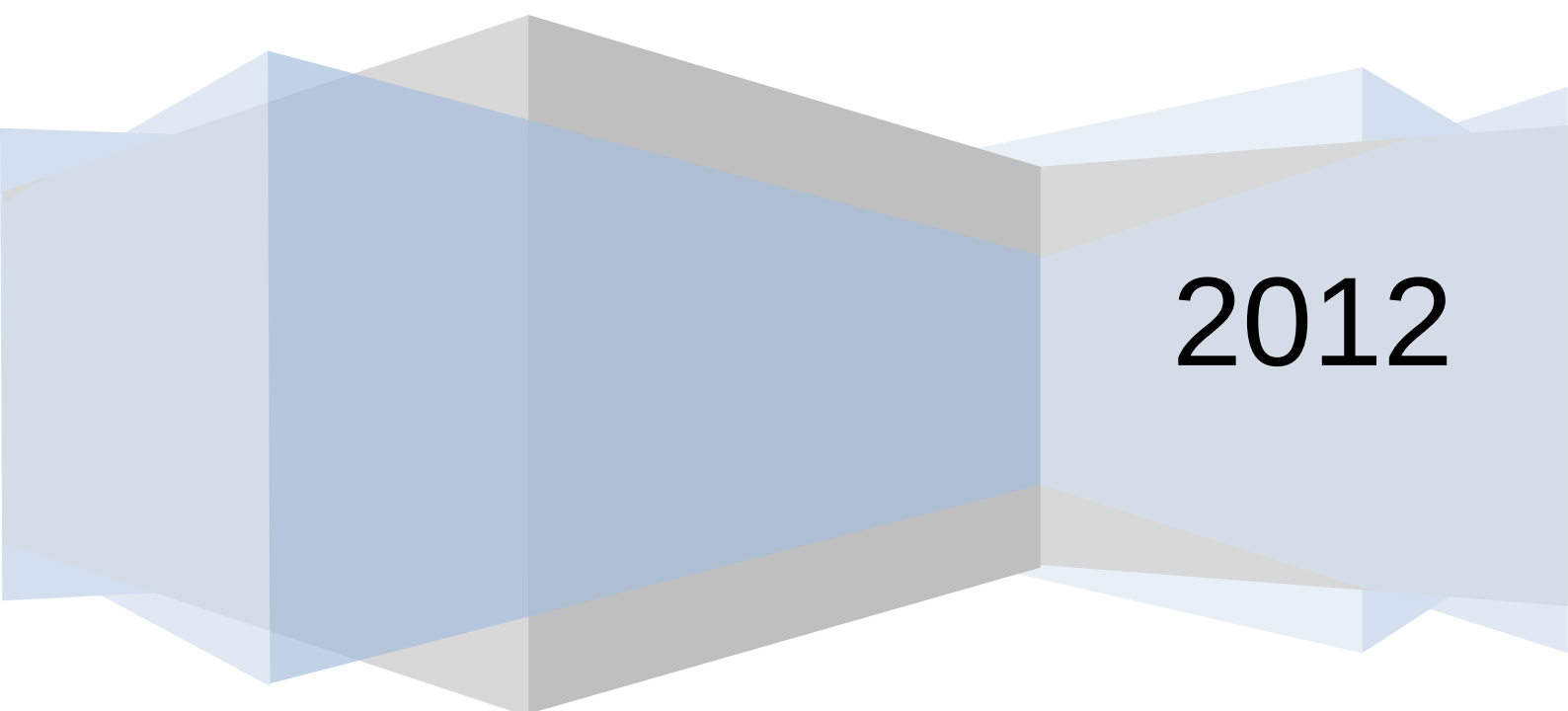


Cwlwm-Monduli Tanzania Link
(Registered Charity 327330)

Tanzania Charity Trip

And the projects undertaken in the
September trip to N'guni and Monduli,
Arusha Region, Tanzania

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2012

Introduction

In 2011 I took over the International Disaster Concern (IDC) Society of Coventry University. Each year, the IDC decides to support two charities- in 2011 we chose to support both Cwlwm-Monduli and ShelterBox, a post-disaster relief charity. In May 2011 I decided to plan an aid trip to Tanzania to support Cwlwm-Monduli, a Welsh based charity that supplies materials and money to support villages in the Monduli area.

