

Barbets Duet – Photographic Record

Site Visit Safari & Lukenya Convention

17-26 January 2014



1st Stop: Seme, Kenya – Obyerodyhambo site

The week before the Lukenya Convention, Chris Jones, Barbara Heinzen, Rading Obyerodhyambo & Bernard Mburu drove from Nkoroi to Seme where they met up with Oby Obyerodhyamo, his brother, Cus and other members of the family.

Just outside the compound (right),
is a 'sacred grove' (below).
This area supports wild biodiversity
& native species.



***“With no indication of what will succeed,
we just keep trying.”***

Below, left to right:
tissue culture bananas; a field with five varieties of sweet potato; a piggery
producing meat & fertilizer.

Multiple patches of
'sacred groves'
should also improve
crop pollination.



Seme Site Visit Activities

Debating what to plant in the 'far field'.



Oby, Cus & Chris Jones building a thorn fence designed to protect *siala* trees suffering from heavy grazing.



This tree was planted 3 years ago.

Siala = Markamia lutea



Oby (blue shirt) interviewed Mama Majani, a traditional healer and herbalist, at the local market.



Two dams, side by side: one muddy & one clear.

2nd Stop: Molo, Uganda – Magode Ikuya’s site

From Seme, the safari drove to Mbale, eastern Uganda. The team visited Magode Ikuya’s site in Molo, then drove to villages on Mt Elgon the next day. Magode joined the travellers for the journey back to Nairobi and the Lukenya Convention.



Trouble: December 2012

In 2012, Magode Ikuya’s fish pond was robbed of all its fish and the surrounding trees & grasses were burnt.

This was a major setback.



Despite this trouble, between December 2012 & January 2014, Magode raised the money to design & rebuild the fish ponds.

Molo Fish Ponds, 2014



By Jan 2014,
the fish
ponds were
working
again.

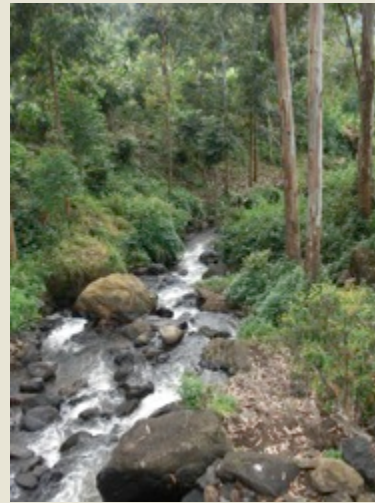


A heavy
fence &
small
guardian's
hut provide
greater
security.

Recovery: January 2014



Molo's Greater Watershed – Mt Elgon



Magode's fish pond is built along the Kanginima stream running from Mt Elgon. These pictures were taken along the road to Bugiboni, a village on the slopes of Mt Elgon. The area is intensively cultivated, with evidence of erosion.



In Mbale, Victor Wanyonto took us to their new Bugisu Radio Station.



3rd Stop: RAE – Baringo, Kenya

From Mbale, the safari drove through Eldoret, Iten, Kabarnet to Baringo in order to visit the RAE Trust. The travellers stayed at Roberts Camp where they were greeted by the unusual sound of waves.



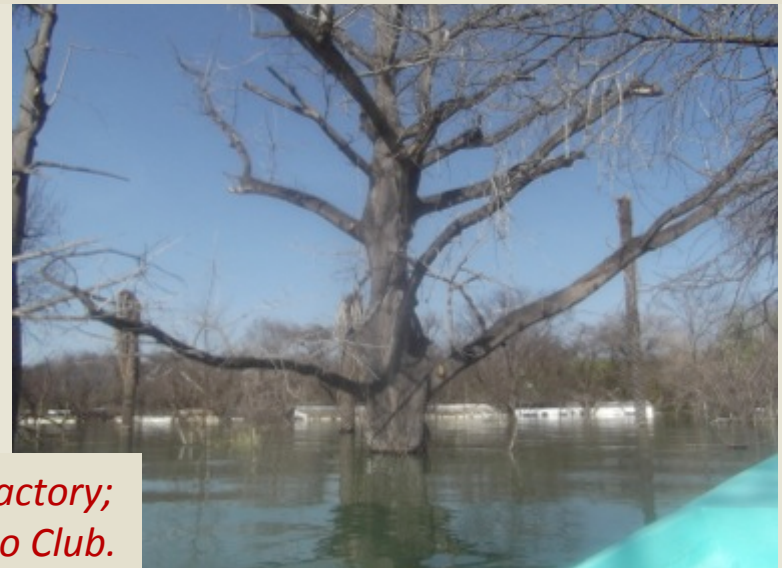
Flooding at Roberts Camp.



Mysteriously, Lake Baringo had been rising since 2011, after years of drying up. Many places have been flooded. Tens of thousands of people are displaced.



*Left: former fish factory;
right: Lake Baringo Club.*



RAE – Restoration of Arid Environments

The [RAE Trust](#) has been working with local communities around Lake Baringo for several decades. Their work is remarkable for its successful restoration of over-grazed arid lands, and supportive community agreements and management practices. In principle, the RAE Trust would like to work with the members of the Barbets Duet.



Over-grazing leads to bare ground that easily washes away in heavy rains. This creates deep gullies and sends silt into Lake Baringo, possibly raising the water level.



Above right: RAE restored field;
Left: fence separating degraded land from restored RAE field.



Right: *Prosopis Juliflora*, an Australian native introduced by the World Bank to control erosion. It is now invasive.



Right: *Prosopis calensis*, an East African native in the RAE restored field.



