



2022 CHIMPANZEE FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT

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Football for Conservation



Defending champions Wagaisa FC before their semi-final match

Sponsored by:



Jane Goodall Institut Schweiz

BACKGROUND TO THE PROJECT:

In western Uganda, a population of about 300 wild chimpanzees cling to survival in disappearing habitat around villages and towns in the neighbouring districts of Hoima and Kikuube.

Since the 1990s, most natural forest in this region has been cut down for timber and converted to farmland, as farmers seek to improve their livelihoods and provide for their families. However, deforestation has caused escalating conflicts between villagers and the resident chimpanzees, which now compete with each other for space and resources. With most of their natural food gone, the chimpanzees must find alternate food sources from people's agricultural fields and around village homes. Chimpanzees are large mammals and can be dangerous, however, and local residents have occasionally been seriously injured by chimpanzees. These conflicts threaten people's welfare and livelihoods and have led to



chimpanzees being killed in retaliation or caught in traps set to protect crops.

Many local people are unaware that chimpanzees are endangered and legally protected, and instead view these great apes as large, dangerous wild animals that encroach on their land, eat their crops, and sometimes attack people.

The Bulindi Chimpanzee and Community Project (BCCP) was

started in 2015 to conserve the chimpanzees in Hoima and Kikuube districts, and support local households, to aid more peaceful coexistence. We offer local people livelihood alternatives to deforestation, sponsor village savings groups, invest in children's education, promote tree planting and natural forest conservation, and help improve quality of life through constructing water boreholes in villages and providing households with energy cook stoves. In parallel, we monitor and study the region's unique 'village chimpanzees' to understand and mitigate threats to their survival.

Since 2018, BCCP has implemented a '*Football for Conservation*' programme. Football is enormously popular in Uganda and many villages have local teams. Using the universal language and popularity of football, our football league allows us to engage with young men (aged between 15–25 years), who are often involved in forest degradation activities such as charcoal burning and timber cutting. By sponsoring local football teams with kits and balls, and arranging matches and tournaments, the program helps demonstrate to

local communities that we are invested in them and their youth. Additionally, the tournaments provide an ideal platform to convey messages about environmental issues, the chimpanzees and conservation to a large audience, helping to reduce misconceptions and mitigating tension between local residents and chimpanzees.



A female chimpanzee (Kaije) and her infant – members of the Bulindi chimpanzee group, one of 5 groups of wild chimpanzees monitored daily by BCCP in Hoima and Kikuube districts. Five local teams from the Bulindi area participated in this year’s tournament including semi-finalists Mparangasi FC.

THE 2022 TOURNAMENT:

Each year the tournaments have grown bigger and more prestigious. The 2018 and 2019 tournaments included only 8 teams from local villages. The number of teams doubled to 16 in 2020, and in 2021 18 local teams competed for the increasingly coveted first prize (a bull worth over 1 million UGX!). Thanks to new kits provided by KitAid, this year we were able to invite another 4 teams to participate. As a result, a total of **22 village teams** competed in the 2022 Chimpanzee Football Tournament!

In August 2022 BCCP were delighted to host KitAid trustee Thomas Enright and his family in Hoima for a day of friendly matches. Thomas and Debbie (who had got married in Uganda the week before!) and their kids also came bearing gifts: new kits for several teams who would be playing in the tournament for the first time!



Karama FC (left) and Kikuube FC (right) in their new kits donated by KitAid.



Thomas's family with members of BCCP!

Tournament cost: Due to its growing profile we were required to formally register the tournament with the district football associations in Hoima and Kikuube districts. This also meant we were required to hire referees and linesmen certified by the football associations for each match.

For prizes, the winning team would receive a bull and the runners-up would receive a goat, as in 2021. This year we also included a cash prize for the tournament's top goal scorer. In addition to kits, participating teams were given balls, basic medical kits and refreshments during matches. Inevitably, the cost of putting on the tournament was higher than previous years: the total cost was 9 million UGX (equivalent to £2000 and Euros 2260).



Match essentials: balls, water, and tree seedlings for planting!

Schedule: The tournament was held between the 29th October and 3rd December 2022, including a final day for the semi-finals and final.

Prior to the first matches, a meeting was held at the BCCP office on 17th October with the team captains to remind them of the reasons for the tournament and to discuss fixtures and tournament rules and conditions (for example, concerning discipline and the importance of good behaviour by players and their supporters).

