



Eco Moyo Education Centre

Newsletter August and September events 2014



From ABA School Kenya to Eco Moyo Education Centre

Hello everyone!

First of all, let me apologise for being so quiet...it's been a while and it's been hectic.

- Very long and crazy story short, **Beth is no longer a part of our project.** There are many reasons to this and I will not go into detail. What I will say, is that over the last few months too many unfortunate incidents have occurred, and too many people have been affected by her behaviour, for any solution to be found. (All the staff members are still with us and all the students, except for two...)

Luckily, the month of August is a holiday for most schools in Kenya. This gave us time to get structured before our kids would return after one month. **Finding a new location in the same area has been quite difficult.** However, the wonderful crew (David, Annet, Cecilia Ezra, Trizah and Asumptor) have all done an amazing job organising between themselves how to go about it, and typically, the last day before school was supposed to begin, they finally found an appropriate space.

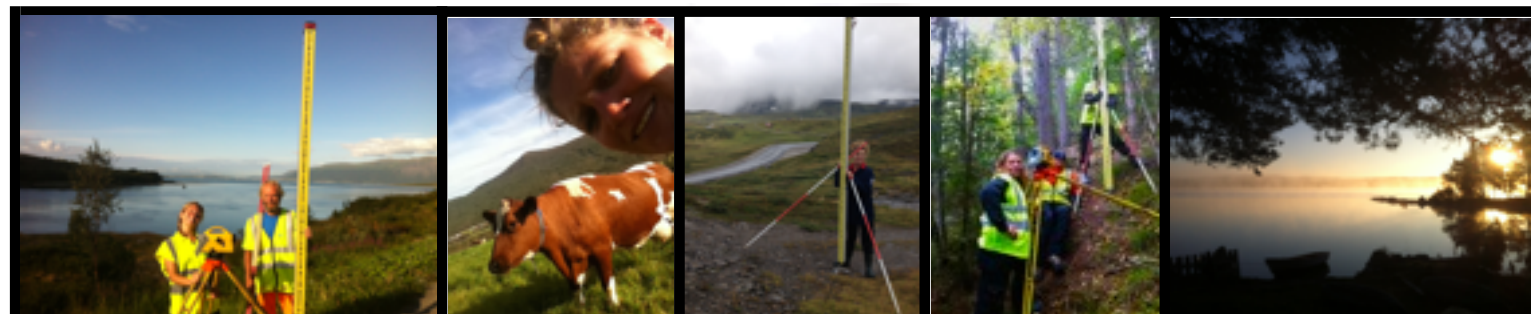
The kids have now been attending the new school since the beginning of September and everything is back on track. For me, I have been in Norway while everything has been going on. This has obviously been frustrating, but if anything, all the drama has made the ties between us in the staff and the parents much closer.

As we say in Norwegian - lets stop talking about the snow that fell last year (!) Instead, let's focus on what is in front of us;

The development of **Eco Moyo Education Centre.**

All the best,

Lindsay



What's in a name...?

"Eco" is short for "Ecology" and literally means: "Study of the Home".

Ecology refers to the relationship between organisms and their environment.

"Moyo" is the swahili word for "heart".

Ezamoyo is the name of the village where we are building a new school (which will also function as a learning space for youths and adults). Therefore our new name is;

Eco Moyo Education Centre

Highlights

New Concept and Name

New Facilities

2 New

students

2 missing students

Cecilia in assessment

Ingvild's parents visit

Trizah and Asumptor teaching

Robin and John's

wedding

Ezra's computer-course

Conference in Uganda

Networking in Norway

Fish farm research

Permaculture



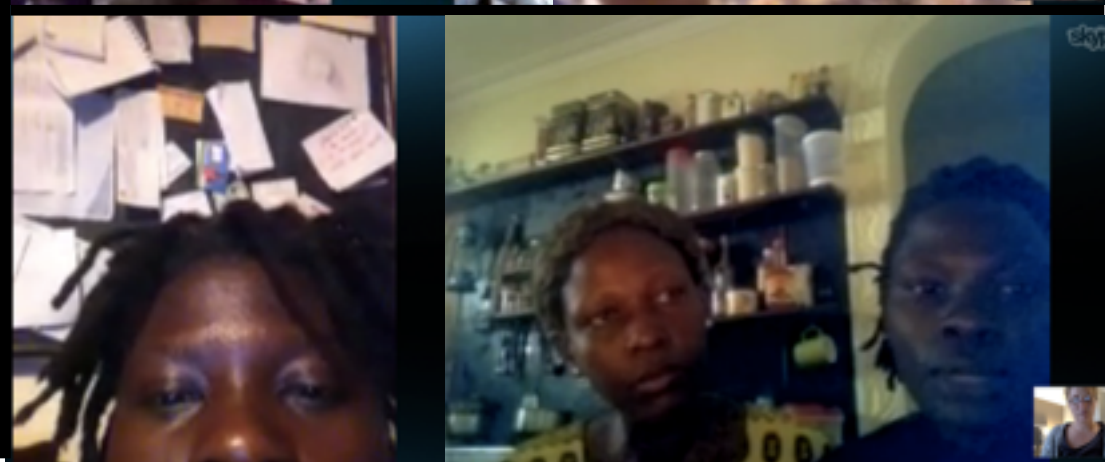
New Website:

