

# Conservation Education in Uganda

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NORTH CAROLINA ZOO  
UGANDA-NORTH CAROLINA INTERNATIONAL  
TEACHING FOR THE ENVIRONMENT  
(UNITE)

# INTRODUCING...UNITE

- Background
- Where we work
- How we work
- Evaluating
- Partnerships
- Challenges
- Successes
- Conclusion



# THE EVOLUTION OF UNITE





# Kibale National Park

# WHY NEAR KIBALE NATIONAL PARK?

- Kibale National Park is home to the largest population of chimpanzees and highest density of primates in East Africa.
- Human encroachment
  - Poverty
  - Population Growth
  - Lack of education



# LOCATION OF UNITE SCHOOLS

- UNITE works in ten schools:
    - Eight government primary schools
    - One private primary school
    - One community secondary school
  - With the exception of our model school, all UNITE schools are located within five kilometers of Kibale National Park.
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# WHAT UNITE DOES

## For Teachers

Conservation education trainings

Administrative support

## For Students

Field trips

Environmentally themed films

## For Schools

Infrastructure support

Advocacy

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# TEACHER TRAININGS

- Nine voluntary trainings offered each year
- Divided into three groups of teachers based on class level:
  - Primary One to Four
  - Primary Five to Seven
  - Secondary
- Content
  - Environmental knowledge
  - Curriculum integration
  - Teaching methods
  - Classroom observations



# ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

- UNITE offers teachers an opportunity to network once every term—three times a year.
- UNITE, in partnership with Green Circle Primary School, has developed a support group for UNITE Head teachers.



# STUDENT FIELD TRIPS

- UNITE uses field trips as an opportunity to foster a greater appreciation of nature in children
- Correspond with curriculum requirements

Student Field Trips	
Primary Five	Bigodi Wetland
Primary Six	Tooro Botanical Gardens
Primary Seven	Kibale National Park
Secondary Four	Semiliki National Park

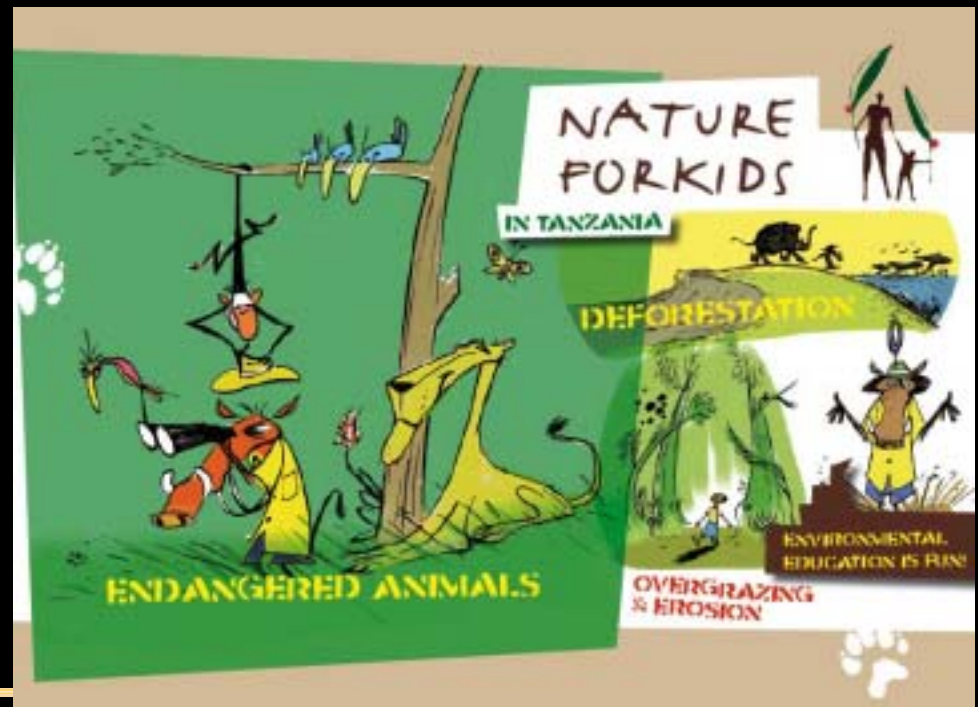
## Bigodi Wetland Tour

Primary Five students from Busiriba Primary School tour the Bigodi Wetland with Owen, a KAFRED guide.