Between September 2011 and the New Year, I set about choosing the team to head out and started to fundraise by arranging social events under the banner of the IDC. With pressures of 2nd year coursework we asked the first year students involved with the trip to arrange social events that steadily, week by week, brought in the money

In the New Year, we sat down as a group and I gave them a presentation on the research I had collected and collated both from Cwlwm-Monduli and from Mr Rogathe Ndosa in country, on the projects that were in need of funding. We chose several projects and set a deadline for money we needed to raise.

At the start of the year when I advertised the trip to the group, I had specified that one of the pre-requisites to joining was that they had to each personally raise £400 outside of the social events they had to organise and their participation in street collecting on the Coventry University campus. This provided the bulk of the money the group raised for the projects.

Throughout the early months of 2012 the group structure changed with new members joining and current ones leaving for many varied reasons. The negative effect on the group bond was lessened by their flexibility, though it meant that there were new members joining who had not yet contributed towards the fundraising target, which sat just above £4600.

A major setback occurred in June 2012 when Virgin cancelled their Heathrow to Nairobi route- two months before our planned departure date. However, STA Travel thankfully managed to secure flights for us at only £20 extra. Another setback occurred the next day, airport taxes increased by £10.

Setbacks aside, flights were paid for and secured and we had exceeded the fundraising target, so we achieved one of our objectives of providing funding for a ShelterBox post-disaster tent, which would become a fully functioning home from a box for a family in a disaster struck part of the world.

The Charity

Cwlwm-Monduli is a small charity based out of Carmarthen in Wales. Set up in 1985, the charity's main aim is to support local projects for which government funding is not available. In Tanzania this is very common where governmental funding rarely reaches the remote villages, the category of which Monduli and Nure- the two main communities the charity support- fall in to.

Though small, the charity has had a huge impact on the two communities which was clearly visible when we went out. It has supported projects with the schools, the Woman's Dairy Co-Operative, a vast number of community projects and the District Hospital.

More information can be found here: <http://monduli.org.uk/>

The support

The trip was not easy to plan, and at many times may have fallen through if it was not for a select few people that were there to offer me support in times of need and showed a lot of patience to my constant questioning.

Firstly, Jill Evans, Cwlwm-Monduli's secretary, must be given the upmost credit for her constant patience and support- my link to the charity she dealt with more than her fair share of emails and constant questions and never once let me down without a reply. Without her the trip would never have happened. I can only show her my appreciation and be thankful someone so helpful and kind was there at hand to help me plan the trip.

Hazel Swift, Senior Technician at Coventry University and by far the rock I leant on more than enough throughout the year. Always there to support through advice or just kindness, she made planning some a monumental event that slight bit easier. Without her I would have surely lost my mind long ago and the trip would not have been the success it was. Her scheme within the university also matched £400 the group raised making it that slight bit easier to reach our target.

The whole IEMS team at Coventry University. The International Exchange and Mobility Service support trips abroad, from large university trips to small trips like ours. The group was lucky enough to get IEMS grants of £300 if they applied. However, the IEMS team in themselves were more than helpful for a University establishment and without their support many of those who came would not have been able to afford the trip. Further, they made the whole process much easier by being constantly available to help when the group needed it. I can only commend their patience and politeness.

The Trip

We flew from London Gatwick on the 30th August in the morning, flying with Qatar Airways, stopping first at Doha, then catching a connecting flight to Jomo Kenyatta Airport, Nairobi. From here, we were picked up by a shuttle bus put on by tour organiser, Mr Wera. This took us South to the Ngmanga border post, where our visas were stamped and we crossed into Tanzania for the first time. We then headed down to Arusha where we met Mr Ndosa, and Mr Natai, our hosts.

Our first port of call was breakfast/lunch/dinner and after 32 hours of travelling we were all hungry and tired. The first experience of Tanzanian cuisine went down a treat with everyone. It was good to finally meet in person I had been conversing with through emails for a year and half.