www.ecomoyo.com

New email:

ecomoyokenya@gmail.com

(The old email
abaschoolkenya@gmail.com will
not be in use anymore)



New Concept

In the next newsletter I will write more about what we are planning for our new education centre. It's pretty comprehensive and also ambitious, but we have done a fair bit of research and by no means is it impossible!

The centre will consist of 3 different elements:

1. Education 2. Farming 3. Micro-businesses

Our Mission:



Develop an inclusive educational centre consisting a school, farm and micro-businesses.

Offer nursery and primary education based on Montessori pedagogy emphasising *green values*, and vocational training for youth and adults.

Promote affordable solutions for self-reliance that can be adapted by low income families.

Develop the land based on permaculture principals with a view to becoming a demonstration site.

Grow organic food and provide a nutritious diet for our staff and students.

Be self sufficient in terms of food, finances and daily operation.

Provide a safe, healthy, and interactive learning environment.

Collaborate in close partnership with parents, members of the community and local NGO's (non government organisations).

Seek assistance and partnership from international organisations and projects with relevance to our work for future development.

Enable alternative methods of payment like bartering and cashless trading system when possible.

Welcome visitors based on responsible and mutually beneficial collaborations.

Include the local community in development of micro-businesses.



This is our new school, that we will be renting for the next year. We occupy the lower section only (4 rooms). Upstairs is a language school for adults. The compound is bigger and has better security with a brick wall surrounding. We used to pay 3000 Kenyans shillings for our previous place, here we are paying 12.000 (860 NOK). Oh, and yes - it has electricity!!!!

For the longest time Beth refused to open the old premises for us to retrieve our things. So we had to pay a visit to the village chief and get a letter with permission to smash the locks. We debated whether it was all worth it, but as all the kids are shifting with us, and everything has been paid by you guys, the sponsors, so it was not fair to leave it. Fortunately, Beth became cooperative.



Staff and parents getting together, preparing the new premisses for the kids.



We finally have water on site!



And toilets similar to the ones we built.