THE FIRST PLAYOFFS: 29th & 30th OCTOBER

Match	Score	Winner
Mparangasi v Nyakasozi **	Mparangasi: 2 Nyakasozi: 1	Mparangasi
Buhamba v Kyarubanga **	Buhamba: 2 Kyarubanga: 1	Buhamba
Kasunga vs Kihomboza	Kasunga: 1 Kihomboza: 1	Draw
Kyamuchumba vs. Kyabasengya	Kyamuchumba: 0 Kyabasengya: 3	Kyabasengya
Kitabona v Kikuube**	Kitabona: 1 Kikuube: 6	Kikuube
Kiseeta vs Kyabigambire Central	Kiseeta: 1 Kyabigambire: 3	Kyabigambire Central
Wagaisa vs Parajwoki	Wagaisa: 6 Parajwoki: 0	Wagaisa
Kiraira vs Kitoba**	Kiraira: 0 Kitoba: 2	Kitoba
Kakindo vs Nyaituuma	Kakindo: 0 Nyaituuma: 3	Nyaituuma
Kiziranfumbi v Karama**	Kiziranfumbi: 1 Karama: 0	Kiziranfumbi
Bulemwa vs Kiseke	Bulemwa: 1 Kiseke: 1	Draw

**** Indicates teams playing in the tournament for the first time**

2021 tournament winners Wagaisa FC got their new campaign off to a flying start, crushing Parajwoki FC 6-0. Meanwhile, two-time winners Kyamuchumba FC (2019 and 2020) suffered an early blow, losing 3-0 to their neighbouring village team, Kyabasengya FC.

Among the teams playing in the tournament for the first time, Kikuube FC displayed particularly strong potential, easily overcoming Kitabona FC by 6 goals to 1!



*Some of the 22 teams playing in the 2022 Chimpanzee Football Tournament:
Top: Nyakasozi FC (left); Nyaituuma FC (right)
Middle: Kyamuchumba FC (left); Karama FC (right)
Bottom: Kiseke FC (left); Wagaisa FC (right)*



First round action: Top left – Mparangasi FC vs Nyakasozi FC; Top right – Kakindo FC vs Nyaituuma FC; Bottom – Kiseke FC and Bulemwa FC players with referee

As in previous tournaments, before matches we invited players to participate in a tree planting exercise to instil the spirit of conservation (with the tree seedlings supplied from our tree nurseries).



Players from Kikuube FC (blue kit) and Kitabona FC (black kit) ready to plant tree seedlings before their first round match



Players from Kihomboza FC and Kasunga FC planting a tree seedling (with BCCP staff member Nicholas) before their first round match

THE SECOND PLAYOFFS: 12th-13th NOVEMBER

The two teams that played one another in the first playoffs played again, except this time the visiting teams in the first matches were the hosts.

Match	Score	Winner
Mparangasi v Nyakasozi	Mparangasi: 3 Nyakasozi: 0	Mparangasi
Buhamba v Kyarubanga	Buhamba: 1 Kyarubanga: 3	Kyarubanga
Kasunga vs Kihomboza	Kasunga: 1 Kihomboza: 0	Kasunga
Kyamuchumba vs. Kyabasengya	Kyamuchumba: 1 Kyabasengya: 3	Kyabasengya
Kitabona v Kikuube	Kitabona: 1 Kikuube: 4	Kikuube
Kiseeta vs Kyabigambire Central	Kiseeta: 0 Kyabigambire: 0	Draw
Wagaisa vs Parajwoki	Wagaisa: 1 Parajwoki: 0	Wagaisa
Kiraira vs Kitoba	Kiraira: 0 Kitoba: 1	Kitoba
Kakindo vs Nyaituuma	Kakindo: 4 Nyaituuma: 2	Kakindo
Kiziranfumbi v Karama	Kiziranfumbi: 1 Karama: 1	Draw
Bulemwa vs Kiseke	Bulemwa: 1 Kiseke: 0	Bulemwa

For the playoffs, the 22 teams were grouped into 4 regions corresponding to the local subcounty: Kyabigambire, Kiziranfumbi and Kitoba A and Kitoba B. Teams were awarded 3 points for a win, 1 point for a draw, and 0 points for a loss, with the number of goals scored also taken into account. Quarter final matches were then to be played between the two highest scoring teams from each region to decide which teams would progress to the semi-finals.

In the biggest shock early-exit, former champions Kyamuchumba FC crashed out of the tournament, after being comprehensively beaten in both playoffs by rivals Kyabasengya FC. The 2018 winners Bulemwa FC also failed to make the grade this year. However, two new-comers – Kitoba FC and Kikuube FC – made it through to the quarter finals!



Kyabasengya FC (above) knocked out their rivals and two-time tournament winners Kyamuchumba FC

QUARTER FINALS: 19th & 24th NOVEMBER

Group: Kyabigambire (Hoima District):

Mparangasi v Nyaituuma	Mparangasi: 2 Nyaituuma: 1	Mparangasi
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Group: Kiziranfumbi (Kikuube District):

Kiziranfumbi v Kikuube	Kiziranfumbi: 2 Kikuube: 0	Kiziranfumbi
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Group Kitoba A (Hoima District):

Kitoba v Kyabasengya	Kitoba: 2 Kyabasengya: 2	Kyabasengya (on penalties)
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Group Kitoba B (Hoima District): Defending champions Wagaisa FC were spared having to play a quarter-final: they were too far ahead on points within their group following the playoffs and therefore went straight through to the semis.



