



New ABCP Initiatives

This Newsletter reports on the tree planting initiatives of the ABCP during the years 2011 and 2012.

In 2011 almost 50,000 trees were planted by school groups, private users and in the village of Makuyuni. In 2012 ABCP project coordinator in Tanzania, Sebastian Chuwa, collected over one million seeds. Enlisting the help of several women's groups, an ambitious seedling initiative was begun to germinate and transplant these seeds. The groups were successful in starting about 500,000 seedlings, not only mpingo but others that have a variety of domestic and environmental uses.

It is the intent that these seedlings be distributed to be planted by the personnel and students of several institutions and 15 schools in Tanzania where planting conditions are favorable and they will be given adequate care.

Women's Tree Planting Groups

Three Women's Groups are working with Sebastian in producing tree seedlings for replanting.

The **Faraja Women's Group** is located in Mijongweni Village, close to the Moshi Mpingo Plot, the primary nursery for the ABCP. Members of this group regularly volunteer to help with planting seedlings at the nursery and instruct volunteers in nursery practices.



Member of Faraha Women's Group instructs volunteer at Moshi Mpingo Plot.

The **Green Garden Women's Group** has been assisted in years past by the ABCP to secure funding. This year group members are producing 30,000 seedlings for replanting.

The **Mpingo Women's Group** is located in Kikavu chini, south of Moshi. The ABCP has also supported the environmental work of this group.

Each of these groups aids in the cause of environmental education and awareness within its local community.

New Acreage at Makuyuni

During the past 5 years the villagers of Makuyuni have implemented an ambitious tree planting project funded jointly by the Good Gifts Catalogue and the ABCP. To date over 50,000 trees have been planted on village land managed by the community. Recently the Village Council assigned another 7 acres of village land to be designated for mpingo. In 2011 28,000 mpingo were planted at Makuyuni.

Our introduction to Sebastian Chuwa was in 1996 when we viewed the 1992 PBS-TV *Nature* series documentary titled "The Tree of Music" and found out about his commitment to the conservation of African Blackwood. In that film he was shown at his nursery with mpingo seedlings he had planted. He stated, "My 200 Mpingo seedlings are obviously not enough to make much difference compared with what is being lost. But next year I hope to have 20,000 seedlings to plant. It is vital for me to act now rather than wait until the future when things have reached a crisis."

It took a number of years for the ABCP to reach that number of mpingo seedlings produced, but we are now far surpassing this original dream of Sebastian's. Since his recent retirement from safari work, he is devoting more time to conservation activities and producing ever larger numbers of seedlings. Consequently the ABCP is faced with the necessity of extending its outreach to find new sources of funding for the needed planting materials and wages for workers. We ask that our supporters continue their generosity in order to support this greatly increased level of activity. — James and Bette Stockbauer-Harris



Unloading mpingo seedlings at Makuyuni.

Other new planting locations for mpingo are Uchira, Ngusero, Rundugai, Karatu, Kikavu chini and schools at the following locations: Himo School for the Deaf, Msufini, Makuyuni, Kisimani, Mijonweni, Karanga Primary, Weruweru Primary, Kikatiti Secondary, and Azimio.

Moshi Police Academy

A new ABCP planting initiative is being implemented in cooperation with the Moshi Police Academy (MPA), an institution based in Moshi, Tanzania that trains police personnel.

A recently established governmental program is calling for the planting of one million trees in each of Tanzania’s 30 regions. National agencies such as the Academy are being enlisted to help in this service.

Sebastian is working with the Academy towards the goal of planting over 40,000 trees. The facility has several

acres where it conducts training and practice maneuvers and is cooperating with the ABCP in planting a large number of trees in these areas.

