% of a harvested mpingo tree is often wasted in milling instrument-quality blanks.
- Many mpingos harvested for woodwind manufacture are left in the field to decay because their heartwood is lighter in color than is generally considered desirable.
- In Kenya, *Dalbergia melanoxyton* is commercially extinct and the Kenya carving groups have to import African blackwood or use alternative woods.

children's books and memoirs about her

ures, intertwined and interlocked in highly dynamic designs. *Shetani* sculptures reflect Makonde mythological and spiritual ideas, depicting religious beings, nature spirits and unseen creatures of the night in a highly modernistic sculptural style. Makonde art is purchased by private collectors and museums throughout the world.

The Zaramo carvers, from the Uzaramo area of Tanzania, work in a variety of styles, depicting their social and religious institutions. During the 1930's they were influenced by missionaries to carve for sale outside of their own society and they became widely known for their expertise. Their work inspired the Kamba woodcarvers from Kenya to establish carving groups which became highly successful commercially.

The booming tourist trade of eastern Africa has resulted in a high demand for African carvings, but has put an unfortunately intense demand on mpingo. The tree is now commercially extinct in Kenya and carvers there are importing wood for their art. Carvers in Tanzania



**Makonde Tree of Life sculpture courtesy of the Ethnographic Museum at the University of Oslo, Norway.**

are having increasing trouble in finding sources of the wood for their use.

### Earth Day at the US Embassy

On April 22, in celebration of Earth Day, the US Embassy in Dar es Salaam held a panel discussion focusing on sus-

tainable development. Sebastian was invited to attend and delivered a presentation on "The Relationship between Sustainable Development, Community-Based Education and Tree planting in Northern Tanzania."

The first Earth Day was organized in the US on April 22, 1970. On that day 20 million US citizens gathered together for one of the most spectacular environmental demonstrations in history, bringing conservation into the forefront of the national and world consciousness.

### COMPACT

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with the United Nations Foundation (UNF) has launched an initiative called the Community Management of Protected Areas Conservation Project (COMPACT), aimed at "increasing the effectiveness of biodiversity conservation at World Heritage sites and globally significant coral reefs."

In September 2001, communities on Mt. Kilimanjaro were designated to receive funding under this program. The main aim of the initiative is to protect the mountain's resources by helping to improve the livelihoods of the people who live on and near the mountain, working with them in setting up sustainable programs for the use of natural resources.

Support of up to \$50,000 will be

**"God has cared for these trees, saved them from drought, disease, avalanches and a thousand tempests and floods. But he cannot save them from fools."**

**John Muir**

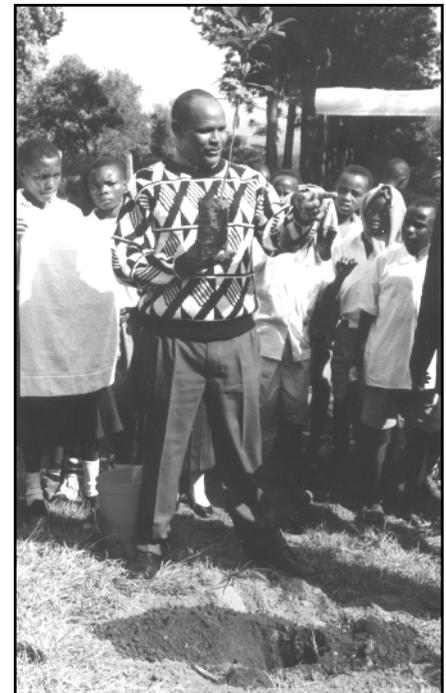
provided for 5 - 15 community-based activities on Kilimanjaro.

Since Sebastian has been so active in community-based activism on Kilimanjaro, he has been invited by COMPACT organizers to help them in initiating this action and introducing the project to community leaders in areas where natural resources are most heavily used.

At least 20,000 people are expected to benefit directly from COMPACT activities and 200,000 people indirectly.

COMPACT is also launching initiatives to conserve natural sites in Kenya, The Dominican Republic, Belize, Mexico and the Philippines.

### International Year of Mountains



**Moshi District Commissioner Ole Millia, as guest of honor at Kibosho East Environmental Day Ceremonies is planting a tree.**

2002 has been declared by the UN as the International Year of the Mountains (IYM). Countries around the world are sponsoring conferences and various celebrations in order to give focus to the special needs and importance of mountains and mountain communities.

Sebastian lives on Mt. Kilimanjaro, which, at 19,340 feet, is the highest mountain in Africa. Its rivers supply water to 5% of Tanzania's population and feed the Pangani River Basin, where dams supply the surrounding area with 95 MW of hydroelectric power. An estimated 20,000 tourists visit Mount Kilimanjaro National Park every year.

