

# Kudumail

## News from the Africa Scout Region

[www.scout.org/africa](http://www.scout.org/africa)

## Africa gets and gives accolades at the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Scout Jamboree



The Scouting family celebrated the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Scout Jamboree (WSJ) in Rinkaby, Kristianstad, Scania in southern Sweden from 27 July to 7 August 2011 under the overall banner "Simply Scouting". This was the largest WSJ ever. It brought together 40,061 Scouts, leaders and adult volunteers from 143 countries across the world.

The Africa Scout Region was relatively well represented at this rendezvous with hundreds of participants from 31 African NSOs, including 117 participants supported through "Operation One World". With the support of the jamboree management, and in collaboration with the Africa Scout Committee, the Africa Regional Office organized a reception on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2011 to profile and drum support for Scouting in Africa, with the Africa Scout Trail Project and the Italian Kenya Scout Develop Project (IKSDP) featuring prominently. The Swedish Guide and Scout Council took the opportunity of the reception to award Mr. Gilbert Musumba and Ms. Justine Nzeyimana the Gustaf Adolf Medals.

Gilbert (a Democratic Republic of Congo national and a Scout Leader) and Justine (a Burundi national and Guide Leader) are respectively the Director and the Financial and Administration Manager of Amahoro-Amani Project, a joint initiative of National Scout and National Guide Associations from the Africa Great Lakes region. Gilbert is also a member of the Africa Scout Committee.

Their award came in as recognition of the efforts of Amahoro-Amani Project to build peace bridges between divided communities in the Africa Great Lakes region, under their able leadership.

Other highlights of the reception were the welcome and issuance of corresponding pins to 20 new members and 3 upgraded members (to Gold) of the Africa Scout Foundation as well as fundraising on behalf of the Foundation. Membership of the latter is ongoing and more information can be found at this link: <http://bit.ly/nCzLak>

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*And more!*



## FOCUS ON NSOs

(From page 1 Africa at the 22<sup>nd</sup> World Scout Jamboree)

About 150 guests from all over the world attended the reception and were treated to a colourful entertainment by Burundian drummers, Angolan dancers and a special performance from Ghana.

In a separate reception, the ASC and ARO team hosted African Heads of contingents on 5<sup>th</sup> August 2011. On behalf of the region, the community took the opportunity to thank Ms. Anne Whiteford, the immediate former Director of Education Methods and Research cum Africa Desk Officer at the World Scout Bureau (WSB), Central Office in Geneva for her support in the development of Scouting in Africa.

Ms. Anne leaves the WSB on her own volition, for the Iona Community, but has promised to continue supporting Scouting in Africa as much as she can.

We thank the Jamboree management and all those who helped to make these two receptions and the participation of the Africa Scout Region to the 22<sup>nd</sup> WSJ a success.

### Mauritius Scout Association gives a new face to its headquarters

As part of its commitment to improve its programmes and look, the Mauritius Scout Association (MSA) refurbishes its headquarters completely. The 30-year-old Baden Powell House has been renovated thanks to the Corporate Responsibility programme of Mauritius Telecom Foundation.

The updated facility now boasts an administrative block, a multipurpose hall, a meeting room, a Scout shop and two dormitories that can accommodate up to 60 people.

The Minister of Youth, Devenand Ritoo; the Minister for Social Security, Sheila Bappoo and the Chief Executive Officer of Mauritius Telecom graced the inauguration of the fully refurbished facility and lauded MSA for its services to the communities.

MSA, which also holds the rotating presidency of the Indian Ocean Zone as of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2011, will celebrate its centenary of Scouting in 2012. This will be marked through a series of nationwide activities, including a national jamboree in November of that year.

### Ghana and Rwanda Scout Associations revitalize their leadership and management

As a result of its 13 August 2011 Special General Meeting (SGM), which was preceded by another SGM on 25 June 2011, Ghana Scout Association now boasts of a new and rejuvenated national leadership led by Gregory Manful as Chief Commissioner. The West Africa NSO had gone through a protracted constitutional and leadership crisis that almost brought its operation to a standstill, as the matters had escalated to court cases.

