

Project Report 2016

Following on from the developments highlighted in the Chairpersons report 2015, the Project delivery in July & August then November & December focussed on two main strands:

1. Emergency 1st Aid and Health Education training for Mountain and Safari Guides and Porters.
2. Early Years education. Training the trainers in Learning Through Play.

Emerging from both these areas of work came requests and suggestions for further development of the Project. These will be highlighted in this report and discussed in full at a dedicated committee meeting prior to opening the discussion to the wider group.

1. July / August: The Emergency 1st Aid training was attended by 70 people. The participants consisted of a mix of Safari Guides, Mountain Guides and a few Mountain Porters. Within this mix were several owner / managers of Tour companies based in both Moshi and in Arusha.

The training consisted of CPR (Heart Start) training, emergency first aid & common disease awareness and management. The format was practical, tailored to working in the outdoor environment and specifically relating to each professional discipline.

Evaluation forms were distributed via the guides' whatsapp group and in hard copy.

No returns came in electronic form but several were completed on the final day.

The information from the evaluations were collated and the findings were strongly positive. The main area for change or further development was that the participants wished the course to run for longer - the suggestion is a week long course – and be based mainly in the outdoor environment.

The findings from the Evaluations were discussed further in dedicated meetings held between the Tour Guide Industry leaders and the Maarifa Project leaders.

The main focus was first of all to let Maarifa know how well the training had been received, how well planned prepared and delivered the training was, and how well thought of the Maarifa Project had become in this field.

This being the first time Maarifa has delivered such training to this industry, this feedback was very affirming.

The discussions that followed were about how the Maarifa Project and the tourism community could collaborate and work together to provide education and training relating to their needs. The suggestion at this point was to pursue a link between Maarifa, Kilimanjaro Guides Association and MWEKA Wildlife College

The main areas discussed were:

TIMING

July / August is high season and many Guides and Porters were working. Low season is end of October through November until mid December. We have been asked to return in low season to deliver similar training and education. The training being asked for would last one week and may be delivered more than once to capture as many people as possible.

ACTION

Plans were put in place to return in November and deliver this training in a developed form to include outdoor learning and training an appropriate Tanzanian colleague to co-deliver the Project.

PLACE

This training is being asked for both in Moshi and in Arusha.

The training delivered in July was situated in Moshi YMCA and incurred a large cost. In discussion with the KGA Leaders, it was agreed that when Maarifa returned to deliver this training in the low season, an appropriate training facility will be secured for us, incurring no cost to the Project.

Further to the request to deliver this training in Moshi, the Project has been asked to deliver it in Arusha. We have agreed to do this on the basis that all our costs are covered.

TRAINING ACTION PLAN

The training in November will be facilitated in a variety of venues – including outdoor environments appropriate to needs. The KGA was happy to cover transport (with a driver) to Arusha from Moshi and back, the training venue, accommodation and food for the Facilitators (including one Tanzanian).

The next area of development was moving forward to blend the Project delivery with the curriculum courses delivered at MWEKA Wildlife College. The intention is to include illness identification (diabetes, heart disease, hypo/hyperthermia, epilepsy etc) incident and emergency scenario management, group management including managing difficult behaviour (customer service).

This training will again be practical, realistic and tailored to the specific needs of the Mountain and Safari Guides. It will be based indoors for initial training and the scenario work will be delivered in the outdoor environment.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Along with the development of this training, Maarifa has also been asked to support the development of a new Curriculum at MWEKA Wildlife college. Maarifa has been asked to contribute by delivering the Health Education and 1st Aid training along with a module on Communication and Professional Interaction.

Early stage discussions happened prior to leaving Tanzania in August and were developed further in November. A presentation has been developed to include subjects such as Health Education (Healthy Communities) along with Communication and Professional Interaction (Customer Service).

The Professor with responsibility for developing the new curriculum (and the Director of the College) are very positive about potential collaborations and future friendships. IN November Professor started the process of writing a funding bid for collaboration between the Scottish Government and Mweka Wildlife College based on the work that Maarifa can deliver, however the closing date passed before the bid was ready to be presented.

ACTION PLAN

This funding bid will be worked on and be ready for being submitted in 2017.

NOVEMBER DEVELOPMENTS

In line with the issues and suggestions identified through the July/August evaluations, Jan returned to Tanzania In November on behalf of the Maarifa Project.

Early meetings held revisited the ideas and hopes identified through the previous Evaluations and discussions. From this friendships were consolidated and an agreement negotiated about how the Maarifa Project, KGA and MWEKA Wildlife College could work in partnership. The result of this was a Memorandum of Understanding signed by Jan on behalf of the Maarifa Project, Alex John on behalf of the Kilimanjaro Guides Association and Moses Njole on behalf of MWEKA Wildlife College.

The Maarifa Project team expanded to include Deko Kiwale. Deko was first identified as a potential co-facilitator during the previous Project work. During the first 2 weeks in Tanzania Jan and Deko worked together to plan and prepare the courses and train Deko in co-facilitation. This aspect of training the trainers is an area that Maarifa wishes to actively pursue to ensure future sustainability.