Annet painting one class room



The kids helping out cleaning and sweeping



There used to be a school there, so we have new desks that they left behind



Asumptor cleaning

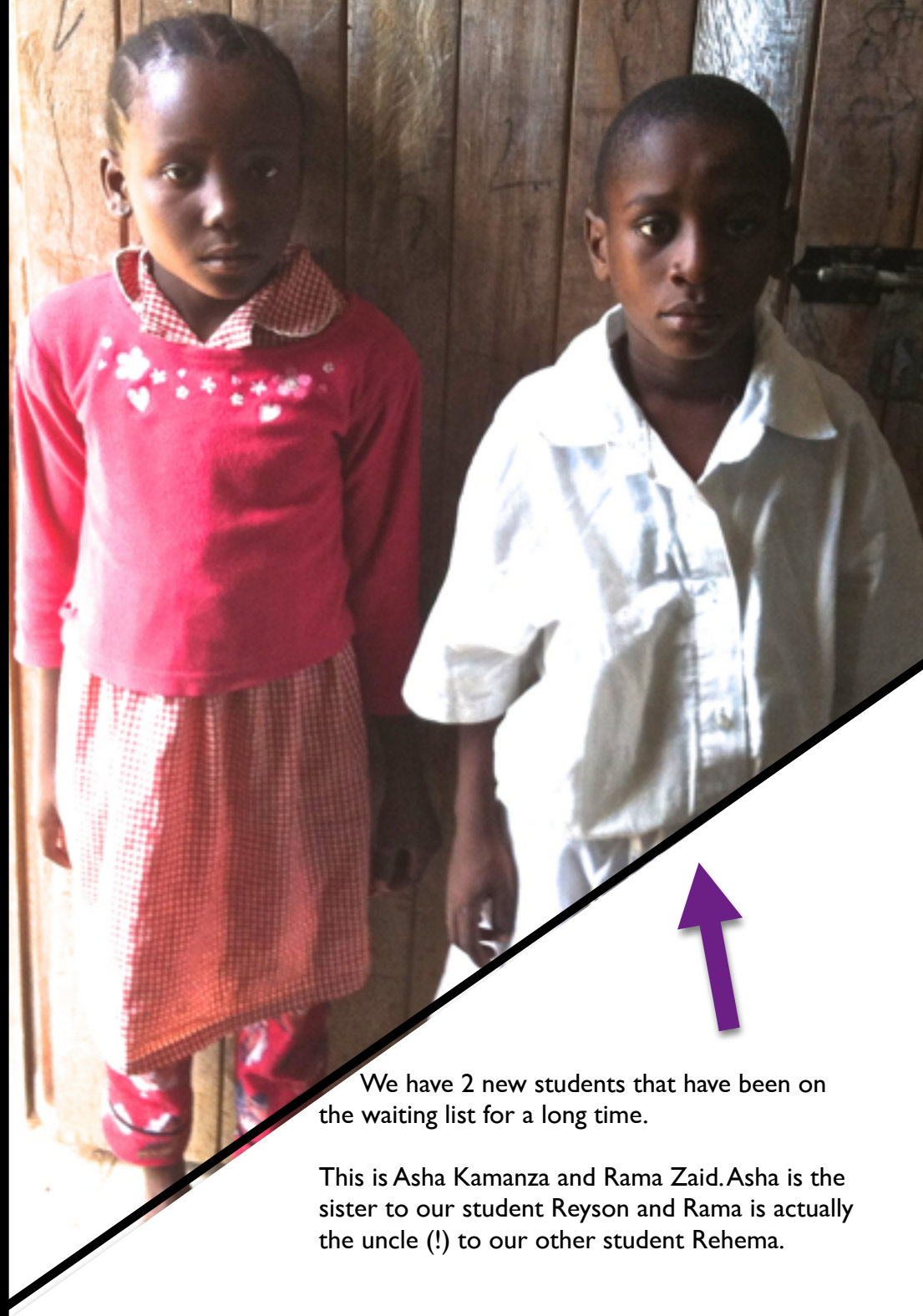


Kids watching a film on David's computer



The new school is bit further away so they are using bus and tuc tuc for transport





We have 2 new students that have been on the waiting list for a long time.

This is Asha Kamanza and Rama Zaid. Asha is the sister to our student Reyson and Rama is actually the uncle (!) to our other student Rehema.

One of the really sad things about parting with Beth, is that Maggie and Mbaya Kaingu did not shift with us....

Their mother felt loyalty to Beth and decided to keep her kids with her, despite everyone else leaving.



Cecilia's assessment

Since school started back in the beginning of September, Cecilia has been doing her assessment in a Montessori school not very far away.

So Cecilia has been, and will be absent from Eco Moyo until school starts with the new semester in January.

We have to brag about Cecilia here;

When she started working with us as a volunteer in the late summer of 2013, she had been a house wife since high school, taking random jobs cleaning, etc.. Now she is becoming a teacher, she has been scoring wonderfully on her tests in the teachers training, and we cannot express how proud we are of her!!!

She is also the sole provider of a family consisting of; four kids, one sister, one niece (and her baby as well!) Is is amazing to think about how her monthly salary of 9000 Kenyan shilling / 100 USD/ 650 NOK is (barely) supporting all these people.



Far Left: Skyping with Cecilia and Annet

Left: Picture of Cecilia when she first started working with us

Below:
Cecilia in assessment at her new school (Montessori)



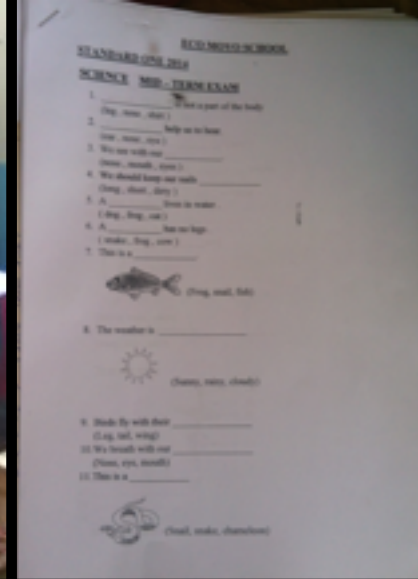
Asumptor and Triza teaching

Since school started back in September, Trizah and Asumptor have been teaching the kids.

Asumptor started working as our chef a few months ago, but in fact she is nearly finished with her Montessori teachers training. She already completed her assessment (the same as Cecilia is doing now), but could not afford to pay the exam fees at the time, and did not have an ID either...