At least, thanks to advices from the World Constitutions Committee and the African Scout Committee, and technical support from the World Scout Bureaus (Central Office in Geneva and Regional Office in Nairobi), the matters have been resolved peacefully. The new leadership has been mandated to help the NSO rebuild its image through the review of its constitution and the restructuring of its operation at all levels.

In a similar fashion, Rwanda Scout Association revitalizes its leadership and management teams, in a process that culminated into two special general meetings, on 21-22 May and 13 August 2011 respectively.

Africa Scout Committee, ARO, and Rwanda Ministry of Youth actively supported the process through advices and joint meetings, on and off site. The Rwanda Ministry of Youth also supported the May 2011 special general meeting financially. Given that the recurring and protracted crisis was due to apparent contradictions in the NSO's constitution and ensuing mismanagement, the new leadership led by Mr. Fidèle Gakuba, as Chief Commissioner, has been mandated to lead the NSO through a review of its governing document, system and structures, as well as to streamline its programmes and operations as per WOSM directives, and to boost the image of the NSO

## Welcome to Burundi!



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### Ethiopia Scout Association receives ambassadorial recognition on behalf of WOSM

WOSM's exemplary role in promoting understanding and cooperation among peoples has been officially recognized by Interfaith Peace-Building Initiative. The Ethiopia-based non-profit organization and member of United Religions Initiative (URI) hailed WOSM's contribution to the integral development of young people and its "outstanding service in promoting world cooperation, friendship, a culture of peace and harmony without distinction of gender, origin, race or creed".

The recognition was at the inaugural celebration of the Golden Rule Day (April 5, 2011) as a reminder and an appeal to all citizens of the world to live in accordance with the values of mutuality, interdependence, and reciprocity. The ceremony took place at Ghion Hotel in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and the Ethiopian Scout Association received the award on behalf of WOSM in the presence of dignitaries from within and outside the country.

### African Scouts at the 14th International Youth Gathering – Egypt

The Cairo International Scout centre played host to the Arab Scout Region's 14<sup>th</sup> International Youth Gathering for Cultural Exchange, a ten-day event (9-19 July 2011) that brought together 29 participants aged between 18-22 years, from 23 countries. Five scouts, respectively from Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mozambique and Mauritius, represented the Africa Scout Region. The gathering aimed at promoting interaction between the participants as well as between the communities they represent. It had a diverse programme, including visits to various historic sites in Egypt, and culminated in an International evening whereby participants had an opportunity to showcase their respective culture.

## FROM THE REGIONAL OFFICE

## Message from the Regional Director



Dear reader,

It is my pleasure to welcome you to our inaugural edition of *Kudumail*. This newsletter will join our array of communication channels in our quest to keep you informed about what's happening in the Africa Scout Region. This launch coincides with a very opportune period in our calendar, a time when you need to stay abreast with detailed information about four major events that our region is currently preparing. These are: Africa Scout Day (13 March 2012, Angola); 6th Africa Scout Youth Forum (1–4 June 2012, Angola); 15th Africa Scout Conference (6–9 June 2012, Angola) and 6th Africa Scout Jamboree (28 July - 5 August 2012, Burundi).

For several months, we have been conducting a situational analysis aimed at finding ways of reaching our stakeholders more effectively. As a result, we came up with a communication strategy that, among other strategic objectives, aims to improve newsgathering and dissemination. Hence, the launch of *Kudumail*.

The name *Kudumail* is inspired by the *Kudu* Animal. We chose this name for three reasons.

First, a Kudu is an African animal, which is a type of antelope. Second, it is fast, almost like the way we want our news to spread! The last reason is a symbolic one. When Lord Baden Powell started the first experimental Scout camp on Brownsea Island, he blew a Kudu horn to herald the beginning of this historic event.

Given the challenge of internet access in Africa, where only 11.4 % of the population have access to Internet, *Kudumail* will serve as a "portable" information material that could serve both those who have and those who do not have access to Internet.