Mparangasi FC (red kit) and Nyaituuma FC (in blue) ahead of their quarter final match to decide which team from their group would progress to the semis

The 4 teams progressing to the semi-finals were therefore **Wagaisa FC, Kyabasengya FC, Kiziranfumbi FC** and **Mparangasi FC!**

SEMI-FINALS & FINAL: 3rd DECEMBER

For the first year, the semi-finals and finals were played at a pitch in Kikuube District. Kiziranfumbi FC – semi-finalists for the second year running – were the home team this year (the 3 other semi-finalist teams being from Hoima District). Apparently confident in winning the top prize, Kiziranfumbi arrived accompanied by an enthusiastic MC with a loud PA system, which provided the day's entertainment, plus large numbers of supporters!

The first semi-final saw defending champions Wagaisa FC knocked out without scoring a single goal as they went down 3-0 to Kiziranfumbi. To the delight of many spectators, the home team seemed on course to get their hands on the trophy and – perhaps more importantly for many – the top prize bull!

The second semi-final was an unexpectedly one-sided affair: unable to recover their previous good form, former quarter-finalists Mparangasi FC found themselves outplayed and on the receiving end of a 5-0 'hammering' from Kyabasengya FC.

Semi-final	Score	Winner
Wagaisa vs Kiziranfumbi	Wagaisa: 0 Kiziranfumbi: 3	Kiziranfumbi
Mparangasi vs Kyabasengya	Mparangasi: 0 Kyabasengya: 5	Kyabasengya



Semi-finalists Mparangasi FC (left) and Wagaisa FC (right) – it was a disappointing afternoon for both teams as neither could score against their opponents

THE FINAL!

Thus, the scene was set for a mouth-watering finale between **Kyabasengya FC** and home favourites **Kiziranfumbi FC** – undoubtedly the two most consistent teams of the tournament.



Psyched-up players from Kyabasengya FC before their final with Kiziranfumbi FC (with BCCP staff Christine and Moses on the right)



Action from the final between Kiziranfumbi FC (white kit) and Kyabasengya FC (green kit)

Unlike both semi-finals, the final was a tense and closely fought match. Both teams had only scored a single goal by the end of the 90 minutes – consequently, the match had to be decided on penalties.

In the end, it was Kyabasengya FC who emerged victorious, winning BCCP’s 2022 Chimpanzee Football Tournament on penalties on their fourth attempt – and taking home the coveted trophy and the top prize bull.

The Final	Score	Winner
Kiziranfumbi vs Kyabasengya	Kiziranfumbi: 1 Kyabasengya: 1	Kyabasengya (on penalties)



Kyabasengya supporters erupt in celebration after their team wins the penalty shoot-out!

For Kiziranfumbi FC and their supporters, it wasn't the dream end to their second BCCP tournament that they'd hoped for. Nevertheless, they could console themselves in the knowledge they'd played a great tournament (plus they took home the goat). We predict Kiziranfumbi FC will get to lift the trophy in the not too distant future.



Players from Kiziranfumbi FC

After the match and before the prizes BCCP Manager Moses Ssemahunge gave a speech, reminding everyone of the conservation message behind the tournament and the importance of conserving the region's unique chimpanzees.



Left: BCCP's Manager Moses congratulates the winning team and reminds the spectators about the conservation message behind the tournament; Right: with guest Brenda Mirembe from tournament co-sponsors JGI Switzerland



Players from Kyabasengya FC receiving their winners' trophy



Members of the Kyabasengya chimpanzee group (females Enid and Janet with their juvenile offspring) climbed high in a tree to get the best view of the match!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS!

We are very grateful to **KitAid** for providing the new kits and for once again sponsoring our annual Chimpanzee Football Tournament, which goes from strength to strength each year. We are also very grateful to the **Jane Goodall Institute-Switzerland** for co-sponsoring this year's tournament at short notice – when it became clear that the cost of our growing tournament would exceed our budget! To both organisations – thank you so much!

Special thanks to KitAid's Thomas, Debbie and the family for visiting us and bringing new kits in August – and congratulations on your wedding!

Thank you to all participating teams and their supporters, and to the referees and linesmen, for helping make the tournament a great success. And congratulations to Kyabasengya FC for their well-deserved win!

Finally, big thanks to the amazing staff of BCCP for their hard work organizing and supervising this year's tournament.



Members of BCCP at the 2022 Final!

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