

# FORS News

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## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2008

(By Magreth Fadhili)

World Environment Day is a United Nations global celebration that takes place every year on June 5<sup>th</sup>. FORS uses this day as a platform for raising environmental awareness

by showcasing the work of the primary school students of Idodi and Pawaga divisions.

This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year that FORS has celebrated World Environment

Day in its target schools.

This year's theme for World Environment Day was **"Kick the Habit! Towards a Low Carbon Economy!"** **"Badili Mazoea! Jenga Uchumi Endelevu Kwa Kudhibiti Uzalishaji Gesi Joto."** Tanzania modified this into a national theme: **"Conserve Environment, Stop Burning of Forests, Plant Trees"** **"Hifadhi Mazingira, Dhibiti Uchomaji Moto, Panda Miti."**

All 24 primary schools in Pawaga and Idodi divisions participated in the celebrations. FORS facilitated the organization of 3 centers in Pawaga division: Luganga, Itunundu and Kinyika. Mr. Festo Semanini of Wildlife Conservation Society and the District Forest Officer Mr. Magid Mhina were guests of honor in Pawaga division. In Idodi division there were two centers: Mlowa and Idodi.

At each center students presented songs, dances, drama, and poetry related to Tanzania's national WED theme. Local environmental experts gave speeches on various issues of local and

nity partnerships as one of the best ways to achieve a safer, more productive balance between people, wildlife and the environment.

Local leaders in the communities of Idodi and Pawaga thanked FORS for using its resources, energy and time to make WED 2008 a great success for students, teachers, and their communities.

### 2008 WED BEST SCHOOL ENVIRONMENT AWARDS

#### IDODI WINNERS

1. Kitanewa
2. Idodi
3. Tungamalenga
4. Mahungu

#### PAWAGA WINNERS

1. Isele
2. Magozi
3. Itunundu
4. Luganga



Kinyika students celebrating WED



### The Friends of Ruaha Society

FORS is a registered charity based in Iringa, Tanzania near Ruaha National Park. FORS was started in 1984 to assist with the task of safeguarding the wildlife and environment of the park. In recent years, FORS has expanded its work and focuses on environmental education in the communities that border Ruaha. These communities are now part of the new Lunda Mkwambi Wildlife Management Area (WMA), giving local people the opportunity to benefit from their wildlife and also making them an increasingly important part of the conservation equation. FORS strives to *conserve Ruaha's ecosystem by increasing environmental awareness in the communities that border Ruaha National Park, thereby ensuring that local*

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*people understand the balance between themselves, wildlife and the environment.*

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## CONGRATULATIONS KITANEWA, KITISI AND TUNGAMALENGA!

(By Magreth Fadhili)

FORS would like to congratulate these three schools for their efforts of planting tree seedlings as shown below. This year they have succeeded in germinating more than 1500 tree seedlings of different species.



Nursery with fruit tree seedlings

lings of indigenous species for fruit, shade, ornamental, and

fencing as shown below. This year they have succeeded in germinating more than 1500 tree seedlings of different species.

As a reward for this great work, FORS plans to find an expert from Tanzania Tree Seed Agency (TTSA) to do grafting of the seedlings in order to improve the quality and production of fruit within a short period of time.

FORS encourages all primary schools from Idodi and Pawaga divisions participating in our EE Program to plant tree seedlings of fruit and indigenous species not only to conserve environment but also to get other benefits like fruit, shade, firewood etc.

## BTS Visit

(By Jackson Ngowi)

In June FORS received 13 visitors from the British Tanzania Society. Our guests had tea with FORS employees at the Iringa office and were given a presentation on current FORS projects.

After tea they were driven to Kitanewa Primary School, where they met with the Head Teacher and 20 students from Standard 6. Although the school was on vacation, our visitors saw teacher's manuals, a notice board and cupboard that were donated with BTS money. We thank BTS for its continued support.



### FORS ARTICLE

Pick up the Sept/Oct issue of Tanzanian wildlife magazine *Kakakuona* to read a great article about FORS!

# Storyboard Event 2008

(By Alexander Klose)

FORS' annual storyboard event is a chance for students to recognize the importance and value of cultural traditions, and to understand that care for the environment has always played a prominent role in the life of the community. The theme for 2008 was "Trees are protectors of the environment." Standard 6 students worked together in groups of six to come up with an original illustrated story that reflects the year's theme.

Students are encouraged to talk to family members, especially elders, for inspiration and ideas for their stories. This year's event culminated with the announcement of the winners at World Environment Day.