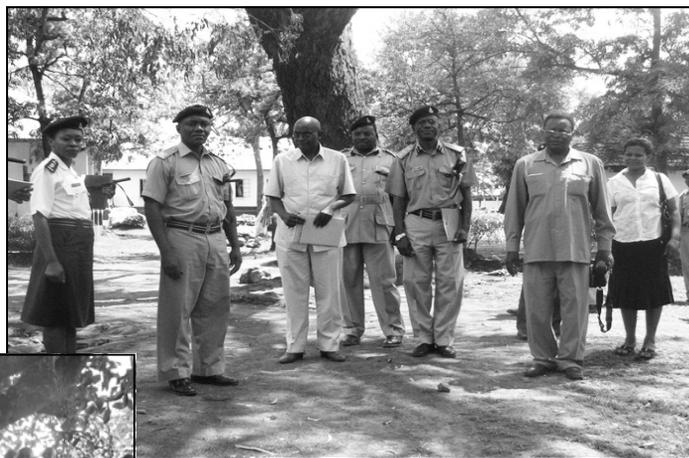
At Kilele Pori near Boma Ng’ombe (between Moshi and Arusha) the Academy utilizes 200 acres and will be planting 25,000 trees. Another 15,000 trees will be planted near Mabogini on a 35 acre site.

The Academy is offering the services of its cadets on a voluntary basis to help with the work. Since the locations selected are somewhat distant from the physical loca-

ing been founded in 1921 under colonial rule. It was first located in Morogoro, then moved to Dar es Salaam in 1930 and eventually to Moshi in 1954. Currently it accepts 3,000 trainees during



Elhirich Kazungu, Malihai Education Officer presents membership certificate to Nassery Mwakamboja, Chief Instructor (MPA) .



Academy grounds—From left: Amina Baturilimu, Lutusyo Mwakyusao, Musa Nyangwa, Elhirich Kazungu, Nassery Mwakamboja, Sebastian Chuwa, Helen John.



MPA Police cadets who will participate in tree planting initiatives.

tion of the police academy, local people will be hired for follow-up care for the trees.

Chief Commandant Matanga Mbushi comments that his institution has a very long history, hav-

each intake period. It is the only military college which provides basic military training to police officers in the country, so every police officer in Tanzania and Zanzibar has been taught there. MPA has also trained personnel for other countries such as Namibia, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Uganda and Rwanda.

Opening ceremonies for the new initiative were held on school grounds with trees planted to celebrate the occasion. The work will be carried forward through the association of the ABCP and Malihai Clubs of Tanzania. We anticipate a fruitful association with this prestigious institution.

Two Million Trees

In the village of Uru East, the ABCP, local schools and Malihai groups associated with Sebastian’s tree planting efforts held ceremonies to celebrate the planting of 2 million trees.

population density in this area, tree planting programs are popular to offset depletion caused by domestic use of trees for daily living needs.

1500 people attended the ceremonies, including officials from the town-



Sebastian Chuwa addresses guests at the Two Million Tree ceremonies.

The village of Uru is located directly north of Moshi in the foothills of Mt. Kilimanjaro, an area known for its fertile soil and abundant rainfall. With high

ship of Moshi and media representatives from Tanzanian radio, press and TV. The guest of honor was local Counselor Evarist Momburi. Included in the



Students perform local dances for ceremonies.

event were the planting of 10,000 trees by Malihai groups, around Kisarika Secondary School and five area farms.

Future objectives discussed during the celebration were the goal of planting five million trees and granting awards to the most active schools.

Cottonwood Office Extension

The Cottonwood Foundation has funded the building of an extension to the main building at the Moshi Mpingo Plot, the primary nursery and tree orchard for the ABCP. This new addition will be important for Sebastian’s work, as he will be able to stay overnight at the Plot and dedicate an increased amount of time to nursery work.

The new extension will also serve as a living and office area, allowing him to take care of correspondence and management work for the ABCP. The space is a partially screened enclosure that allows abundant airflow in order to offset the mid-day heat.

