

Besuch aus Uganda



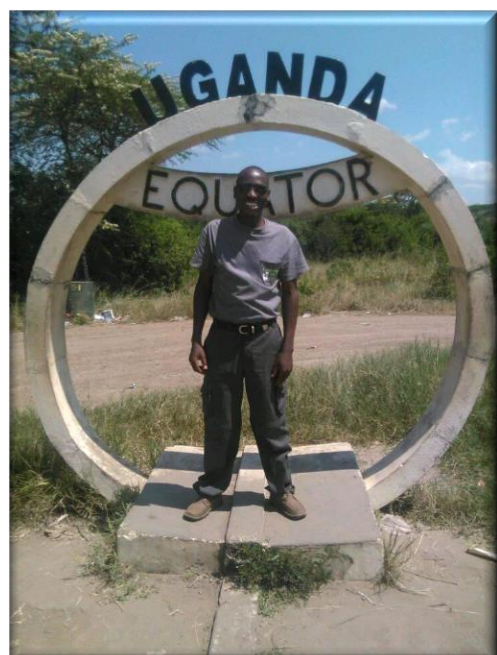
In den vergangenen Tagen hatten wir an unserer Schule Besuch aus Ostafrika! Herr Julius Kakiga, Reiseleiter aus Rukungiri, Uganda, war zu Gast in den Klassen 4,5,7,8 und 12 und hat den Schülern auf eine anschauliche und lebendige Art seine Heimat nähergebracht. So hat er die wesentlichen Informationen zu Klima, Landschaft und Kultur durch Anekdoten aus seiner Kindheit und Jugend, sowie Geschichten aus der Vergangenheit der vielen unterschiedlichen Stämme seines Landes bereichert. Die vielen Fotos, die er uns mitgebracht hat, rundeten seine Vorträge in schöner Weise ab. Vielen Dank!

Andrea Volpp-Fall, Gastgeberin von Julius Kakiga

„Hello, I am Julius Kakiga, a tourist guide and the owner of AfricanPrideSafaris LTD.

It was a great opportunity to visit your school and it was really amazing for me to interact with students of different ages.

For the students it was very interesting to learn that we have 43 languages and 56 tribes in one country. People from North and East cannot communicate with Central and Western Ugandans in local languages. We only use English.

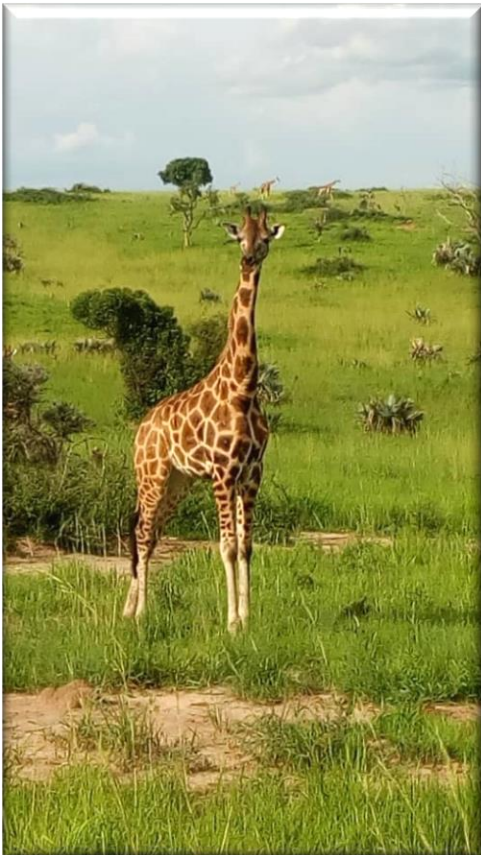




The students were also so amazed when I showed them the photo of Rwenzori Mountains “the mountains of the moon”. The highest peak on this mountain is Margarita Peak which is 5109 m above sea level with snow on its top. They told me that it looked like the Alps in Italy.



When I talked about wildlife and landscapes they were very attentive and interested, especially when it came to gorillas, chimpanzees, elephants, giraffes, zebras, leopards, hippos, hyenas and the very exceptional tree climbing lions which are found only in the southern part of the Queen Elizabeth National Park.



The longest river in the world, River Nile, has its source in Lake Victoria, which is the largest fresh water body in Africa and third in the world. On its way to Sudan River Nile forms the most powerful falls in Murchison Falls National Park in the North of Uganda.



The students could not believe that the average temperature in my country is always between 21 to 25 degrees Celsius throughout the whole year. It is a tropical climate with rain forests and savannah.



Agriculture is still the backbone of the country. We grow green bananas, millet, manioc, sorghum, sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, rice, avocados, coffee, beans, peas, carrots, onions, tomatoes, cucumber, yams, cotton, tobacco, tea and so many fruit like jack fruits, mangos, passion fruit, oranges, pineapples – but we don't know apples, pears or berries.



We have tribes which are cattle keepers, like the Banyankole, Karamanjongo and others. They have indigenous cows with long horns. They are very precious and up to now very important for a traditional marriage, because the bride price is to be paid in cows.



For some classes I added interesting stories about the history of some tribes and the different traditions in marriage ceremonies or initiation. The Bakiga for instance were known for a bridal wrestling in their first night after the wedding.

Bride and groom were prepared for that by the aunts of the bride and the uncles of the groom, to make sure they know all the tactics.

If a girl was unfortunate and got pregnant before marriage and still lived at her parents' home, she would be taken to an island in Lake Bunyonyi, called the "Punishment Island". The male family members would take the girl to this island, tie her to a tree and leave to starve to death. Sometimes a man who had failed to get enough cows to marry would go and get that girl off the tree, accepted the pregnancy and marry her. But the girl could not go back to her parents until the rest of her life. For her family she was counted dead. Fortunately, that practice stopped in 19th century.



In another tribe, the Bagisu in Eastern Uganda, girls would not accept to marry a boy who was not circumcised traditionally. That means that every boy from 15 years has to be circumcised in a special ceremony before the whole community dancing for them.

Culture and tradition made the students ask many questions and we had nice discussions about it.

I ended the lessons by telling about myself, my childhood, how a friend from my village inspired me to go to school. On my first days in school I was writing in sand because I had no school materials. After school, it was also my duty to help my parents and go grazing goats and cows from communal grazing areas. Time back then was different from now, but I had not a bad childhood. Today most parents want their children to go to school, unlike those days.

It was a very nice experience for me to meet your students and get an idea of your school concept which contents so many vocational subjects that seem to prepare them for life.

Wish you all the best!

Julius Kakiga