*Best Story:*

**ISELE, KITISI**

*Best Illustration:*

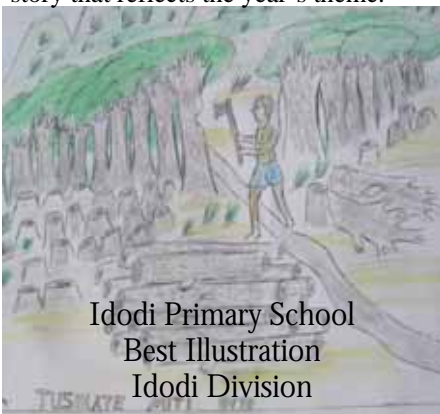
**ISELE, IDODI**

*Best Environmental Message:*

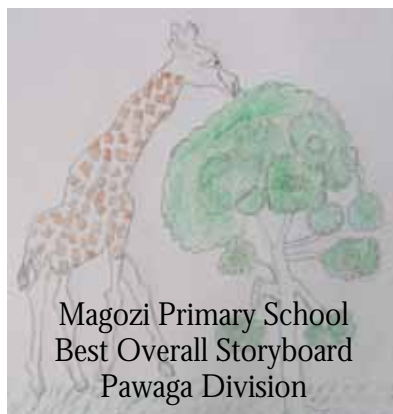
**LUGANGA, TUNGAMALENGA**

*Best Overall Storyboard:*

**MAGOZI, MSEMBE**



Idodi Primary School  
Best Illustration  
Idodi Division



Magozi Primary School  
Best Overall Storyboard  
Pawaga Division

# Thanks to WWF!

FORS would like to thank World Wildlife Fund for its generous donation of 343 Environmental Education books. In May we requested 50 books for our Pawaga schools, so it was a wonderful surprise when we received over 300! We will distribute the books to 9 schools in Pawaga and 2 in Idodi. The books are colorfully illustrated and are full of information about Water, Weather, Wildlife, Forests and Soil, all of which are core themes in FORS' EE Modules.



## WORLD WATER WEEK AND FILM SHOWS

(By Anette Kyvik)

Every year FORS conducts educational film shows in all 24 schools of Idodi and Pawaga divisions as a part of our Environmental Education Program. In order to reach a greater audience, we also conduct these film shows in the evenings in the villages where the schools are located. These film shows start at the same time that we celebrate World Water Week, which is from 16<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> March every year.

This year FORS organized 48 film shows in Idodi and Pawaga divisions, and more than 15,000 children and 10,000 villagers attended. We showed at least two films at each school, and after watching the films, FORS staff and teachers led a discussion to get students' input on the films as well as to assess the students' knowledge on the topics discussed in the films.

At the village film shows, FORS and the village chairperson started by welcoming all villagers to the show, followed by a presentation about FORS and its activities. Then we



*Matalawe students watching Maji ni Uhai*

emphasized that the films are not only for entertainment but also have important environmental messages.

Thanks to Nature for Kids (NFK) and the African Environmental Film Foundation (AEFF), we were able to show new films, including:

*The Great Ruaha River, Elephants of Tsavo, Mkobo and the Great Lion*, as well as FORS' own *Water is Life*. The film shows were a great success, as indicated by these comments:

*"I always thought that animals were enemies to humans, but if we will live well with animals they don't have problems and can be our friends, very nice!" -Villager from Mafuluto.*

*"In our home we have a big number of livestock and today I'm going to tell my father to sell some animals and buy seeds so we can plant grass like Issa (character in NFK film)"*

-Standard II Student from Mafuluto.



*Children from Mlowa enjoying 'Elephants of Tsavo'*



*Idodi villagers gathered for an evening of films projected onto the side of the local post office*

## More Thanks!

Bill Stanley of the Chicago Field Museum generously donated 25 beautiful calendars to FORS; one for each of our schools and one for our office. The 2008 'Bats of Tanzania' calendars have amazing pictures plus lots of fun facts - in Swahili and English - about different bats.

UNDP— United Nations Development Programme- for their continued support of all our annual activities in Pawaga.

Nature For Kids, a Dutch organization, donated a DVD with three 20-minute environmental films in Swahili featuring Tanzanian children as the main characters. 'Sophia and the Terrific Forest,' 'Mkobo and the Great Lion,' and 'Issa and the Returning Grasslands' were all big hits at this year's film shows, especially with the younger students.

To all new FORS members who signed up or renewed membership this year: thank you for your support!

## Assessment of EE Program

(by Kate Forrester Kibuga)

In February FORS conducted an internal evaluation of its environmental education program. Two schools in Idodi and one in Pawaga (where the EE program was initiated more recently) were chosen for the sample. Teachers and students at these three schools were interviewed in order to gauge how directly the FORS modules are being implemented. Villagers were also asked about FORS to determine whether there is any awareness of our activities outside the schools.

Our findings indicate that FORS' presence in Idodi and Pawaga has contributed to an increase in environmental awareness in these communities. In particular, the educational safaris to Ruaha were mentioned as one of most effective aspects of the FORS program. Specifically, knowledge about Ruaha seems to have been transferred from the children to their parents, something that doesn't always happen with lessons learned in the classroom.