Its lower slopes are a rich agricultural area, producing one of Tanzania's richest exports, its famous Arabica coffee, as well as commercial timber, vegetables and 43 varieties of bananas

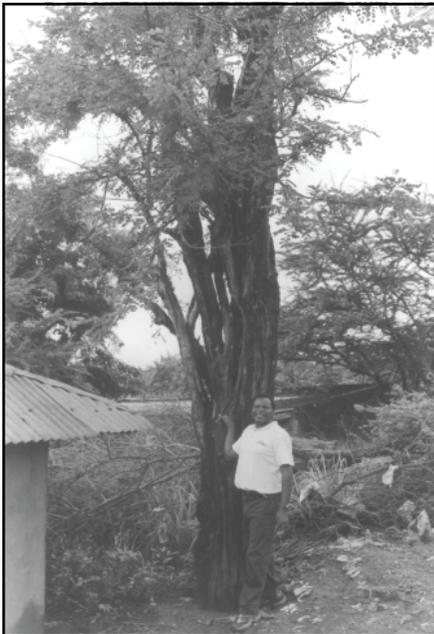
On May 6-10 High Summit Conferences were simultaneously held in Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia (North America was not represented). Representatives from mountain regions world-wide gathered to discuss the future of sustainable mountain development, concentrating on such themes as water, eco-tourism, politics, conflict, poverty and international cooperation. These conferences were hooked up by

satellite and proceedings were broadcast via the Internet.

Sebastian was invited to present his ideas on sustainable development and

**“In wildness is the preservation  
of the world.”  
Henry David Thoreau**

poverty alleviation on Mt. Kilimanjaro during the High Summit Africa Conference sponsored by the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) held in Nairobi, Kenya. Delegates at these conferences worked at drawing up resolutions for a Mountain Platform to form a structure for future action in relation to the issues of those who live in mountain regions. A culminating conference for



**Next to the Mwaya Village Market in Morogoro Region, Sebastian poses in front of ancient mpingo tree whose age he estimates to be over 100 years old.**

the IYM celebrations will be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan in October 2002.

### Roots and Shoots

In last year's newsletter, we reported on a conference at Mweka College of Wildlife Management addressing the theme "Wildlife Management in the New Millennium." Sebastian spoke at this seminar about mpingo conservation and was able to have a private meeting with Jane Goodall, the keynote speaker.

Since then Sebastian has been work-

ing with Ms. Goodall's organization "Roots and Shoots" in helping to set up youth conservation groups in the Arusha and Moshi areas. Roots and Shoots groups are similar to Malihai Clubs in that they teach young people about environmental conservation and involve them in direct action projects to help protect wildlife. Sebastian recently attended a meeting of "Roots and Shoots" leaders in Dar es Salaam.



**James Harris and Bette Stockbauer, US Coordinators of the ABCP, with Sebastian Chuwa during his 2002 visit to the US.**



**Elizabeth (Betty) Chuwa, wife of Sebastian, holds an mpingo seedling. She is a primary school teacher in Kibosho East and involved in the work of the ABCP, often standing in for Sebastian if necessary when he is away on safari.**

### History of the 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, ornamental turners and 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 it is generally considered to be threatened.

Sebastian Chuwa manages an mpingo nursery in Moshi, Tanzania, where seedlings are being distributed to area landowners as well as replanted in the wild. He also spreads the word about the plight of mpingo by organizing community programs to promote the species and mpingo youth clubs whose members learn about the tree and establish nursery and replanting efforts on its behalf.

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.

**Now Available—The "Tree of Music" Video or a Film by the ABCP Showing Sebastian's Conservation Work in Tanzania**



The video "The Conservation and Environmental Education Work of Sebastian Chuwa" was produced by James Harris on his home computer to profile Sebastian's work in Tanzania. In compiling this presentation James utilized the many hours of video footage that Sebastian has taken in Africa to record the conservation work of community groups around Mt. Kilimanjaro.

ro.

Also included is original wildlife footage of African savannah animals taken at national parks and reserves such as Ngorongoro Crater, Lake Manyara and the Serengeti Plain during safaris that Sebastian conducts to these areas.

Subject areas covered in the video are: Malihai Clubs, mpingo tree-planting at the Moshi Mpingo Plot, Environmental Day activities, the Kibosho East Environmental Choir, and a student field trip to wildlife parks.

This video and "Mpingo—The Tree That Makes Music" can be purchased from the ABCP. They are available only in NTSC format for US viewers. See the enclosed donation form for pricing and details of ordering. Proceeds will support the work of the ABCP in Tanzania.

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



The Mpingo tree is prized by musicians and woodworkers around the world. The future of the species, however, is under threat. Overharvesting of the wood and its habitat destruction are causing scientists to predict that it will soon be a threatened species. In this video, users of the wood, who consider it irreplaceable, express their apprehension that the precious resource may some day no longer be available for their use. Michael Gunton's exquisite documentary, the first of its kind, has brought the problem of Mpingo extinction to world attention. Included is a profile of the work of Sebastian Chuwa who is sponsoring replanting campaigns for Mpingo in Tanzania in hopes of insuring its future sustainability. This film was originally broadcast in 1992 on the US PBS *Nature* series and was the inspiration for the founding of the ABCP.

**African Blackwood Conservation Project  
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So that  
the song  
of the  
Tree of Music  
will not go  
silent...