Once we had finished the meal, we were then taken up to N'guni village in two safari trucks to Pastor Ndosas house- our home for the next two weeks.

N'guni Nure

It was night time when we arrived at the village and we had been awake for nearly to 2 straight days, after a quick meal we got out heads down to some well deserved rest.

The Pastors house was newly renovated with money supplied by the group, included the installation of a Western style toilet and shower room. However, having rarely seen one and used to a drop loo, the plumbing attempts of the locals were interesting. Though funny to watch, when a hammer was produced I stepped in and fixed the flush mechanism and flow control, making the locals believe I must be a plumber in England. The house renovations included the re-flooring and painting of the building and improvements to the roof, as well as the installation of the WC and a shower closet, though electrical problems meant the water heater malfunctioned. However, the living space and the surroundings of the house provided ample room for the group, with the females having a separate sleeping space, and the males split between the living room and the 2nd bedroom. The living room further provided a great area to gather and socialise in the evenings, with cards and tea, and provided enough space for the 12 of us, as well as the 2 chefs Joel and William and Mr Ndosa and his relatives that came by, to eat. Food was prepared in the outside kitchen, where Joel and William cooked on an open fire in a room without a chimney (something we are hoping to install next year).

The first few days were spent acclimatising, meeting the interesting local people, including the village 'old man', a previous pastor and man of great character and taking a long walk to see the whole village and its surrounding valley.

The first project the group started work on was the CM funded assembly hall at Nure Secondary School. The school was on break for National Census duties and it was quiet so we got on with the job at hand- lifting over 400, 30kg rocks up a 100 metre hill, from where they had been constructed to where the assembly hall was at the top (see pictures

below). This took us the best part of 4 days, during which time we also helped dig soil from the surrounding area to fill in the foundation join in the brick laying. By the time we left the village in the second week, construction had reached the point where the builders were waiting for timber to arrive for the roofing. Recent laws have been introduced in the valleys surrounding Kilimanjaro limiting deforestation- this is due to global warming increasing the amount of ice melting on the mountain range, thus causing excess surface run off leading to landslides. Roofing timber now has to be brought up from the South of the country, increasing both the timescale and cost. The new assembly hall will be multi-functional and serve as a canteen for the students.



Foundations of the Assembly/Canteen hall, Nure Secondary



Walls of canteen starting to take shape, Nure Secondary.

We spent time at the Women's dairy Co-operative helping to roof the recently built offices; we helped transport the corrugated iron sheets and some odd jobs on the site.



The roofing of the Dairy Co-Op though local roofers completed most of the work.

With the offices roofed, it should hopefully be less than a month before the office and storage room are complete and functional.

The second group funded project we fully undertook was to build a covered and paved walking area from the cook house to the canteen area at N'guni Primary School. The group split here, while half continued helping at the Secondary School, half helped to carry large rocks to where the foundation would be laid. This work took the best part of 3 hours, and after half of the rocks had been heaved downhill the Primary School students came out, and like ants, made short work of the remaining half, finishing the pile off in less than 10 minutes. We then helped transport sand and timber that would be used for the roofing.

The paved and covered walking area offers the students protection from the elements while collecting their food eating it in the canteen.



The location of the Walkway at N'guni Primary.

The last group project to be supported in town was the irrigation furrows from the National Park in the hills above N'guni- this should have included the digging of the channels and the laying of the PVC pipes. However, due to new governmental law in the national forest, any work that was to be carried out first had to be agreed through regional office and signed off by two different types of engineers. So we were unable to complete planned project. However, the project will still take place with a local workforce.

The rest of the time spent in Nure was focused on community involvement and sightseeing, attending meals and events. One day was spent with the Secondary School, where students quizzed us on life in the '1st World', our views on World Politics and the current situation in Africa and Europe, questions of higher calibre than their age group would suggest. We were impressed with such academic questions from 16 year olds in the 'developing world'. This was then followed by a formal presentation and speech, and the handing over of science books donated by the late Ben Atherton, the founder of Cwlwm-Monduli. The day was ended with the groups' embarrassing loss at football to the Secondary School team, witnessed by the majority of the children from the village. A fun time offering lasting memories, for all concerned.