# ENVIRONMENTALLY THEMED FILMS

- Developed for children by Nature for Kids and translated into Rutooro by UNITE
- Films focus on:
  - Waste Management
  - Water Conservation
  - Deforestation
  - Overgrazing



# SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE

- UNITE works closely with numerous Rotary clubs to provide infrastructure support such as water tanks and classrooms.
  - North Carolina schools are instrumental in providing support for classrooms and supplies.
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# ADVOCACY

- UNITE holds regular meetings with local government officials to advocate on behalf of UNITE schools.

# WHY THE UNITE WAY?

- Ugandan National Curriculum
  - Environmental education is integrated
- Culture
  - Elders are revered
- Capacity building
  - Broad reach
  - Sustainability

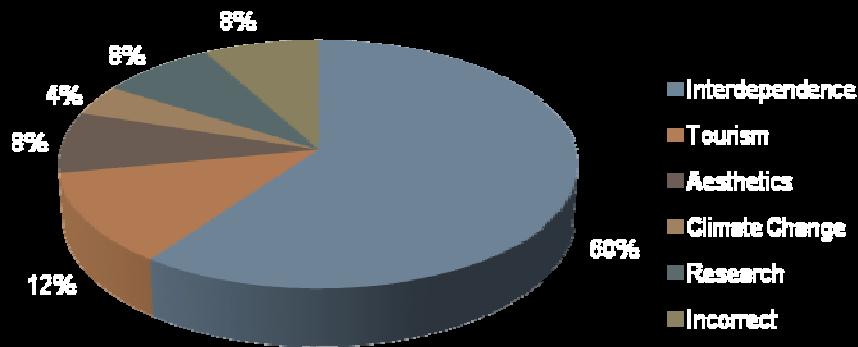


# EVALUATE, EVALUATE, EVALUATE

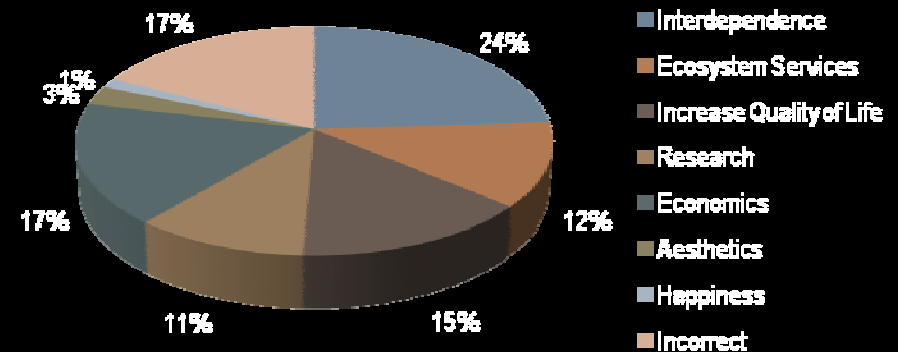
- Teachers
    - Pre-and Post-evaluation of trainings
    - End of year program evaluation
    - Classroom observations
    - Field trip journals
  - Students
    - Beginning and end of year evaluations
    - Field trip journals
    - End of year school exams
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# TRAINING EVALUATIONS

