

## Fuel Efficient Stoves

### Introduction

Trespassing into the Democratic Republic of Congo's (DRC) national parks to collect firewood and charcoal is destroying the forests and threatening the survival of the gorillas that inhabit them. The use of fuel-efficient stoves reduces firewood consumption by up to 70%, reducing the demand for fuel and therefore decreasing the local communities' reliance on the forest resources. These stoves not only benefit the environment, but also reduce the cost of fuel, as less is required and produce less smoke than traditional stoves, improving the health of those within the household.

### Objectives

The overall objective of the project is to reduce reliance on the resources of the Virunga National Park through the production and distribution of fuel-efficient stoves in North Kivu Province, DRC. The specific objectives are:

- To produce and distribute a minimum of 1,000 fuel-efficient stoves.
- To improve health by reducing the volume of harmful smoke produced by stoves.
- To increase community awareness of the consequences of deforestation and the need to conserve DRC's forests.

### Activities

The project began in January 2008 and is already having a very positive impact on the communities living around the Virunga National Park. A workshop where stoves will be produced has been installed on the main Goma - Bukavu road where communities lack electricity and therefore rely solely on charcoal and firewood, and by the end of the year 500 stoves will have been produced. These are being sold for \$3 each, helping to generate a small profit, which is being reinvested in the project. Regular workshops are held to sensitise both the communities and the local authorities on the importance of using fuel-efficient stoves and the need for forest conservation. During 2009 the project is set to produce a further 500 - 1,000 stoves and will continue all sensitisation activities.

### 2009 Budget

Item	Cost (\$)	Cost (£)
Human Resources (inc. salaries for project manager, labourers and sensitisation officers)	7,640	4,494
Capital equipment (motorbike)	3,500	2,058
Office costs (workshop rent, stationery and telecommunications)	1,520	894
Local travel (vehicle hire)	750	441
Activity costs (tools and equipment for stove production, workshops)	7,848	4,616
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>21,258</b>	<b>12,503</b>