This is important as the overall objective of *Kudumail* is to contribute to the development of Scouting in Africa through awareness raising. Thus, *Kudumail* is also a platform of exchange on our activities, potentials, challenges, opportunities, etc. and we are all invited to contribute and to relay the message. Enjoy your reading!

*Frederic Tutu Kama-Kama*

Regional Director, World Scout Bureau - Africa Regional Office

## ARO closes its Operations Centres and recruits new staff members

In the new ARO structure, all professionals are now based in Nairobi, Kenya. With this in mind, the Dakar and Cape Town Operations Centres were closed, with effect from 28 February 2011. Meanwhile, in July the Office added two new members to its staff. From Zimbabwe, Mr. Mostaff Matesanwa (pictured below) who has been a Scout for 27 years and the former Chief Commissioner for the Zimbabwe Scout Association joined ARO as the Unit Manager, Adult Resources and Training.



From Kenya, Ms. Susan Otieno, who had been an Intern in the communications department at the ARO for the last ten months and supported the organization of the Africa Scout Day 2011 in Burundi, has been recruited as assistant responsible for Regional events and information.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

**IKSDP Plays a Transformative Role in Nyandiwa-Gwasssi, Kenya**

The Italian Kenya Scout Development Project (IKSDP) is a collaborative initiative of Brownsea Foundation (Italy), Kenya Scout Association, the World Scout Bureau and the local community. Thus, it has been dubbed "Harambee" (working together) Project.

It was conceived as a pilot project whose results could inform other initiatives in creating awareness and improving the living standard of local communities. However, the choice of Nyandiwa was led by the dire situation the Gwasssi community found itself in before the rolling of the project.

Located in Suba District at the shore of Lake Victoria, on the Kenya side, Nyandiwa peninsula has a harsh-rocky environment and is remote by road. In the beginning of the eighties, it was the epicenter of a cholera outbreak that decimated much of its populace to the point that there were no more than 300 inhabitants when the "Harambee Nyandiwa Project" was launched in 1983.

However, the project operates from the perspective of cooperation, building on the scout method, with particular focus on the person as a member of a community and on the growth of the individual as the basis for the transformation of the community.

As a result of nearly three decades of "working together", the community now boasts of a Scout centre that also doubles as an informal education facility and as a retreat centre, clean water, a dispensary, schools, sports ground, and Internet connection among other facilities.

The effect of these facilities on the community has been apparent: not only have waterborne diseases become things of the past, the population has increased tremendously over the last 20 years and Nyandiwa has become a beehive of activities.

Besides, the project has extended its activities to neighbouring localities and has become synonymous to the agent of transformation of the area. Its 20 km aqueduct built in 1991 provides clean water to about 20,000 people and the project is experimenting jatropha as a bio-fuel crop, as the resilience the woody tree can make of it an alternative to much needed cash crops. The project is also promoting the conservation of Kitawa "natural reserve" and Kisaku forest for environment education and is contemplating reforestation, to help improve the catchment of water and to counter a large scale deforestation.

**Gone home**

The immediate International Commissioner of The Scout Association of Nigeria, Mr. Mallam Mohammed Kadu Bagadu, passed away on 28th June 2011 in a road accident in Minna, Niger State. May his soul rest in peace!

**DON'T MISS NEXT YEAR'S EVENTS...**

EVENT	DATES	COUNTRY
Africa Scout Day	13 <sup>th</sup> March 2012	All African Countries (Main host: Angola)
6 <sup>th</sup> Africa Youth Forum	1-4 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	Angola
15 <sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Conference	6-9 <sup>th</sup> June 2012	Angola
6 <sup>th</sup> Africa Regional Jamboree	28 <sup>th</sup> July-5 <sup>th</sup> August 2012	Burundi

**Memorable quote**

"Scouting is a melting pot of all ethnic groups for strengthening a nation."

*(Mr. Hassane Graffada Outman, Chad - May 9, 2011)*

**PLEASE EMAIL US A PROVERB OR SAYING FROM YOUR COUNTRY. WE WILL PUBLISH THE BEST IN THE NEXT ISSUE! (africa@scout.org)**



**STAY IN TOUCH!**

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