## Importances of Biodiversity Pre-Training

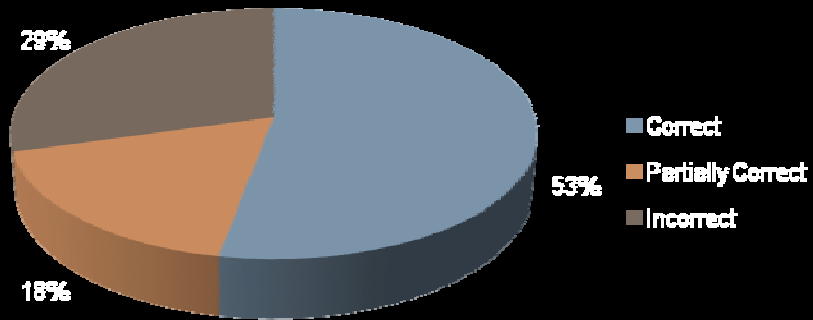


## Importances of Biodiversity Post-Training

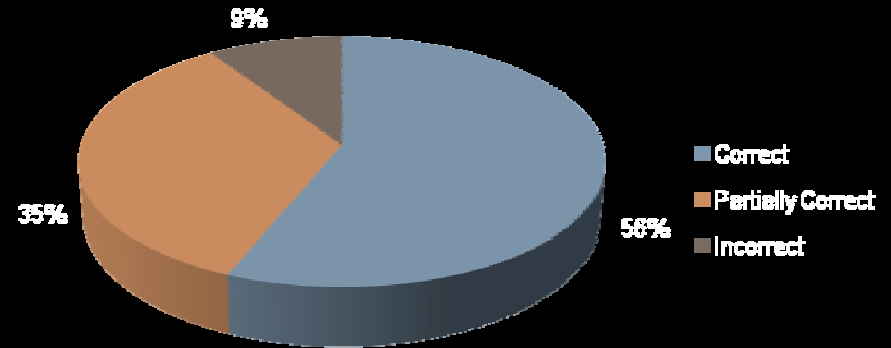


# TRAINING EVALUATIONS

**Define Biodiversity  
Pre-Training**

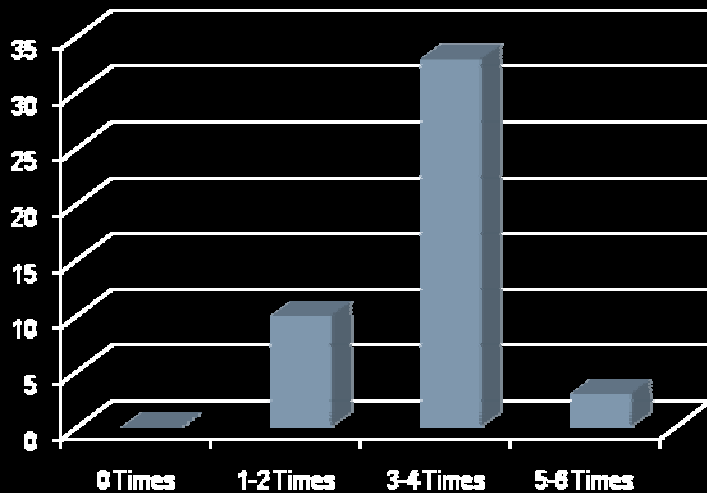


**Define Biodiversity  
Post-Training**

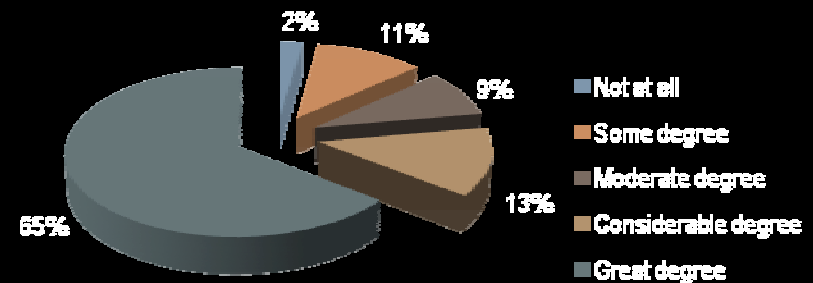


# 2010 END OF YEAR PROGRAM EVALUATIONS

**Number of times teachers integrate conservation education in the classroom each week.**

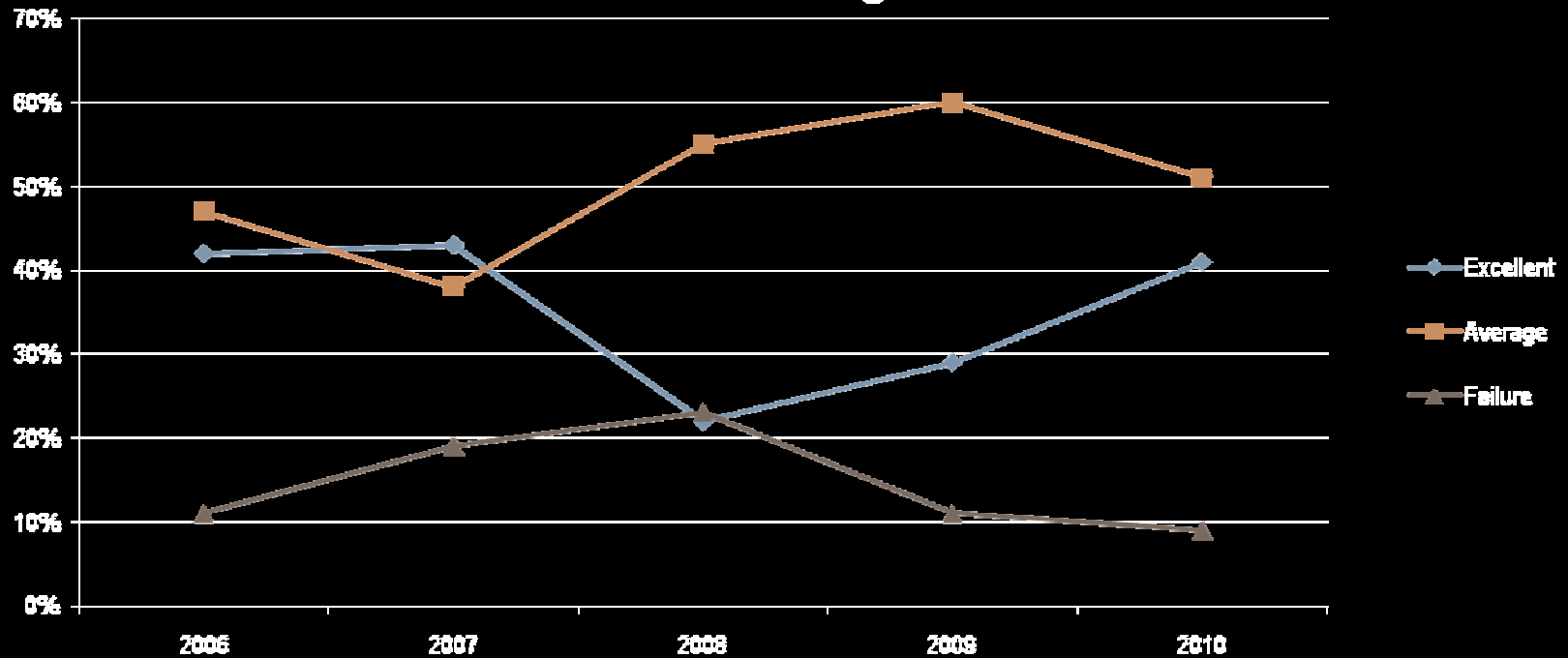


**Does your school administration support UNITE activities?**



# 2010 END OF YEAR EXAM SCORES

## UNITE Schools' PLE Scores Percentage



# OUR PARTNERS

- Kibale Association for Rural and Environmental Development (KAFRED)
  - Kibale National Park
  - Tooro Botanical Gardens
