MAJI MOTO NEWS
26/07/2008



Welcome to Maji Moto !

This week we launch Maji Moto Newsletter - small info-digest concerning the project of Simba Friends Foundation in township of Maji Moto, South Kenya, Maasai Mara neighbourhood.
Our multi-culti team of Poles, Maasai and Luo with support of Canadians and British, invites you for the trip to the heart of Maasai-land, where you will find out about results of Wazungu's attempt to build the primary school.

◄Multi-Culti Team after 'muddy' work on Sunday.

Sunday - Manyata Day

Last Sunday, 20/07/2008, all Wazungu helped Maasai women (Mamas) with one of the manyattas, that are built for volunteers (and afterwards will become property of Chief Salaton Ole Ntutu and will host eco-tourists from all over the world). For several days women were constructing the house using special sticks for the walls (so called fito) and grass for the roof. The hay was cut by us under the eye of Simat - one of the Maasai worriors.



Kaja Makacewicz after smudging the walls of our Manyata►



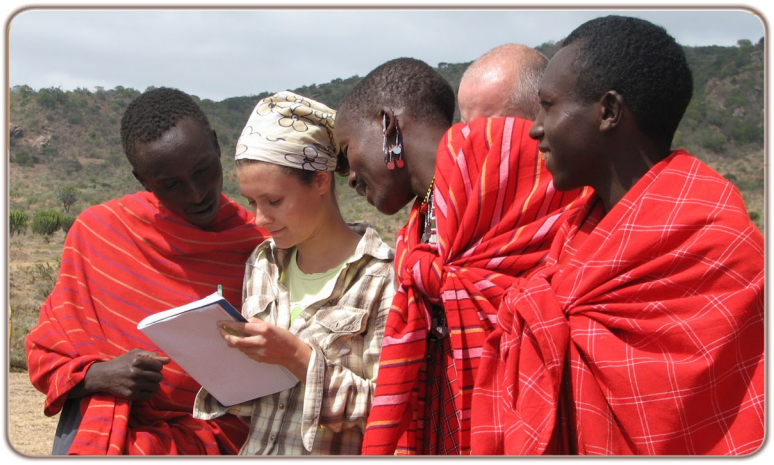
On Friday and Saturday we were collecting water, soil and cow dung, which is the main component of the wall-mud. We visited several villages, where Mamas sold us the dung for 50 KSH per bag (aproximatelu 40-50 kg). On Sunday morning, at about 9.00, we started smudging and smearing. Each wall of manyatta has to be covered with two layers of mud. First one is usually thicker, whereas the second one is smoother and is local equivalent of Mzungu plaster.

◄Masai women at work

Substancial part of the job was of course made by Mamas, who were constantly laughing because of our lack of qualifications. But we did try hard. After 9 hours of hard work, we were invited for a simple dinner to Chiefs house. We also thanked all volunteers for their help in building houses for us. That was very productive and hard-working day, but also very satysfying.



Masai women putting mud on the roof ►



Maasai recruitment

On Wednesday, 16/07/2008, a meeting with Maasai worriors was organized by Chief, in order to inform and recruit young Maasais for the construction works that will start by the end of July. The main goal of the SFF project is of course building the school, but it's also very important that the beneficiaries receive as much of our help as possible. That is why we would like to hire mainly Maasais, and we estimated that 20 men are needed.

◂Marta Miłkowska, Chief Salaton Ole Ntutu and Masai worriors

We were suprised that so many of them came for uor meeting. 32 men declared ready to work, what exceeded strongly our expectations. We listed all of them and promised to inform them before construction starts. Afterwards we told them about our demands and the obligatory principles and listened to their hopes and requirements.
Our actions were given blessing from the elderls (Mzaa) and Cheef, what is believed to guarantee success of our project.



Volunteers and Maasais - for fruitful cooperation▸



Saturday School

Kiwi, Kaja and Cheryl (our Canadian good fairy) went on Saturday morning to local primary school to meet youth from 7th and 8th grade. We asked them who would they like to become in the future. Then we divided students in proffesion-groups and invited them to write down informations concerning the proffesion of their choice. Among doctors, teachers and lawyers we found future pilots, presidents, ministers and speakers of National Assembly. We keep our fingers crossed for them!

◂Maasai youth in Enkare Nairowa Primary School (with Kaja)

James Ofwona in Maji Moto

Last week Simba Friends Foundation's President came to visit Maji Moto. We showed him the construction plot, our Manyattas and Maji Moto in general. In the evening we went all together to the hot spring to enjoy Enkare Nairowa (hot water in Maasai language). James and his family went on wednesday to Maasai Mara.
We were proud to show our Boss how are we doing and what's the progress of the project.



James Ofwona (founder of SFF) with his family and volunteers ▸

Responsibile for this week artistic and informative aspects of this document are:
editor - Kiwi (Edyta Kijewska),
photographics - Marta Miłkowska, Kaja Makacewicz, Dorota Chmielowiec-Tyszko,
Piotr Tyszko-Chmielowiec & Martin Okoth.