

# Newsletter *no.2*

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## News from Uganda



Our latest project is the Matheniko Conservation project on Mount Moroto in the Karomoja region, eastern Uganda. Mount Moroto is a forest reserve protecting a range of habitats from arid acacia savannah to dry montane forest along the Kenyan border. Beekeeping has long been practiced in the area using traditional methods and the quality of the honey is renowned throughout Uganda. Until now, the inaccessibility of the region, which took us ten hours to reach from Kampala over bone-shaking roads, and a volatile security situation, has precluded development and access to market.

Working with the Matheniko project, we have identified two groups of beekeepers who will benefit from HSLA hives, training, equipment and marketing to turn their beekeeping into a commercial venture and to engender economic growth in the area.

One valuable natural local resource is the Shea Nut Tree, whose products are ideal for use as raw materials in cooking oil, margarine, cosmetics, soap, detergents and candles, but particularly as a substitute for cocoa butter in the chocolate and confectionery industry.

However, it is slow growing, bearing fruit after about 20 years and not reaching maturity for 45 years. It may continue to produce nuts for up to 200 years after reaching maturity. There is little, if any replanting taking place, and destructive use is on the increase. The oil is facing increasing competition, particularly from imported palm oil for edible use, and from widely advertised, more sophisticated, modern cosmetics. There is concern that unless more viable non-destructive uses for the species are found, it may not survive. Beekeeping may be one of these uses, as it is a favourite feeding source when in flower, and may be a key factor in the distinctive quality of the honey produced in this part of Uganda.



## The National Honey Show

Hives Save Lives – Africa will be participating in the National Honey Show, being held at the Royal Air Force Museum in Hendon from October 20<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are visiting, please take the time to come and see us on Stand no. 7.

## Latest Trainees

Duncan and Andrew, pupils from the Molly Orphanage just outside Entebbe, are our latest trainees and are pictured here at the end of their seven-day training course at Nakasongola Vocational Training Centre.



## Christmas Shopping

Christmas gift catalogues have already started dropping through the letterbox, but before placing your orders, please take five minutes to visit [www.buy.at/hivessavelives](http://www.buy.at/hivessavelives). You will find over 80 major retailers on the site, from Marks and Spencers and John Lewis to Amazon and 'ownracehorse', all of whom will pay us a commission on any purchases you make, at no cost to yourself.

Alternatively, if you would like to buy beehives this Christmas to give as gifts, please visit our website, or call 01273 302586, or email [whitby@hivessavelives.com](mailto:whitby@hivessavelives.com)

## Apimondia 2005

**Hives Save Lives – Africa** travelled to Dublin in August to participate in Apimondia 2005, the world's largest international apicultural congress. Over 140 countries were represented, and we were overwhelmed by the positive and generous response received from delegates, exhibitors and the general public. For the first time, the congress hosted an international Honeybee Queen competition, with contestants drawn from national beekeeping federations throughout the world.



The picture shows Sarah Joy Kornfield and Ceri Collingborn, the American and the UK Honeybee Queens, in front of the HSLA stand. Both girls are themselves active beekeepers, and were fascinated by the potential of beekeeping as a development tool. They have both committed themselves to spreading the word about our work in their respective countries during their reigns of office. (The overall event was in fact won by Ceri, the UK representative, on the right!)

*If you do not wish to receive any further information from HSLA, then please email [info@hivessavelives.com](mailto:info@hivessavelives.com) with the message 'unsubscribe', OR telephone 01273 302586 and ask to be removed from our list OR write to P O Box 78, Saltdean, Brighton BN51 9AB.*