We regret to report that Paul Moss, the founder of the Cottonwood Foundation, has decided to retire and its international activities will come to an end. The ABCP once again extends its great appreciation for the years of support it has given the work of the ABCP. Cottonwood has funded much of the infrastructure at the Moshi Mpingo Plot, including the water tower, nursery structures, a computer, and several phases of the building projects that have made the Plot not only a nursery, but a living quarters and rest area for our workers and volunteers.

We thank Paul Moss and his staff for the many years of dedicated service



Cottonwood Office extension.

offered to projects around the world, supporting the work of groups that are trying to make a difference. We wish them a happy journey into the future.



Sebastian Chuwa receives environmental award for 30 years of dedicated service with Malihai Clubs of Tanzania.

Malihai Clubs of Tanzania 30 Year Anniversary

On March 13, 2011 Sebastian was presented with an award for 30 years of service with Malihai Clubs of Tanzania.

Malihai Clubs of Tanzania was founded in 1980, with the vision of bringing children to an awareness of their environment and guiding them in actions to protect and improve it.

Malihai is a Swahili work that means *Living Wealth*, referring to the optimization of living conditions for all kingdoms that share life on our planet—human, animal, and plant, as well as the soil and the air.

Sebastian was a co-founder of the organization and holds the title of Chief Patron in the Kilimanjaro area. In that capacity he has opened clubs in primary and secondary schools throughout the Moshi/Kilimanjaro area.

Many Malihai Clubs have tree planting projects, involving family and community members in reforestation of the magnificent ecosystem of northern Tanzania. This area, called the Northern Circuit, is important not only because of its ecological diversity, but also economically, as it attracts tourism from around the world. Mt. Kilimanjaro is a destination for international climbers and Moshi and Arusha are hubs for safari traffic to popular parks such as

Ngorongoro, Tarangire and the Serengeti.

On receiving the award Sebastian said, "I feel very honored to receive such an award and at the same time very encouraged to plunge myself even deeper into this honorable task. I am committed to continue jour-

neying with children through this field of environmental education throughout my life. I consider it noble and at the same time an obligation on my part to share and pass on to the younger generation the need and value of loving and conserving nature and its environment."

ABCP Volunteers

Each year, Sebastian hosts a number of volunteers or groups from around the world who have learned of ABCP projects on the Internet or by word of mouth.

Daniel Watt and Lisa Baker from Great Britain each spent several weeks working at the ABCP nursery and a com-

munity nursery in Sungu near Sebastian's home on Kilimanjaro.

Thirty-one students and five teachers from the French School in Nairobi volunteered for several days at the Moshi Plot. Ten students and two teachers from Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, USA helped sift soil and pot seedlings at the Moshi Plot.

World Forum Foundation

In May, 2011 Sebastian attended a World Forum Foundation (WFF) conference in Honolulu, Hawaii along with 800 delegates from 80 countries. The WFF, founded by Bonnie and Roger Neugebauer, is dedicated to the promotion of early childhood education and



Sebastian was one of 800 participants at World Forum Foundation conference in Honolulu.

the global exchange of ideas germane to all aspects of education. To further that objective, every two years an international conference is held in a different country bringing together educators from around the world.

Fourteen working groups, each dedicated to one aspect of education, cooperate to find solutions to some of the field's most pressing problems.

In 2009 the WFF became a member of the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI), founded by former US President Bill Clinton to convene global leaders in creating and implementing innovative solutions to the world's most pressing challenges.



Volunteers from Earlham College, USA with Sebastian Chuwa, looking over seed pots at Moshi Mpingo Plot.

ABCP Donation Form

The ABCP was founded in 1996 with the objective of promoting replanting and educational efforts for the conservation of *Dalbergia melanoxylon*/mpingo, widely used in the manufacture of musical instruments. Mpingo is one of the world’s most precious wood resources, known since antiquity for its beauty and exquisite working properties. Another part of our outreach is tree planting for poverty alleviation in the areas where we work. All trees are planted in climatically-appropriate areas where they will be protected and therefore have an excellent chance of long-range survival.