4th Stop: Lukenya Convention



The last stop on the safari was Sammy Muvelah site at Lukenya, 60km outside of Nairobi. The travellers arrived early on Friday afternoon to prepare the guest house for the Fifth Barbets Convention, attended by 14 people. The next morning, everyone went for a site walk.



Lukenya – Evolution of Sammy Muvelah’s Site

2008-2014



Oct. 2009 – Guest House construction



Jan. 2014 – Guest House welcomes 5th Barbets Convention & the discussion begins



Sammy Muvelah



Dec. 2008 - Dam



Oct. 2009 - Dam



Jan. 2014 - Dam

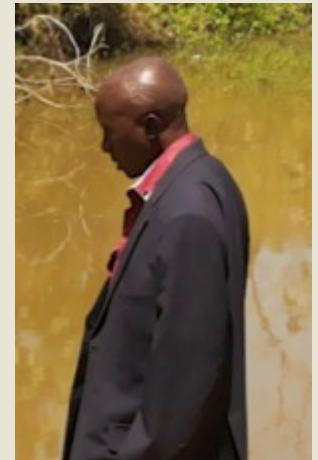
Lukenya – Trees & Tourism



Above: new tree planation;
Below: tree nursery.



**New dam provides water for trees,
tourism & local residents.**



Mzee Zhao



Barbeteers are first 'tourists' to stay overnight at site.

Lukenya Convention Discussions

In addition to reports from, and advice to each site, the group discussed how to relate to the wider world.

- Welcoming interns;
- Facebook presence & website;
- Action research proposal

Sankara Yambo recorded proceedings.



At this Convention, a younger generation joined the Founding Partners, building on the previous Convention's discussions of continuity and succession.

Portraits

Sankara Yambo & Respect Chipungu Nkhoma



Oby Obyerodhyambo & Magode Ikuya



Sammy Muvelah & Chris Jones



Mama Gishindo ???? & Mwajuma Masaiganah

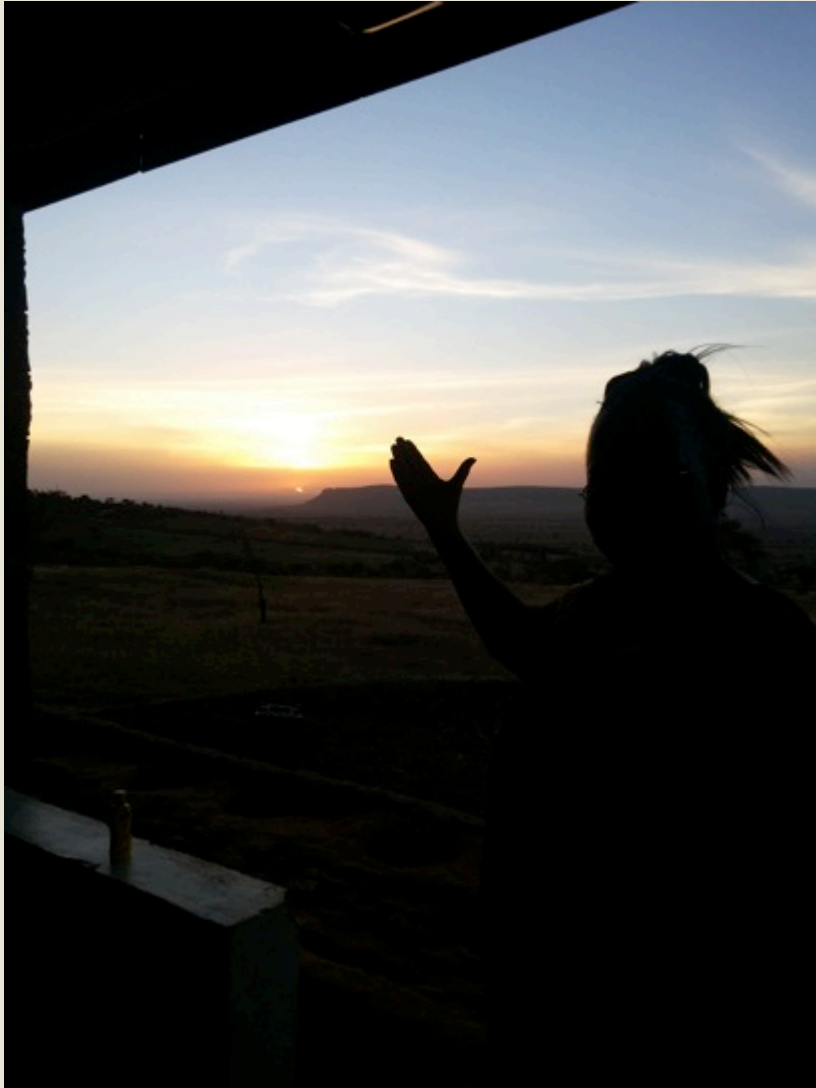


Rading Obyerodhyambo, Mwajuma???, Sharon Magode, Machano Ali



Barbara Heinzen & Hilda Adhiambo

Sunset at Lukenya



People had arrived late on Friday night, 25 January, and left the following Sunday afternoon, 27 January 2014.

As ever, the time was too short. However, the fact that all but one site made it to Lukenya illustrates the determination of all to keep going.

Postscript: 2014, the Year of the Jackfruit



Before leaving Molo, the travelers bought two jack fruit one of which was 'butchered' and shared at Lake Baringo.



Mwajuma Masaiganah brought more jack fruit to Lukenya from Tanzania. The seeds were gathered and planted by Chris Jones in grow bags at the Obyerodhyambo house in Nkoroi. By March 2014, the jackfruit seeds had sprouted.