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| **The Maarifa Project****2017/18**

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The Maarifa Project is a Registered Scottish Charity (SCO 44784) the objectives of which are to: 1. Improve knowledge and understanding of the Tanzanian culture and jointly develop appropriate and sustainable pathways to increase and maintain healthy lifestyles
2. To understand the impact of community work in building social & cultural capital
3. Share experience and learning through a variety of communication pathways
4. To establish and develop friendships and cultural links.

**REPORT****Overview**The two strands of the Maarifa Project in Tanzania (Early Year Education and Health Education / First Aid Training) continue to develop both in content and geographically. Since the last report we have continued our Early Years work with the Nursery School (Faraja - now named Ludao), and established a firm partnership between Ludao and Kincaidston Primary School In Ayr. We have also started making links with Carolside Primary School in Crookston. It is our hope that the Maarifa Project becomes the cornerstone for links between Kincaidston and Carolside Primary Schools. First Aid delivery has spread out-with Moshi and the Kilimanjaro Region to include among other places, the Usumbara / Tanga region and Arusha. We have also been invited to go to Dar Es Salaam but as yet we have been unable to travel so far. Our First Aid courses are tailored to the needs of people and communities. The type and length of courses delivered vary from 2 days to 5 days and include Emergency Outdoor First Aid: Mountain (high altitude); Safari (wilderness): Paediatric (for parents/teachers): Catastrophic bleeding. **Specific strands****Early Years**The focus of our Early Years work has been two fold. First and foremost has been teacher training and curriculum development; this curricular development being in alignment with the Tanzanian Education system. (more discussion about this will be provided by Claire, Gemma and Sophie). Secondary to curricular development and teacher training has been enhancing the physical building of Ludao to make it cleaner, safer and more conducive to teaching and learning. Early in 2018 fundraising at Kincaidston Primary School and a Race Night raised around £1600 to pay the rent of the school building for 10 months, repair and paint the outside of the building and all the playground furniture. We were also able to provide large bags of staple foods such as maize and rice to ensure all children and teachers were fed for several weeks. The Director of Ludao, Francis Makala, is actively seeking volunteers. It is our belief that while this may good to bring in much needed money, the volunteers must be appropriate to the work of the Nursery and have a structured, timetabled curriculum to work within, be sure of their purpose and roles and have strong direction and guidance from the teachers. This aspect of the teacher training will require further support by the Maarifa team to help the teachers gain the skills in people management they need for this to be effective. We have further built upon our relationships with Ludao to promote health and wellbeing – including First Aid Training. This is an aspect of our partnership that is increasingly sought after and will develop appropriately providing we have the finances and resources to make it happen.**The challenges:** Having appropriate volunteers to continue the work.**Possible solutions**: Kincaidston Primary has already linked with the Maarifa Project and has formed a wonderfully congruent partnership with Ludao Nursery. This partnership may be built upon to enable more teachers and possibly student teachers to work with Luado on regular, short programmes. Contact could be made with colleges and universities to promote this as a Practicum experience. Links with Carolside Primary School could be consolidated with a view to collaborative working between Scottish schools and Ludao Nursery.**First Aid Training**The First Aid training programmes continue to be requested by teachers, communities, Mountain and Safari guides. The courses are developed in accordance to the needs of the group needing trained. For example, courses for mountain guides have been designed for people working in the mountain and far from help areas and along with the standard emergency outdoor first aid, include training on high altitude problems, awareness of common diseases and emergency management of such on the mountain. They further include moving a casualty in this environment and emergency evacuation techniques. These courses have been so well received we have had to run them over 5 days and include group-work skills and group management. Other courses delivered: Safari guide first aid; focusing on ‘far from help’ management of accidents or illness in remote areas such as the Serengetti: Sports First Aid: Paediatric First Aid and common illness management for teachers. In Arusha we have been working in partnership with a Scottish based Charity called YesTanzania and one of their partner projects, Ujumaa. YesTanzania and Ujumaa would like us to deliver more First Aid programmes for staff and young people in schools. All courses take into account both the specific environment and the local culture and are tailored accordingly. Deko Kiwale is now our primary contact and support worker in Tanzania and he has been trained to deliver many aspects of all the first Aid programmes. Deko is himself a Safari Guide. It is our hope and wish that Deko can start delivering First Aid courses himself in the near future. **The challenges:****Deko**: For Deko to feel more confident and comfortable he needs to have more First Aid training of his own – focusing on learning in more depth and training techniques. This has happened to some degree, but for it to be more effective we need a dedicated length of time, appropriate training space and money. Until now Deko’s expenses have been covered, but very little extra. This situation is not sustainable. Deko and other support workers need to be paid a living wage for their time. Including their own training time. Currently Maarifa does not have the funds to support this. **The challenge:** The challenge is that although over the past 18 months Deko has given his time happily, he cannot continue to do this without payment and this coming year he will actively seek other paid work when not on Safari, much to the loss of the Maarifa Project courses. We also need to be looking for an ‘appropriate other’ to work alongside Deko when Maarifa First Aid trainers are not in country. This will also need funding.