

Eco Mayo

Education Centre



NEWSLETTER FOR **AUGUST** AND **SEPTEMBER** 2016

SUMMARY

The most exciting thing worth mentioning out of all the activities in August and September is the issue of the borehole. We now have water on our new site! We have also built a pretty big roof on the first class room and the road is finished at last.

The kids are going on as usual, some of the class 4 students are really improving their english skills and we enjoyed a nice day at the beach together a while back.

Also, we have some new sponsors and followers who have asked questions about our project, so let me try to clarify a few things: The school (with our 20 kids and 3 teachers) is currently located in Mtwapa, in rented locations. This is one hours drive south from the “new site” which is located 30 min outside Kilifi town. On the new site, Lee, myself, 3 dogs, 1 cat, 4 chickens and 2 watchmen are based. So we are here at the “new site” developing the premisses for the new school and they are in Mtwapa running the school there.

Hopefully, between January and March, we will have built student and staff housing. Then, the whole school is to be shifted to the new site, meaning, the kids will come as boarding students and the teachers will live here in staff units. As the school expands, it is meant to be a normal day-school for the local community. Hope that was clear :)

Happy reading!

- From all of us at Eco Moyo!

PLOT DEVELOPMENT

HELLO YOU BEAUTIFUL BOREHOLE!

What a milestone, getting water on site! Now, some serious construction and irrigation can finally begin. We found water at 25 m depth and thought initially that it was fresher than first estimated. However, as we continued pumping, it got saltier. Now, what remains is buying a pump, tanks and digging pipelines across the site. For drinking water, we will have to connect to council water, which they have just finished laying the pipes for in our area. This project was made possible thanks Fredrik Bornø Haukeland and Martin Whatson who initiated the Eco Moyo Auction earlier this year; more than 25 artists donated pictures that were auctioned online. WE LOVE YOU!!!!



ROOFING OUR FIRST CLASSROOM

In March, we arranged a workshop to build this space from cob (mud-mix) and had volunteers helping us out. Unfortunately, Lee and I had a motorcycle accident and were forced to cancel the workshop (this is why the walls and floor are so unfinished). Now, we decided to put a roof before we continued, so as to be able to resume the work in the shade. The “fundis” (craftsmen) have worked very hard and we are very happy with the result! The roof is made of timber (Casorina) poles and palm leaves.

This project was also made possible by the Eco Moyo Auction and donations from Westerdals students.



ROAD AND GATE FINISHED

Finally, the road is done! Roughly 500m x 4m of digging out, laying, spreading and compacting coral stone dust. Check!
The gate was not plastered or painted so that got fixed as well!

This is thanks to donations by Trond Husby, our new Norwegian friend who lives in Kilifi as well!!



SHADE HOUSE

Lee built this in August and now we are seeing some results of what has been planted. These are the happy varieties, others that didn't make it. Try and fail. We still need to work on the soil, adding organic matter (tried making hot compost which failed completely...!)

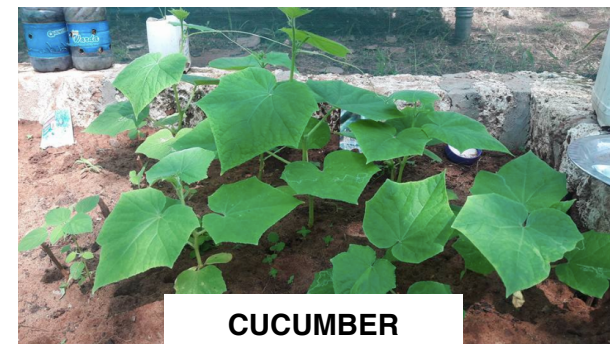
And, we finally found a serious company for soil testing, so that's on the agenda as well!



PARSLEY



TOMATO



CUCUMBER



SWEET MELON

CHICKEN TRACTOR

- Is basically a mobile chicken house. The chicks scratch up the ground and poo all over it, adding nutrients to the ground, then move to a new section and do the same. This is great for preparing an area for growing and then you get the eggs of course!

On the same day as we got the water in the bore hole, the first egg was laid, both equal big deals :)

Our chicks have been given names by Lee;
Choock Shields, Egg Ryan, Ally B'cBeal and Eggen Degenerous

HAAAAAAAAAAAAHA!



AT SCHOOL

DAILY OPERATION

The kids are going on as usual, our setup there is pretty stable, although we have our challenges from time to time. Now, for example the owner is demanding a higher rent. Our contract expired in August and unless we wanted to shift locations (again) we had to give in. In any case, this is hopefully the last time we have to deal with this as the next shift will be to our new site where there will be no rent to be paid at all, although other expenses will arise.

Then, the school van needed to go through an annual inspection that cost way more than we imagined and our driver Patrick got arrested cos the top gutter on the van was rusty (corrupt bastards) - we paid our way out, but every time these situations occur, we get so frustrated as it obviously affects the budget and feels so unfair, considering everything we do to give these kids education, oh well.

Otherwise, the oldest kids have really improved their english and its so amazing seeing their progress! The teachers are managing school expenses, delivering flawless records with receipts, etc. So happy they continue to keep up the good, thorough work!



BEACH DAY!!!!

Finally an fun-day with the kids at the near by beach. We brought lunch (Asumptor made delicious Pillau), we played games and had a dip in the water! After the rains and so much cold weather, it was great to enjoy the water and sun again!





OTHERWISE....

EXPOSURE IN NORWEGIAN MAGAZINE

Kamille is a typical womans magazine, with traveling articles, food recipes, and much more. While I was in Norway this summer, I got an interview with them and it turned into a 4 page article about Eco Moyo and how we are looking for volunteers, partners, etc.

