

BORANA EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME



INTRODUCTION

For decades it has been the challenge of Kenya's private game ranches to develop healthy, lasting relationships with indigenous peoples living in close proximity to their operations. Local people play a crucial role in the success or failure of a game ranch whilst some proactive development work by ranches can dramatically enhance the well-being of their neighbours lives. In recent years, the tactic that has met with most success has been the introduction of programmes that mutually benefit the game reserves and the communities with an underlying goal of conservation. Programmes like the Borana Education Support Programme provide the perfect opportunity to communicate the importance of conservation issues to these communities, while simultaneously providing much needed aid to local schools.

The area surrounding the Borana Ranch is comprised of isolated communities of struggling pastoralists. Geographical isolation, periodic drought and a poor education system has left many of these community's children with a bleak future. The BESP believes that the best way to help these people is to strengthen the education of their children.

In western nations, society is blessed with a high standard of public education. When compared to African countries, it looks even more impressive. Kenya's public education system is very basic. To date the extent of the government support is to make primary school education free, they also pay the very meager salaries of teachers, (grade one through eight) and a meal at lunch time, but parents have to buy uniforms and school supplies, Secondary education is still a cost.

Textbooks, desks, and even simple school supplies and additional teacher salaries are desperately needed. Some of the local schools are supplied with eight teachers for 750 children!! Many schools lack doors and windows and have dirt floors; as a result, there is no security for items of value left inside the classrooms and little to no protection from the elements. Benches and tables are so overcrowded that there is no room to write and in some schools, children are forced to sit on the floor or stand. These conditions contribute even further to the odds stacked against a child receiving a quality education. Funding from the Borana Education Support Programme is dedicated to supplying the schools with much needed resources.

After eighth grade, students are given the option to go to secondary school. Unfortunately, this is comparatively expensive and only a very small percentage of Kenyan children can afford to attend. For this reason, we have decided to dedicate part of the Support Programme to the provision of secondary school scholarships. The best student in the

graduating class of each sponsored school receives a scholarship to secondary school for one year. If the student continues to excel in his/her studies, the support continues on a year-to-year basis until graduation. The student is then eligible for at least a partial scholarship to help him/her pay to attend university.

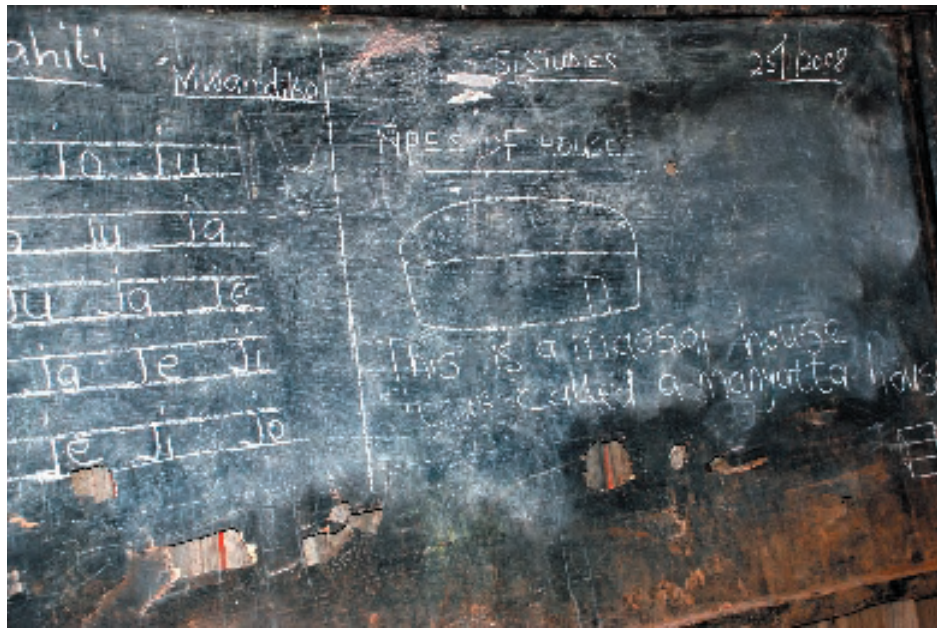
The BESP believes that with the pledge and proper allocation of even the smallest amount of money, a lasting and significant improvement can be made in the children's education. This is a community that needs its children to succeed.