**Possible solution:** to be discussed. Maarifa cannot currently bring Deko or any others to the UK. However, should we be able to change this situation and bring Deko over, he will have access to several First Aid courses. These courses would be appropriate to needs and free to Deko.First Aid training organisations *The Adventure Academy CIC* and *Venture- Medical* have offered a place on all their training courses should Maarifa be able to bring Deko to Scotland. An alternative (and probably more practical) solution is for trainers to go to Tanzania specifically to deliver such training. This would also need to be funded. **MWEKA Wildlife College**The Maarifa Project and MWEKA Wildlife college have a Memorandum of Understanding about delivering training. First Aid training was delivered at the end of last year to around 80 students. However – the timing was decided by the college, was a last minute request and although we made every effort to facilitate a course it was not ideal. Further to these timing and numerical challenges, many students did not actively participate but still expected to be awarded a certificate. This has now been addressed and providing we can have meetings with the appropriate people in plenty time to plan and prepare (on both sides) the Training should be very effective. Craig Borthwick, Director of Venture-Medical has offered to come and work with us to deliver ballistics first aid training. Among other areas of expertise, Craig has a background in Wildlife Protection and major trauma due to shotgun injury. **The Challenge:** Funding. Although not requiring paid fees, the trainers will require all expenses to be paid (including flights and accomodation) and all training material costs to be covered. **Possible solutions**: Small fundraising activities are ongoing. Finding a funder or specific funding for a collaborative Project. **Health Education**Over the past 18 months all the health education delivered has been incorporated into First Aid courses. Maarifa Project links with Karanga Technical Training College are still in place but timings have not been conducive to an effective Project delivery. We also need suitable volunteers to be able to effectively deliver health education at KTTC and in the outlying Parishes.**Pumba Adventure and Safaris**PAS is growing stronger and Deus Mahoo is happy to be able to occasionally combine his work at KTTC with Safari. The PAS / Maarifa car ‘Malaika’, continues to be an essential help to Deus and his work. The Maarifa Project has had very few volunteers over the past 18months and Deus misses the contact with his Scottish ‘family’. He requests that we find more volunteers to go on Safari with PAS! **Tanzanian NGO Status**The Tanzanian Maarifa Project committee have not been active in developing the work of Maarifa. Nor have they held any meetings to discuss progress or collaborations. The NGO status continues, but this needs attention and must be given high priority on the next visit to Tanzania. It is difficult to the point of being impossible to work on this when not in country. **Challenges:** Time and willingness of the Tanzanian committee to give it the effort and time required.**Possible solution:** Prior to the next visit, contact should to be re-established with Father Aristides, the lawyer who helped set up the NGO, with a view to him taking some control and calling the committee to a meeting early in the timing of the next visit from Maarifa. This situation has been discussed in Tanzania and possible alternative Tanzanian committee members have been identified and will be happy to assume committee roles and responsibilities. **SCIO Status**Afterworking to achieve (and being awarded SCIO status), nothing changed and Maarifa remains a Scottish registered charity. The reason for this issue is that over the past 18 months the life circumstances of all committee members has changed with the natural consequence of the committee frequently changing. This has the direct consequence of creating a state of flux and management voids that cannot be filled. Although this has presented challenges, we are delighted for all who have moved on to develop their personal and professional lives and all involved in Maarifa are very thankful for everyone’s work while they were able to be in post. **Finances:**Due to the above challenges we currently have no-one to attend to the finances. However, the only money we have had going through the Bank has been from Volunteers to pay for their trips to Tanzania. All volunteer money was used for payments in Tanzania to the appropriate people and include: all accommodation; services such as water, gas and electricity fees; internal transport including fuel, servicing and upkeep of the car; food; in country teaching and learning materials; payments in kind for services provided; safari and other cultural experiences. Alongside this other payments have been from fundraising activity and all money gathered has been used appropriately in country for Ludao Nursery and First Aid Training. Primarily support for Ludao.**Despite the challenges (particularly financial) we have managed to keep the actual work of Maarifa going, and indeed strengthened all our Project work and in country relationships and partnerships to an unprecedented degree.** **This is Maarifa.** **The Duke of Edinburgh’s Award**In June 2019, Jan, along with the Venture Safely team intend taking a group of young people from Glasgow to Tanzania to complete their Expedition, Residential and Volunteering sections of their Gold Award. Part of this experience will be trekking in the Usumbara mountains with Mountain guides Maarifa has provided First Aid Training for, followed by volunteering at Ludao then going on Safari with Deus and Deko (PAS and SafarEase).This new step feels very much like going back to our Maarifa project roots – albeit with several years experience, Project development and partnership working under our belts.**Forward planning**After many years of heading the Project, Jan is stepping down from being a committee member and handing over to a new, wonderfully vibrant team.Jan’s not disappearing though – she’ll still be involved in the First Aid training and potential DofE project.Whatever the hopes, dreams and plans of the new committee, one thing is sure – the Maarifa Project has very exciting times ahead - both in Scotland and in Tanzania. **Jan Wilmington 16th September 2018**

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