Monduli

Monduli exposed us to a different climate and area of the country, lying some 180km West of Nure, opening up a whole new landscape. The ground is arid and dry and the climate considerably hotter than that of the mountainside community.

The group stayed in Mr Ndosas' house, which had again undergone some renovations prior to the groups visit.

Mr Ndosas house was situated a 35 minute walk from the main town of Monduli, with large grounds enclosed by hedgerows, containing a tree seedling nursery. The main house has 3 bedrooms, a Western style toilet, shower room and a large living room, with a further building housing another two bedrooms and kitchen. Separate is a traditional toilet/shower block and the old kitchen/utility building. Overall, there was more than enough space for the group, more so than in Nure. The difference with Monduli is that Mr Ndosa and his family shared their home with us. His family warmly welcomed us, and it was a pleasure to live as his sons and daughters. The kitchen area had cupboards and shelves to store food, and William and Joel cooked on a gas cooker instead of using wood fires, which offered relief from the smoke. The house was that it was not connected to the local electricity supply, so power was provided by a small generator.

The group provided financial support for small renovations to the grounds, the construction of a suspended water reserve tank (for drinking water) to cope with the additional demand the group presented, as well as a water pump to be used with the tanks. We also purchased several gas lamps to be used at night.

The two planned projects supported in Monduli were the construction of the 20,000 litre water tank to supply the tree seedling nursery and the mending and improving the water gutters at Sinon Primary School, to support the storage of water during the rainy season, either for household use or for the small allotments, or in the further development of the tree seedling nursery. Both projects are suggested by the community Horticulture, Environment and Nutrition (HEN) Group.

The 20,000 litre was reservoir project was outside the door in Mr Ndosa's garden, where he will develop a tree seedling nursery, with the aim of supplying the local community with fruit and vegetable trees to grow and nurture on their own allotments, harvest food and vastly improve the health of their diet.

The work involved digging a circular channel 4.5m in diameter, filling it in with large stones then cementing over it for the foundation, creating a concrete base and surrounding this by a 2 metre tall wall, finishing it off with a wooden beamed roof covered in corrugated iron.

The group was with involved the first stages of production: half the height of the walls had been constructed, and the remaining materials arrived a few days before we left.



The foundations being dug, with the boulders soon to be filled in.



20,000 litre water tank half way to completion



Engineers about to start work on the water harvesting gutters

There was no involvement with the work on the rain water harvesting gutters in the school, but the group went along to the school and handed over the materials as the engineers set to work. The gutters will channel rain water into a large storage tank, and then be used for the schools needs during the dry season.

Extra money was raised for any short falls in the planned projects. However, in Monduli we could see that all projects were going ahead as planned and had the sufficient funds for completion. This left us with several hundred dollars to use in supporting other projects.

One such project was the painting of two classrooms in a Maasai secondary school, about an hours' drive into the surrounding scrub land of Monduli town. The materials were purchased locally, and cost more than we intended to spend, further research will be required for future projects of this type. We we had to leave while it was still light so we only managed to paint one classroom but left the materials there for the students to paint the second classroom.



Group members painting the classrooms in the Maasai Secondary School

There was also sufficient money left over to support more HEN projects, this time in soil re-fertilisation and tree planting. The area suffers from poor soil quality, which is worsened by the strong winds coming from the East of the highlands and Mount Kilimanjaro. The tree planting is to create a wind break with ornamental trees that are resilient to dry arid conditions, and still cope with large downpours (caused by the rainy seasons and El-Niño effect) and improve the quality of the soil. The tree planting project was completed in conjunction with the Tanzanian Military Academy, who with negotiation not only helped with the project offered to provide matched tree purchases. They have a mutual benefit from the planting of trees as it provides a different training environment from arid desert. It is hoped that the renewed connections between the TMA and the HEN group will see the two groups working together more in the future.



