

Discover Newsletter – February 2021

Soon it will be time to say Good-bye!



All good things come to an end!

We launched Discover in March 2014. Since then our partners have been extremely active, and we are proud of what they have achieved. Now most of them are at the stage where they have the self-confidence and skills, and the determination, to continue without further support from Discover. Our goal of "helping people to be self-reliant" is within reach.

The other aspect is that I am no longer a spring chicken; I want to withdraw while things are going well, and not just because I cannot manage the work of coordination anymore. Also, sadly there is nobody who is ready to step into my shoes.

Discover will come to an end with a celebration in March 2022. In the meantime, we have a lot to do to ensure a good project closure. We want each partner to be in the position of having the resources to continue. Some need financial support so that they can establish a way of generating their own income, some need financial support to complete their present programmes, some are already standing on their own feet.

Most of our partners are in Uganda. We will arrange opportunities for groups of partners to spend a few days at "Busaino Fruits and Herbs" in Jinja, which has been developed by Judith Bakirya, and a few days at the Farmer Field School developed by Eric Kihuluka and his colleagues in Kaliro. Both centres provide the opportunity to learn a lot: for example organic gardening, animal husbandry, animal feed production, conservation, natural healthcare treatments, income generation. Then later, when it is safe to do so, I hope to make final visits to Uganda, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

In this newsletter, I would like to feature the remarkable work of Kenja Thomas and the villagers in Kighengi Village in Uganda. Thanks to your financial support and that of the "bwirkt" project of Stiftung Entwicklung Zusammenarbeit here in Baden-Württemberg, 104 fish tanks have been constructed: 64 in Kighengi village, 20 in Kirembe village and 20 in Kinyaminagha, a village with many disabled people. They have managed this despite severe challenges caused by the corona lockdown and the floods that took away the gardens of many villagers with all their crops. Instead of travelling for one hour by motorbike to reach the village, Thomas had to walk for one and a half days to supervise the work. To fill the tanks with water, the women had to walk 20 kilometres to a river, and then 20 km back, uphill, with a jerrycan weighing 20 kg, and often with a baby on their backs.



A delighted family showing a couple of their grown catfish

To fill one pond required 125 such trips. Unbelievable! Just a few had the help of a motorbike. The lockdown and the floods made their poverty even worse, and we had to give a little extra help for the purchase of food, seeds and fish feed, but it was all worth it. Families now enjoy sufficient protein and have fish left over which they can sell, and thus generate a little income for their household and school fees. The district authority is also impressed. They will choose 5 families who will train others in fishpond construction and care. They had previously never thought it was possible to have a fishpond in the absence of running water.

My online lecture on the topic of “The impact of the climate crisis and COVID in Africa” generated a lot of interest. Being online and in English, friends from all over Germany and England were able to take part. For those who missed it, I will present the lecture again on Tuesday 9 February at 4pm UK time. This time it will be hosted by three Ugandans, two of whom live in Germany and one in Uganda, who hold regular zoom meetings on topics of importance to Africa. If you would like to attend online, and make your comments or ask questions, use this link: (Meeting-ID: 815 5980 3287, code: 294251.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81559803287?pwd=c0Jtc29oYlJ4SkZzVHVFUmdYZEl0QT09>

A reminder that a national training seminar will take place in Uganda from 22 to 27 February in Wakiso. If you have contact with people in Uganda who would like to participate, click [here](#) for more details.

Thank you for your interest and support through all the years since Discover was launched in 2014. Please keep it up for one more year! We need your support to make a success of our exit strategy.

With my best wishes

Keith Lindsey and the Discover team in Germany