After Christmas, Cecilia will be back teaching our kids again, and we are helping Asumptor get her final exam. This past weekend we assisted her with transport so she could travel back to her home village and retrieve a letter from the chief, confirming her identity. Then after 3 months she will finally have an ID again, and can prepare to get her teachers certificate. Meanwhile, our watchman, Ezra has been helping out in the kitchen cooking for the gang :)

I feel it is important to emphasise that with our project, we are not only interested in helping the children to get educated, but also adults. Accidentally (or not) some pretty amazing individuals have come our way, they are working very hard and showing great loyalty to this project. They should as well be given the chance to develop and grow.



New Chef! - Again! (Right)

The girl to the far left is Jackie. She will be working with us as our new chef. Ezra has been assisting her with practising reading and writing as she never learned when she was younger, but has been attending some lessons randomly. She is a hard worker and we have known her for a long time as she used to run a small shop next to my (Lindsay) swahili school. She is also from Uganda, just like Annet!



Ingvild's parents came to visit!

They came to our nee school and
also to the
swimming at Tulia!



Robin and John's wedding

Robin is my (Lindsay) cousin from the US and she just got married to John.

The picture below is a card she made and put on all the tables of their wedding guests to help promote our work. A very cool initiative!

WHO NEEDS ANOTHER SCENTED CANDLE ANYWAY?

In lieu of favors, Robin and John have made a donation in your honor to the
Eco Moyo Education Center in Mombasa, Kenya.

Robin's cousin, Lindsay Sanner, has made it her mission to build this school for the local community to promote sustainable living and affordable solutions for self-reliance. We couldn't be prouder and support her efforts 100%!

For more information please visit: www.ecomoyo.com

*The photo you are holding is of an Eco Moyo student thanking you for your donation!
"Asante Sana" is Swahili for "Thank you very much."*



-And I simply had to attach this picture as well. This is Robin and John looking at the priest who is about to wed them - and who has fainted on his way to do sooo :)

Priceless....



Annual “Teach A Man To Fish” conference on sustainable education

This is a conference that we are dying to attend. It's initiated by “Teach a man to fish” - an internationally acclaimed organisation that teaches schools how to become self sufficient in combination with micro-businesses. We have followed their work for a while - they walk the walk!!

As the event is in Uganda, Annet can get a good price for the course as she is half Ugandan! We would love for her to go and to network with these people and come back with new knowledge for us to eventually adapt.

Anyone feel like sponsoring this?

Course fee: 100 British Pounds/ 1000 NOK/ 160 USD

+ Travel expenses, room and board

Total

160 British Pounds

1700 NOK

260 USD



Education That Pays For Itself 2014 will bring together some of the world's leading practitioners in financially sustainable education in a unique forum for learning, networking, inspiration and action.

More than 200 delegates will for 3 days join up in workshops, debates and presentations. Our participants include educators, policymakers, business people, philanthropists, social entrepreneurs and NGOs from around the world, all sharing their ideas and knowledge on transforming young people from job seekers to job creators through educational and profitable school businesses.

<http://www.educationthatpaysforitself.org/>



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Ezra had started attending **computer course** a while back, but was not able to continue, because he had to assist his mother who needed hospital care in Tanzania. He is passionate about teaching the kids as well! (He does not have to do the Graphic Design)

Anyone feel like sponsoring this?

Total fee: 10.000 KES/ 112 UDS

Agricultural cooperative in Skien, Norway

My mother's friend Ellen Dagsrud is in charge of arranging a food festival in the town of Skien each year. She is also the manager of a cooperative farm with an interesting concept; People pay an annual fee, then get a notice when different vegetables are ripe for them to come and collect. Ellen has tipped us on ideas for our own farm plan and given us numerous contacts and organisations to check out when researching the "Slow food Community" in Norway as well as Kenya.



Below: My mother's garden

I just felt like I needed to add a huge inspiration here; my mother has turned into this amazing grower! This is what we would like to do as well, look at all those juicy veggies!



Help for Self Help in Africa

As we have been looking into biogas for a while now, we accidentally came across a paper online that was written by..... - NORWEGIANS! So I (Lindsay) called them up and invited myself to their private home! :)

Kirsten and Helge Underland are two wonderful people who started their work in Kenya after visiting as tourists and feeling they wanted to contribute.

They aim to create profitable and environmentally sound operations in Africa and the concept is beneficial for the environment, health, schools in the community, families and economic development.

With great advise from hands on experience, it was such an inspiring meeting and I'm sure will stay in touch through mutual interests as they seem to be many!