All donations collected in the US are used in direct support of the projects in Africa. The US team works on a purely voluntary level and in addition personally underwrites most costs in this country to support our fundraising and publicity efforts and the ABCP website. Please consider a donation today and help us insure a viable future for African blackwood. You may also find it convenient to make an online donation from the ABCP website using the PayPal system. Just visit the home page at blackwoodconservation.org and click the PayPal Donation button midway down the page.

During the 1800's the material of choice for woodwind instruments was cocuswood from the West Indies. Lacking any conservation measures to insure its future, that wood was so over harvested it became commercially extinct and only now is making a small comeback. Commercial users of cocuswood switched to mpingo because it had many similar fine qualities and subsequently it began to be heavily harvested in eastern Africa as a substitute.

The ABCP is the only group which presently has a major focus on replanting programs for African blackwood. In our opinion, this is vital if we want to see mpingo survive as a commercial species and not meet the same fate as cocuswood. We believe the pressure on mpingo will increase in the future. Because of increasing population and economic pressures, the greater demand for natural resources will further intensify the forces which cause deforestation. This will undoubtedly increase the pressure on the harvesting of African blackwood because it is a valuable source of foreign exchange, both as a raw material and as finished carvings. It also has important local economic value as charcoal.

With the growing concern about climate change, the planting of a tree is a positive step that any individual can take to have a positive personal impact. Trees serve as carbon storehouses, sequestering carbon dioxide, one of the primary greenhouse gases responsible for rising global temperatures.

If you would be interested in receiving this newsletter by electronic means only, and thus saving the paper and postage necessary to mail out a printed hardcopy, please send a blank email to ABCP at info@blackwoodconservation.org with the subject line "E-newsletter only". We will then send you an email notice each year when the newsletter is published with links to the ABCP website where the PDF hardcopy version is available as well as a HTML version with color photos. Please update us if you change email addresses.



AFRICAN BLACKWOOD CONSERVATION PROJECT



• Please accept my tax-deductible donation to ABCP in the amount of: \$ _____

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Mail this form and donation to:

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P.O. Box 26
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Please make check or money order payable to **ABCP**.

Thank you for your support

Good Gifts Catalogue — Just in Time for Christmas!

The Good Gifts Catalogue, a charitable organization in Great Britain, has been funding the ABCP since 2006. Its supporters have sponsored the planting of 75,000 mpingo trees. With this support the ABCP has been able to establish an ambitious planting project in Makuyuni, distribute trees to many schools and villagers in the Moshi/Arusha area and recently begin another initiative in cooperation with the Moshi Police Academy. Good Gifts funding has helped expand ABCP work into new areas, educate a wider public about the many environmental benefits of mpingo and leave a legacy for future generations,

In addition, since most infrastructure costs, of tree seedlings production and ABCP management costs, are borne by the ABCP, much of Good Gifts funding has been used in the form of salaries for personnel to plant the seedlings and give after-care to insure survival. This funding has been of great benefit to our partners in Tanzania, as much of the money was used to pay for school fees for their children, the agricultural costs of raising crops or home improvement, thereby enhancing the quality of their private lives.



The Good Gifts Catalogue lists over 200 gifts, each of which has been selected to fill a social or economic need, often in an impoverished country. Gifts for all seasons and celebrations can be discovered in diverse array, choosing from such offerings as goats, ducks and cattle for needy families, books and teacher training, health care options such as life-saving inoculations, even defusing of bombs and land mines. Other gifts, such as sewing machines and knitting supplies offer livelihood opportunities.

We urge you to visit their website, just in time for Christmas. There you will find a collection of gifts that will truly touch the heart and change lives: www.goodgifts.org/

Photos of Makuyuni: www.blackwoodconservation.org/goodgifts.html

[Good Gifts logo for Bagpipe Seedlings](#)

African Blackwood Conservation Project

P. O. Box 26 Red Rock, TX 78662 USA



So that
the song
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Tree of Music
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