



ANNUAL REPORT 2022

The year 2022 has brought with it many changes and restructuring measures. Like the 14 students we support, we look to the future with optimism, whilst not forgetting to continue to critically examine our work.

This year, new ideas for collaboration have already been implemented and proven successful.

WE ARE ENDING THE CURRENT PARTNERSHIP AND SETTING OURSELVES NEW GOALS

In spring 2022, we parted ways with our Australian partner organisation on the Ssesse Islands.

As an association, we spent a long time considering how to deal with the situation. Fortunately, we were well-positioned. Three association members were on site as volunteers from October (2021) to January (2022). Two further members attend Humboldt Gymnasium and were able to represent the students' perspective. Others maintained contact with our long-standing donors. After many heated discussions, we found a goal that unites us: we want to support the 15 young people we have accompanied on their life journey so far in their educational journey. Back then, the situation was this: as their families could not afford to fund their education at the time – or they no longer had a family – many of the young people lived at the Firefly Camp. During those years at the camp, a dependency was created which we now view critically. They lived a life that differed greatly from that of their schoolmates. Instead of educating them 'according to Western values', it would have been important to prioritise their return to their familiar family structures.

We want to learn from these experiences and design a support model that promotes autonomy. In doing so, we aim to learn from Ugandan structures and keep our specific goal in mind: to prepare the pupils for life after school.

A NEW FORM OF SUPPORT AND CLEAR COOPERATIVE RELATIONSHIPS THROUGH SPONSORSHIP AGREEMENTS

The young people now attend boarding schools on the main island of Kalangala, which is very common in Uganda. We are basing our approach on a support model modelled on the Ugandan system. People in Uganda who are better off financially often cover the school fees for other pupils



We also cover the school fees, but the primary responsibility remains with the families. To ensure clarity, pupils and parents sign a contract setting out the terms of support.

Through close consultation with Cosmos Mohamed and the Bbanga Project (a Ugandan-Austrian NGO for education and the environment based on Kalangala), both of whom have extensive experience with sponsorship models, we are continually developing new approaches to communication and organisation (e.g. with parents, pupils and schools).

OUR NEW PROJECT PARTNER IN UGANDA, WHO IS VERY COMMITTED TO SUPPORTING THE PUPILS: COSMOS MOHAMED



Cosmos is responsible for the organisation in Uganda. In him, we have found a reliable partner who handles coordination and communication with boarding schools, families and the young people. He also plays an important advisory role for the association, for example on matters relating to the school system and cultural structures on the Sseese Islands. We are in almost daily

regarding school matters, pupils' health issues and new challenges for our youth support system. Cosmos receives a fair salary from the association for his work. Working with him is great fun and we are all growing through our new responsibilities.

DIFFERENT SCHOOLS AND CHANGES OF SCHOOL

Initially, the majority of pupils attended the primary school on a small island called Lwabaswa, whilst four pupils attended Kibanga Primary School on the main island of Kalangala. At the pupils' request, all pupils from Lwabaswa will transfer to Kibanga Primary School at the start of the 2023 school year. Kibanga Primary School is the largest primary school on Kalangala and, due to its location, is easily accessible for our project partner Cosmos, for instance for errands or to check on the pupils regularly. The two older pupils attend Sserwanga Lwanga Memorial Secondary School, also on Kalangala.

In addition, due to their age and difficulties with the curriculum, four pupils have decided to attend a 'Technical School' (in Kalangala) from 2023; this is comparable to a German vocational school. They will undertake a combined course for drivers, welders and car mechanics, specialising in one of these fields over the course of the two-year programme.



As an association, we have already visited most of the schools ourselves, and in other cases we rely on the careful selection made by Cosmos on the ground.



HUMBOLDT GYMNASIUM CONTINUES TO SUPPORT US WITH CREATIVE INITIATIVES

As in previous years, we are delighted with the reliable and consistent cooperation with the Humboldt Gymnasium in Cologne. The annual donation from the Sponsored Walk ensures the project's continued existence.

In addition, the hard-working Uganda Club, led by Tara Ueing, continues its work. Here, pupils from the Humboldt Gymnasium get involved in creative ways.

This year, there was a successful screen-printing campaign featuring association logos and political slogans (e.g. #noWhiteSaviors – a campaign by the NGO Kusimama Africa in Kampala, Uganda).

At school events, such as the annual summer fair, the working group and the association were represented with a colourful information stand, which enabled a direct and enjoyable exchange with many interested parties as well as with long-standing donors and supporters of the association.

OUR GOALS FOR 2023

Making our work more visible

Due to internal restructuring, we initially withdrew completely from public relations work. We would like to change this in 2023 and are already working on re-establishing our online presence.

A new logo

A logo competition is underway at Humboldt Gymnasium, in which all pupils were able to submit proposals

A new website

It is in the starting blocks and just needs the finishing touches before it can go live.



A new name

To make the relaunch official and visible to everyone, we have chosen a new name: Firefly Wamu. “Wamu” means “together” in Luganda, the most widely spoken language in Uganda. We hope you like the name! However, we still have a bit of a battle with the bureaucracy ahead of us before the official name change. We are optimistic that we will be able to make this happen next year.

We are also looking forward to our first year of supporting young people in vocational training, which represents an important step towards independence for them.

THANK YOU

We thank you for your trust and look forward to shaping a new partnership with great energy and motivation following a carefully planned fresh start. Together (Wamu) for more education!

BEST WISHES



Anna (1st Chair), Maria (2nd Chair), Florinda (main contact person for Cosmos), Carl (Treasurer) & Matthieu (Auditor)