The Maarifa Project team delivered health education and emergency first aid training specifically designed to meet the identified and expressed needs of Mountain Guides and Porters and Safari Guides as well as students of MWEKA Wildlife College. The training venues and advertising the courses were arranged by the KGA. Training venues were Moshi YMCA; Marangu, Kilimanjaro National Park Headquarters; Arusha, TANAPA – headquarters of Tanzanian National Parks Authority and the Tanzanian Court of Human Justice and Human Rights; and in Kibosho, MWEKA Wildlife College. It cannot be stated strongly enough how very proud and honoured we were to have been invited to work in such prestigious places.

Overall we trained over 200 people.

All participants were offered the opportunity to complete evaluation forms – written in English and in Kiswahili. Just less than 100 were returned completed. We were advised by KGA that many of the course participants were happy to give oral feedback, but due to poor literacy skills they were uncomfortable with paper forms. KGA have agreed to collate the information from the evaluations on our behalf and disseminate the information as soon as this is done. Initial interpretation of the Evaluations again show that the Project has had a strongly positive reception. As with the July/August evaluations, the strengths are that the course content is highly appropriate and tailored to the specific needs of the participants; non-formal, flexible delivery style, high level of preparation; knowledge of the culture and industry and that it was fun. The areas for development were without exception focused on having more days and that the training would be best delivered all outdoors. Overall the Project work in November and December built on the feedback from previous courses and interactions. Through informal evaluation and person to person communication, we have been made aware that the Maarifa Project is being recognised as an organisation that shows respect, is willing to learn along with the learners, listens and acts on what is heard.

ACTION POINTS

It has been agreed that Maarifa should try to go back to Tanzania mid March – mid April (low season). The aim is to deliver the same courses to a wider audience.

Taking into account the findings from the evaluations, KGA hope to secure permits to deliver week long residential courses on Mount Kilimanjaro. MWEKA further hope to secure permits for a week long course, camping in a National Park Safari area. The intention is to deliver aspects of their curricular learning with the Maarifa Project health education and 1st Aid training.

KGA and MWEKA are currently in discussions with the relevant Authorities. We hope to have responses by mid February.

The Maarifa Project team are extremely grateful to all in Tanzania who help and support this work and we are very proud to be working in partnership with KGA and MWEKA.

FARAJA NURSERY

The links made with Faraja Nursery at the beginning of the year have been well consolidated.

Kincaidston Primary School in Ayr sent over work from the P2's that is intended as a cultural sharing tool. Both Kincaidston and Faraja are very keen to progress this link and foster the friendships that have been started. Faraja children have given us some sharing friendship materials for Kincaidston and Judith and Jan will go into school in February to speak at their School Assembly. Date to be arranged.

Kincaidston Primary School are supporting and promoting the Early Years work of Maarifa as meeting the aim of EDUCATION FOR EVERY CHILD.

On our visit in August we found the children of Faraja still without furniture, sitting on flattened cardboard boxes to keep the chill off their little bodies. We also found the teachers had been unable to develop any more teaching and learning resources. Judith developed many teaching resources appropriate to age stage and culture of the children. She then trained the teachers on how they might use them. This training was culturally appropriate, delivered with sensitivity and fun – and very well received. Both teachers practiced how to use them and became comfortable merging them with their own teaching styles.

ACTIN POINT

The Maarifa Project is not a Charity that gives money or builds anything - except cultural friendships and knowledge. However, it was recognised that teaching and learning opportunities were being hindered because the children and their teachers had nothing to sit on or work at.

It was therefore decided to ask one of our Tanzanian partners (Amadeus) to measure and cost for furniture that would suit and *fit* into the small space that Faraja has. The price and drawings of the furniture were acceptable and appropriate so Maarifa employed Amadeus to make the furniture and Faraja children now have seats and tables to work at and the teachers have chairs and a storage unit.

Amadeus helps Maarifa in many ways – such being a friend and a secure presence when volunteers are out and about in the area. He also helps with translating when needed. He is attempting to move forward in life by starting his own fabrication business and Maarifa helps him by giving him appropriate paid work. When making the furniture for Faraja Amadeus employed 2 apprentices to help him - therefore giving them more experience as well as a little money. We are all aiming for growth and sustainability.

NGO STATUS

Currently the Project has NGO status for the Moshi District. We were called to a meeting with the Tanzanian lawyer supervising the NGO status. The sum of the meeting was that it was his opinion that we needed to pursue wider NGO status. Our response was that we would adhere to the decision taken at the Maarifa Project AGM held in Scotland this year where it was decided that this would not be necessary at this point. This decision was then reinforced in a meeting with in Tanzania at the beginning of this summers' work.

However, given the new developments of being asked to develop our work in wider geographical areas such as Arusha, Marangu and Kibosho, the lawyer has again been in touch to strongly advise that we progress to Tanzanian National NGO



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status. This discussion will be pursued in March. Funding will need to be found for this.

DISCUSSION POINTS

- Deus, Amadeus and Deko – there is potential for a short Scottish visit in Autumn 2017.
- Visas. An invitation will have to be given through a Local Authority (School or College) or a Diocese.
- Both Deus and Amadeus have technical and teaching skills to share. Deus can also share his knowledge of culture/ country/ geography / geology / wildlife etc.
- Like Deus, Deko is also a Safari guide and can share his knowledge of wildlife. If possible Deko will also participate in a formally certificated 1st aid training course.
- Funding applications must be pursued. Individual volunteer fundraising is always appropriate. However sustainable funding must be sought for a Project Development worker and for development of appropriate resources.