  - Kibale Fuelwood Project
  - Jane Goodall Institute—Canada/Uganda
  - Afrocaps
  - Wildlife Clubs of Uganda
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# CHALLENGES

- Teacher involvement
- Gender balance
- English skills

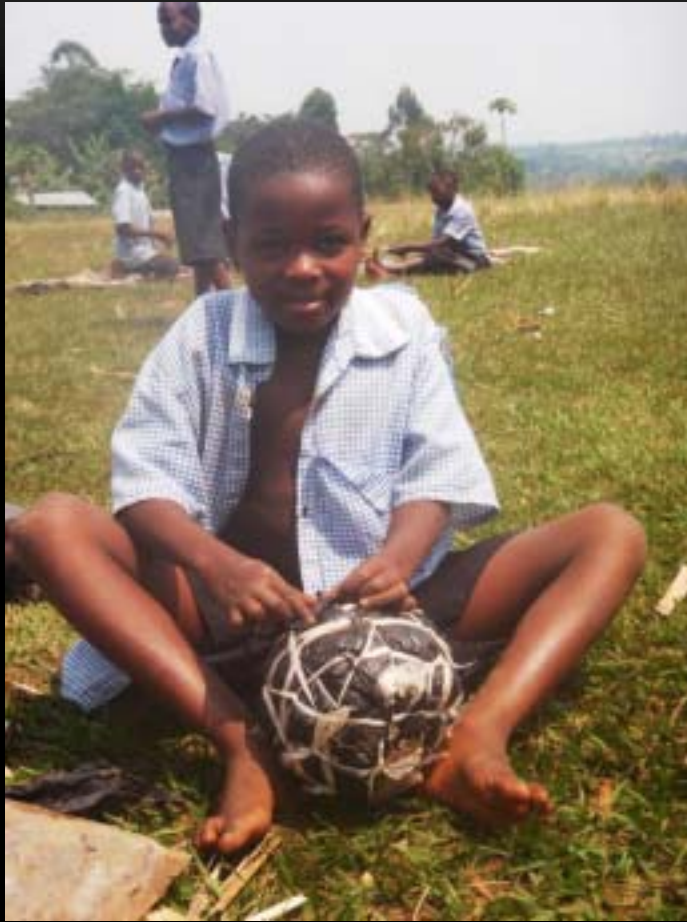


# CHALLENGES CONT.

- School infrastructure
- Sustainability
- Funding



# SUCCESSSES



- Earth Day 2010
- Increase in meaningful conservation activities by teachers
- Increase in student visits to natural areas

# MORE SUCCESSES

- Head teacher support of UNITE
- Two full-time employees



# CONCLUSION

- UNITE is redefining the way conservation education is approached in Uganda.
  - Depth not breadth!
- Expansion plans are being developed.



# CONTACT INFORMATION

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