Military Academy troops and the Group working together planting trees

Tourism

In both communities they were eager to show us the joys of Tanzania and ensure our enjoyment of our time there.

While in Nure we were taken on a trek around the hills, with great views of magnificent rainforest valleys, spreading out savannah plains, as well as stretching onwards and upwards to the heights of Kilimanjaro Mountain, sitting at around 2,000 metres above sea level.



At the bottom of the valley was the Temi River, which flows out to mainland Tanzania. This rises from scenic waterfalls, which we had the privilege of visiting. Due to the time of season, the flow was not great, but a beautiful visit. We then trekked along the river and the braver members of the group skinny dipped in the ice cold Kilimanjaro water.

Moshi, the countries 'cleanest city', is less than a two hour drive from Nure, and where we conducted our weekly shops. The few that had the experience of going on The weekly shop provided an interesting trip, taking the countries varied forms of transport, the *bodaboda*, a bike rented out to take up to three passengers (and driver) or cargo at a relatively cheap prices; *dalladallas*, a small 12 seated mini-bus that usually carries anywhere between 20 and 30 people with cargo and very often animals, where a

'conductor' hangs from the side shouting the destination and pushing unsuspecting passengers, and also the local bus system, which works very much the same as the dalladalla, just with 20 seats filled by 50 or so people. For the safety conscious, there are some road regulations, tyres have to be correctly inflated and passengers can only travel inside vehicles. This is where road laws stop however.

Due to security concerns of white women being vulnerable while on their own, the girls of the group never got to partake in the day to day shopping. However, the group travelled to Moshi on several occasions to buy souvenirs which were considerably cheaper than in Arusha, the Northern city, or along the popularly visited tourist routes around the game reserves and national parks. In Moshi we all got to try our hand at bartering, some more successfully than others.

Halfway between Nure and Moshi lies Boma, travelling down a small dirt track on the back of a pickup truck from here deep into Maasai territory led us to a small hidden wonder. A natural spring pool that provided some much needed downtime after a week and half of labour. We got to spend an hour or so relaxing and swimming around the pool, having our feet cleaned by small sucker fish and seeing who could achieve the best pose whilst free falling from the rope swing.



It was a good day trip away from the village. That offered change of diet from porridge in the morning, allowing us to eat breakfast in town.

I had factored a long weekend into the schedule mid-trip to allow the group members to relax. A discussed suggestion before we left was to take an excursion to Zanzibar and this was the final decision for our break. The day of travelling was well worth what we found as shown in the pictures



Monduli is less than an hour drive from the largest northern city, Arusha, where the group also spent some free time. Bigger than Moshi and with a lot more white tourists, the prices are slightly higher and obtaining a good bargain is more difficult, though still possible. The group split into smaller parties and toured the city and savoured different diets of local delicacies from the standard stews and rice meals in the villages. One party watched part of a football game in the Arusha Stadium. A long shot from Highbury, but nonetheless enjoyable.

The area is heavily populated by the Maasai, and we had the experience of seeing a Maasai boma village first hand, away from the specially created tourist villages. Unfortunately, we visited on the day of a funeral of a village elder so could not spend much time in the village, but still achieved an insight of how traditional Maasai live.



The last day of our visit was spent on Safari, at Ngorongoro Crater National Park, which we were able to get at cost price from Mr Wera, a man who grew up in Nure who made success of a tourist company set up in Arusha. The Ngorongoro Crater is an unbroken, unflooded volcanic caldera 260km² in size. It has 4 distinct areas of grass land, lake lands, highlands and desert, meaning that there is a wide range of animals and species living in an enclosed area. We were lucky enough to see rhinos, buffalos, elephants and lions- 4 of the Big 5, leopards are only prevalent in the crater at night time.





The group- From Left to Right:

Jo Ah Yo, Hattie Phillips, Emma Bate, Gina Bounre, Jess Lira, Abbas Syed, Dan Barker, Matt Filby, Andy Demetrious (on one knee), Jordan Heckmanns, Daniel Paul and Andy Evans.

Sunset from Monduli Hillside.