Sadly, in Kenya it is not uncommon to see funds raised for schools and charity being misused and even embezzled by those in charge of the institutions. In light of this, we allocate the funds ourselves. The Borana Education Support Programme uses a system of direct application to ensure that every penny raised, is properly invested in the schools. Instead of simply handing the headmaster a cheque, we find out exactly what the schools needs most, buy it with the pledged donations, and integrate it into the school system. In this way, you can be sure that every penny you pledge will directly benefit the children's education.

Sponsorship is another major branch of the Borana Education Support Programme. Many of the children most in need of help in these communities are orphans. Some only have a grandmother to take care of them, and their many siblings whilst others have nobody. For these children, the most basic needs of food and clothes are a day-to-day struggle. They cannot afford the required uniform, school fees, textbooks, or even a pen or pencil. Ideally, an individual in this category will receive support through a sponsor.

Sponsoring a student through the Borana Education Support Programme is a way of making that crucial difference in a child's life. It could mean the difference between a hard life of poverty and one of education and success. These kids are some of the most disadvantaged children in Kenya, and the Borana Education Support Programme provides a channel through which you can help them. Many of these children attain very good marks despite their handicap of poverty, and with a little bit of help, could go very far. For less than fifty cents per day, you can provide enough for their day-to-day support, and a drastically improved education, in short you can change a life. Once a year you will receive a report with a letter from the student, photographs, which will keep you up to date with their educational progress. In this way your visit to Kenya can last for years to come.

We are all aware of the invaluable importance of an education and the significance it will have for a person's life. A well-educated child will more clearly understand and appreciate the fundamental importance of conserving their environment and thereby their future. By assisting in a child's education you are directly contributing to the preservation of their environment. Please pledge some money in support. Thank you very much.



PROGRAMME OBJECTIVE

- Help the children from poor families to continue with their education beyond primary level, through bursaries.
- Improve each school so that they acquire an environment conducive to learning, through the provision of facilities and teaching tools.
- Enhance the conservation efforts for both wildlife and the environment through activities at the five schools.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- To solicit funds in order to support the programme and assure it meets its objective.
- To identify the children from poor families that need financial assistance.
- To organise activities in the schools, which would ensure that school pupils recognise the importance of the environment to man as well as the importance of the existence of wildlife.

PROGRESS

We now have 30 children who have 100% scholarships from the programme, with their academic performances being carefully monitored.

Steven Ilaut graduated from a two year business course in Nairobi with very high grades. He is now employed at Borana to implement and monitor the environmental activities at the schools.

Shepelo Kuraru - pictured on the previous page - is now at Nairobi University studying Veterinary Science. Last year she studied IT at Strathmore University and passed with straight As in every course.

Two of the children we support are blind and go to St Lucy's School for the Blind in Meru.

Kanyunga School - new kitchen, eco stoves, fencing of school grounds, classroom block, plastering of classrooms, perma-culture gardens, gravity-fed water, maintenance and mowing of football pitch, dryland forestry project and water harvesting swales, cooking for conservation project - a method whereby they use far less wood to cook the school meals (from 4 tons to a half ton per month) and they also plant kitchen gardens and tree nurseries using filtered water from the kitchens.

Lokuseru - 3 classrooms, library, staff houses, fencing of school grounds and cooking for conservation project including eco stoves.

Ethi School - New kitchen, eco stoves, 3 classrooms, administrative office, toilets, school equipment, teachers salary, books, fencing of the school grounds and cooking for conservation project.

Chumvi - fencing of school grounds and cooking for conservation project.

Arijiju - one classroom, fencing of school grounds, cooking for conservation project and maintenance of borehole.

The Borana Mobile Clinic is visiting all the schools in this area to provide health education to raise HIV aids awareness and introduce the idea of family planning.

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR PROGRAMME

SPONSOR A CHILD
THROUGH
SECONDARY SCHOOL
£150 PER TERM OR
£450 A YEAR



CLASSROOM
EQUIPMENT
£840 PER
SCHOOL

SPORTS
EQUIPMENT
£100 PER
SCHOOL

CLASSROOMS £2000



OLD AND NEW



PUPIL'S DESK
£10



TOILETS £80





NEW KITCHENS
 £4000 INCLUDING
 ECO-STOVES,
 WATER TANKS
 AND GUTTERING



EMPLOY
 AN EXTRA
 TEACHER
 FOR A
 SCHOOL
 £750 PER
 ANNUM

Currently the government provides 8 teachers for each school, but several of our schools have over 700 children - 87.5 children per teacher. The Ministry of Education is encouraging us to help out by paying for extra teachers to be employed.



KITCHEN GARDENS
 ANY AMOUNT
 WILL HELP BUY
 TOOLS, SEED AND
 SEEDLINGS