

Discover Newsletter – January 2025

Building on solid foundations in 2025



We are delighted to report that in 2024 our very dedicated and active African colleagues have planted more trees than ever before. But that is not the most significant development:

1. Increasing numbers of farmers who previously cut trees at will now recognise how valuable they are and beg for more tree seedlings. They now know from their own experience that their crops grow better because the trees shade them from the sun and ensure that torrential rains soak steadily into the ground.
2. Vast numbers of schoolchildren are becoming enthusiastic about growing trees and vegetables and caring for the environment – and many parents catch the spirit too.



3. The benefits accruing to the communities because of the work of our Discover colleagues are recognised by district authorities, NGOs and religious institutions. As a result, productive partnerships are developing. So much so that in Kaliro District, Uganda, for example, through such a partnership in 2024 over 100,000 new trees were planted.

Our African colleagues express their gratitude for your support. For example, Kenja Thomas, who works day and night on behalf of communities on the slopes of the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda writes, “Many thanks for your continued support, without your help I could honestly achieve very little.”

In 2025 we will continue to support 15 partners in Uganda, Zimbabwe, Ghana, Malawi and Kenya to grow trees and to inform and inspire their communities. I will highlight just two of them:

1. Planting trees to prevent further landslides and flooding on the slopes of the Rwenzori Mountains in Uganda. Kenja Thomas works with the local communities to plant deep rooting indigenous trees on the mountain slopes where landslides have destroyed homes and even caused loss of lives. Similarly, they plant bamboo to prevent rivers from bursting their banks and flooding neighbouring villages.



The picture, right, shows Kenja Thomas on the bank of the Nyamwamba River with bamboo he had planted the previous year. On the left, a young villager plants more young bamboo to secure more of the bank.

- Eric Kihuluka and his colleagues in Kaliro District, Uganda, are developing a 9 acre (4,6 hectare) site as a training resource for tree growing and agroforestry, including domestic animal keeping. It is already being visited by school groups and farmers. They aim to make the facility self-financing through the sale of young pigs and cows and fruit and vegetables, especially green bananas (matoke), which is a local staple food.

The land purchase has been made possible through the generosity of the owner, who is accepting payment well below the market price. Even so, 5000 Euro is still needed to complete the purchase.



The pictures show right, Eric with on young farmer and left, a training session on banana management.

We thank all Friends of Discover for your financial support that is enabling us to make a confident start in the New Year. Including the members of Hoyland and Birdwell Methodist Church in South Yorkshire who raised over £1000 (1200 Euro). This supported the tree growing activities of 5 schools in Mayuge, Uganda. As the picture shows, they are rightly proud!



Keith Lindsey and the Discover-Team