In particular, I wanted to promote the workshop we have coming up, where we invite people to come to Kenya and help us build a student house for our 20 kids. We have called the event: Active Christmas Holiday.

VOLUNTEERS ARE COMING

Since the article was published, we have managed to get 7 people so far who wish to come and help us out this Christmas, in addition to 2 others that had already booked flights.

So a total of 9 people coming, pretty amazing!!!!



Vil du være med?

Trivelig rom: Det er enkle fasiliteter, men klasserommet er hyggelig og fargerikt.

J rute: Matte står selvstendig på timeplanen.

EN ANNERLEDES JULEFERIE?
22.-31. desember 2016 holder Lindsay workshop, hvor planen er å bygge studenthjemmet på dugnad. Og hvis du har lyst til å gjøre noe helt annet i jula, vil hun gjerne ha deg med!

– Det er lagt opp til fem dagers jobbing, seks timer om dagen, sier Lindsay. De som vil kan samles på julaften for å bli kjent, og første juledag møter vi barna og foreldrene. I romjula organiseres workshop, og vi avslutter med en felles nyttårsfeiring. Frivillige er velkomne til å bidra, og kan velge å følge opplegget eller bare være med noen av dagene.

– Byggeteknikken er en gammel, naturlig byggeteknikk og går ut på å blande høy, vann, leire og sand. Det krever ingen forkunnskaper og er lett å lære, og gøy for både barn og voksne. Her kan du jobbe side om side med lokale og andre frivillige, og oppleve hvordan hjelpen din faktisk gjør en forskjell, sier Lindsay.

Byen Kilifi ligger på østkysten av Kenya og er et velkjent ferieparadis. Det er lett å kombinere jobbing på skolen med andre ferieaktiviteter som safari, strandliv, eller kulturell og historisk sightseeing. Du må selv betale og ordne med reise, kost og losji, og du finner reisetips på hjemmesiden, ecomoyo.com.

Les mer om aktiv juleferie under «latest news» på www.ecomoyo.com

Byggeteknikk: Her lager de hus med hjelp av teknikkene «cob», som går ut på å blande vann, leire, høy og sand.

102 Kamille

ACTIVE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

We have to remind EVERYONE about this event; it's not too late to sign up for our free workshop this Christmas. Come to Kenya and help us build a dorm for our 20 students in a natural building technique called COB. We provide lunch and pick up/drop off at hotel, the rest is on you. Combine it with a safari? More details in the box below:



Come to Kenya and join us for an

Active Christmas Holiday!

22 - 31 December 2016



- Learn how to build with "Cob"! A traditional, building method (easy to learn, fun for both adults and children!)
- Work side by side with locals and other volunteers
- Experience how your presence (not just your money) actually makes a huge difference!

We are building an **ECO STUDENT HOME** for 20 children we have helped with education since 2013. Read more on link below:

www.ecomoyo.com

LINKS FOR THE EVENT:

More info about the event:

http://media.wix.com/ugd/f5cb61_6483a4ec5e814b1caf56bd0d857ae65b.pdf

Plans for construction of the dorm:

http://media.wix.com/ugd/f5cb61_5b35d24335f24cc98a8f02bdc2ce2b6f.pdf

ASSISTING NEIGHBOURS WITH JIGGERS

A while back, we had a visitor - our neighbour at the new site. This mamma was asking our watchman Livingstone, if there was anything we could do to assist her kids who have (or rather had) really bad cases of jiggers. We fished around for some advise and ended up getting in touch with WAJIMIDA JIGGERS CAMPAIGN - a group of volunteers from a town near by, who assist people in treating jiggers. Thanks to donations by Unni Sanner, we bought shoes, payed for the medicine (stocked up) and transport for the volunteers.



LIVINGSTONE

VIDEO OF THE PROCESS:

<https://vimeo.com/178303498>

<https://vimeo.com/180490149>

TEACHER FROM NORWEGIAN SCHOOL VISITS ECO MOYO

After contacting many Norwegian schools, seeking partnership and knowledge exchange with our project here in Kenya, Lena from Fosen Folkehøgskole in Norway called and said she wanted to come and visit Eco Moyo! She had been to Kenya many times in the past and recently took her students to Lamu to learn about traditional boat building there. Now, she came to see what the students might be interested in by coming to Kilifi and came to our site. She ended up spending the night with our neighbours to get the full experience of Giriama culture (how they cook, live, sleep, etc.) .What a sporty spice! - The chick is nearly 60 years!!! We all enjoyed her company so much! Hopefully, she can influence her students to come at a later point as well!



Karisa (our other watchman), me, Lena and Karisas wife, step sister and kids.



These pics definitely don't do justice in portraying Lena's 'wonderfull energy and enthusiasm !

A BIG THANKS

To all of our sponsors and people who help us share information about Eco Moyo - we really, really appreciate it!

As always, what we struggle with mostly, is getting regular sponsors. It was only in July this year that we actually had enough people signing up with regular donations to meet our monthly running costs for the school. We are so stocked by that! However, here at the new site, money is needed to ensure we can shift the school shortly after the new year.

Starting in Jan 2017 we will also need to hire a new teacher who can teach upper primary classes. A monthly salary for this person will come to roughly 15,000 Kenyan sh (150 USD) - so if anyone can convince some family members or a group of friends to donate a small amount each month, that would be greatly appreciated!

BIG HUGS FROM ALL THE KIDS, TEACHERS AND ANIMALS !