Perhaps most importantly, students in the schools could talk coherently about environmental issues. The debates held by Standard VII students were particularly impressive, proof positive that FORS must continue to train teachers in participatory methodologies, for this type of teaching greatly enhances student learning and empowerment.

The findings of this evaluation lead us to believe that by continuing the FORS EE program, future generations in Idodi and Pawaga will have a deeper knowledge and respect for their local environment.

# ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION PACKAGE

(By Mwamini Masanja, Volunteer)

As proposed during the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of February, 16<sup>th</sup> 2008, FORS would like to consolidate the materials it has developed over the years into an Environmental Education Package that can be purchased by other organizations looking to implement similar EE programs.

The EE package would serve three main purposes: a guide for program implementation in other areas of Tanzania, a source of income for FORS, and a marketing tool to spread the word about FORS. It is currently a work in progress; ultimately it will be a bilingual resource bank in English and Swahili of some of the materials that FORS has used successfully.

Like our Teacher's Manual, which has been in use for several years now, one of the main goals of the EE Package is to lighten teachers' work loads. We believe that teachers all over the world, especially Tanzanians, can adapt and benefit from what the FORS Environmental Education Program.

The EE Package covers many themes, including an overview of FORS' EE Program, how the program was developed and its philosophy. It also includes two manuals: the FORS Teachers' Manual and the new FORS Participatory Teaching Techniques Manual, also a work in progress.

Teaching aids will include pictures, posters, a FORS promo film and a teacher training film that highlights the use of participatory methods. All of these resources can be used to spread FORS' philosophy where it is not possible for us to conduct workshops locally.

## SUA INTERNS 2008



TULA

FORS was happy to host Nelson Mnyanyi and Tulamwona Dumulinyi, from Sokoine University of Agriculture (SUA), both pursuing BSc's in Environmental Sciences and Management. Working at FORS was part of their field practical. Here are some of their comments... "To me environment is life, since we live in it, and depend on it completely, it encompasses all things that surround us. Learning, knowing, using it sustainably and conserving it, will together make us save millions of today's and tomorrow's living creatures. Being with FORS, which has the spirit of charity, has taught me a lot, it was an exciting experience working with colleagues who are really devoted and good stewards to environment"...says Tulamwona.



NELSON

Nelson also had something to say... "I appreciate and congratulate FORS for facilitating Environmental Education in Idodi and Pawaga - the communities around Ruaha National Park. Here at FORS I have learned that through Environmental Education it is possible to conserve our environment for sustainable development"

Tula and Nelson have been of great assistance; translating FORS Teachers' manual, writing reports and preparing articles for this newsletter. FORS would like to thank them for their hard work and the spirit they have towards environmental issues. We wish them the best of luck in their future careers.

### How to contact FORS

Anyone who would like to get in touch with FORS for information or other matters is welcome to contact any of the FORS Team at the postal, email addresses and mobile below:

Email: [friendsofruaha@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofruaha@gmail.com)

Address: P.O. BOX 692, Iringa

Mobile: 0756 457 204

#### Tanzania:

National Bank of Commerce  
H/O Dar es Salaam  
NBC IBID SWIFT: NLCBZTX  
Iringa Branch  
Iringa, Tanzania  
Branch code: 851528  
Friends Of Ruaha Society  
Account No. 028103002483

#### Overseas: (NEW UK ACCOUNT)

The Co-operative Bank  
PO Box 250  
Delf House, Southway,  
Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT  
UK  
Sort Code: 08-92-99  
Friends Of Ruaha Society  
Account No. 65293412

### MEMBERSHIP

For renewals or new memberships, please fill out this form and send to:

In Tanzania:  
Box 692, Iringa  
Tanzania

Outside Tanzania:  
Emma Forrester,  
32 Grove Road, Bladon,  
Woodstock, Oxfordshire  
OX20 1RD, UK

Those with an account in Tanzania wishing to continue to subscribe by standing order are requested to fill in the necessary form (each bank has its own) and ask their bank to pay their subscription or make an annual donation on their behalf on 15th January each year without further reference to them. Donations made in this fashion are tax deductible under Tanzanian law.

## Membership Form

Membership fees	Student/Volunteer	Individual	Family	Corporate
Tanzanian citizen (Tsh)	2,000	10,000	24,000	200,000
Expatriate (Tsh)	12,000	20,000	50,000	200,000
Overseas (US \$)	24	40	100	400
Overseas (£ Sterling)	15	25	55	225

Name:.....

Membership: [check box]

New member                       Tanzanian Citizen     Student/Volunteer

Membership renewal            Expatriate                 Individual

Overseas                               Family

Corporate

Method of payment:.....

Postal address:.....