Left:

Patrick looking after
our nursery

Right:

For a while, we have been tending to our own little nursery at my swahili school. It is really blossoming and we can't wait to transport them all to our new plot!



Patrick Washira

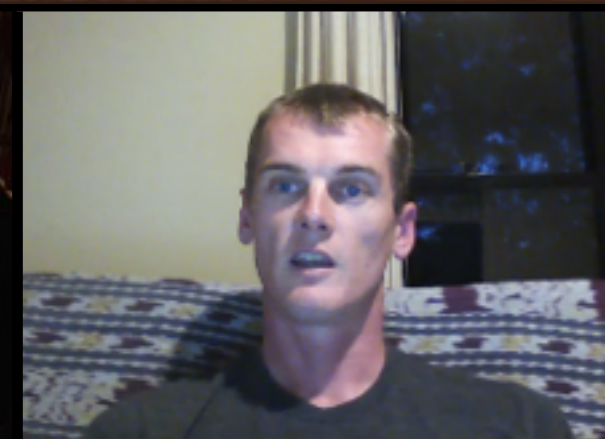
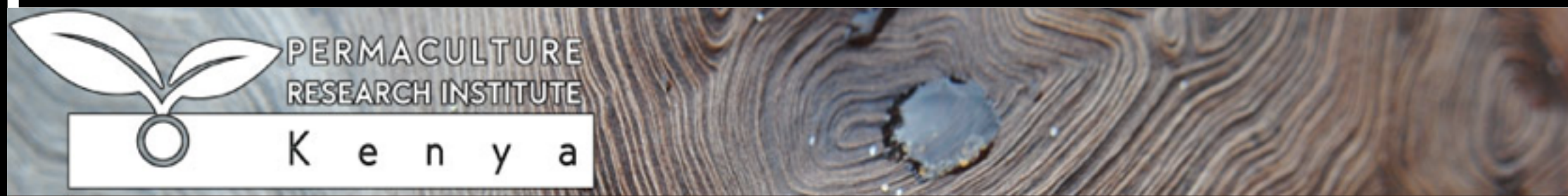
I also want to introduce Patrick to everyone, he has been my (Lindsay) swahili teacher for almost one year and he will be in charge of the fish farm we are developing in our Eco Moyo project.

And he is the other parent to my two beautiful cats Wetu and Zidani :)

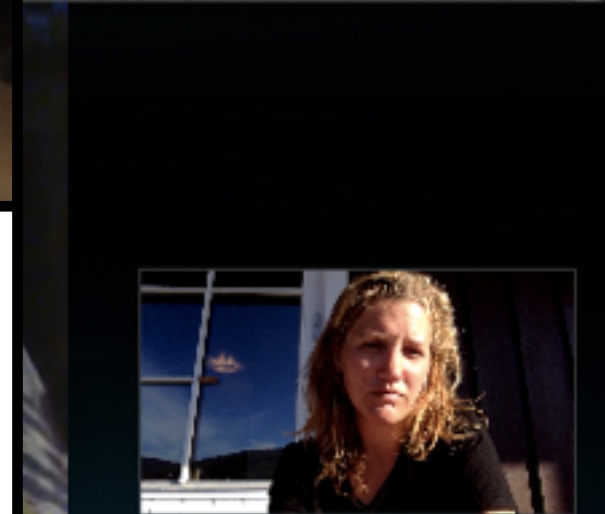
Permaculture

In november we are getting a visitor who is staying with us for a few months to help us construct a plan for our new plot in Kilifi, based on permaculture principals.

His name is Lee Pointon, and he is currently in dialog with PRI Kenya (picture below) and they are offering so many exciting workshops! (More about this in the next newsletter).



Permaculture is a system of cultivation that relies on a self-sustaining ecosystem. It is a philosophy of working with, rather than against nature. It looks at the interactions between plants and animals, in all their functions, rather than treating any area as a single product system. Here is Lee skyping with me!



Epilogue...

I would like to add that we have become aquatinted with some very interesting groups and people who are assisting us with developing our project, the volunteer spirit is full on and thanks so much to you all, you know who you are!

And to everyone else, thanks for following our work!

Love from Lindsay and the crew

PS: If anyone has an old laptop laying around that is not being used, please let me know.

I am traveling back to Kenya on November 10th and would love to be able to bring a few down as it would make our project development sooo much easier :)

Aquaculture Research

(Right)

We are intending to develop a fish farming business when we get to Kilifi.

Here is Patrick in Machakos doing some research for our business idea.

We are thinking about breeding Tilapia and catfish,

In addition for traditional fish farming, we are also looking into acuaponics (google it)

