

Email from Barbara Heinzen

Sent 8 February 2008

To: Oby & Hilda Obyerodhyambo; Sammy Muvelah, Mwajuma Masaigana, Magode Ikyua

Cc: Arthur Muliro, Aidan Eyakuze, Julius Kipng'etich - advisors

Hi Oby, Hilda, Magode, Sammy and Mwajuma and greetings to Arthur, Aidan and Kip:

It was great to see all of you last week in Nairobi and Dar when I came for the SID meeting. I am very grateful for your encouragement and your time. Special thanks to Sammy, Hilda, Oby and Kip who were (as I was) gripped by the tension of public affairs in Kenya.

All of you with Barbet sites in mind urged me to **“Just Begin!”** the Barbets’ Duet. We agreed that we would each describe our own Barbet site with “one paragraph and a photo” and send it to me. I promised to post these descriptions on my website in the Barbets section (www.barbaraheinzen.com → Barbets).

I also promised that I would let you know what I thought should go into “one paragraph and a photo”. In order to answer that question, I have written my own Barbet site description based on my flat here in Wilmington Square, London. I have attached what resulted and an outline based on what I wrote. You may want to do things differently and include more or less information. If you have trouble linking text and photos, you can send me the text and photos separately and I will put them together.

Once all the Barbet sites are described and work has begun, we will agree a date to meet for our first Barbet Convention – the “Invention Convention”. This Convention will bring together people managing Barbets sites with people who have relevant knowledge of finance, markets, ecology, management and government relations. Together, we will pool our knowledge to help each other with management, raising money, finding markets and creating high biodiversity and healthy landscapes.

I will also be writing today to other people who have been interested in developing Barbet sites, both in the UK and in East Africa, and will copy all of you in. After that, I need to spend time rebuilding up my own practice so there is enough income to keep me going. For now, thanks to everyone for your patience and your interest and above all, your encouragement!

As we all know, we have no idea where this might lead, but for now we will,

“Just Begin!”

Thanks again,

Barbara

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Sent 8 February 2008

To:

Fred Gori - in Kenya

Tanzanian Woodcarvers Association, Francis Ngosha, Richard Stanley - in Tanzania

Abdul Ndifuna, Joel Okao, Sophia Apio Kerwegi; Dick Nyai – in Uganda

Eddie Tulasiewicz; Rose Fenton, Ian Roderick, Rob Wild – in the UK

Cc: Oby & Hilda Obyerodhyambo; Sammy Muvelah, Mwajuma Masaigana, Magode Ikyua – Barbet sites identified

Cc: Arthur Muliro, Aidan Eyakuze, Julius Kipng'etich – advisors

For more information, see: www.barbaraheinzen.com -> Barbets

Dear all:

At one time or another, I have met with each of you to test the idea of the Barbets' Duet. This is an experiment in creating new incomes for people who manage land in ways that create healthy habitats and high biodiversity.

A cornerstone of the idea is that we work with the land and communities we know – either our own land or in partnership with our neighbours. These places are called Barbet Learning Centres, or Barbet Sites. Together we will learn and demonstrate good land management practices and experiment with developing new markets or improving access to existing markets.

Last week, I was briefly in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam attending a meeting of the Society for International Development. While there, I spoke with Oby and Hilda Obyerodhyambo, Sammy Muvelah, (in Nairobi) Mwajuma Masaigana (in Bagamoyo) and Magode Ikuya (from Uganda). We agreed that even though there is no financial backing for the Barbets' Duet, we will just begin.

In order to begin, we decided that we would each describe the place we want to use as a Barbet site. Everyone would send to me a description of his or her Barbet site, with a photograph if possible. I agreed to put this information on my website in the Barbet section.

Once the site descriptions are posted, we will organize the first Barbet Convention, the "Invention Convention". At this meeting every site will show what it has already done to improve livelihoods and improve the health of the environment. The people from each site will also show where they are 'stuck' and want more help. In order to provide that help, we will invite people who have additional knowledge of finance, markets, ecology, management and government relations. Together, we will pool our knowledge to help each other with management, raising money, finding markets and creating high biodiversity and healthy landscapes.

Those of you I am writing today are in Zanzibar, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and the UK. When we spoke, you began to imagine Barbet sites of your own. In Zanzibar, there is an idea for planting a tourist site at Kizimkazi with native species; in Kenya, Fred Gori has already planted two acres of trees, both native and exotic; in Tanzania, the Woodcarvers Association would like to plant 35 acres with ebony and mpingo to ensure future supplies of carving wood. In Uganda, Joel Okao talked of doing something in Lira with shea butter trees.

Please let me know if you want to join us. If you do, please send me a description of your Barbet site. I have attached my own Barbet site description based on my flat

here in London. I have also attached an outline you can use. You may want to do things differently and include more or less information. If you have trouble linking text and photos, you can send me the text and photos separately and I will put them together.

If you have any question, please get in touch with me or any of the others you may know. We are working slowly, but do so in order to build strong foundations for the future.

For now, thank you for your patience and your interest. It has taken a lot of thought and discussion for me personally to be able to say with the others, yes, "Just Begin!"

All the best,

Barbara

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Attachment: B Heinzen Site London Feb08

Barbara Heinzen
Barbet site: Central London, UK
7 February 2008

My Barbet site today

I live in central London in a flat facing a small square. The square has a communal garden managed by local government. I also have a container garden on the step in front of my flat, facing the square. At the back of my flat is another garden, shared by the ten flats in my building.



My front step: pots of flower & public square.



Our shared back garden.

Environmental ambitions for my Barbet site

There are two parts to my site: the container garden on the front step, and the back garden.

In the front container garden, I am trying to introduce as many different kinds of plants as I can and keep them alive from year to year, even though they are grown in pots. I also want to attract and identify different insects to my pot garden, such as butterflies and bees.

In the shared back garden, my neighbour and I are trying to attract birds by planting shrubs that provide food and shelter. We also put out food for the birds. Last year, several birds built nests in our garden.

Livelihood ambitions for my Barbet site

I currently grow herbs in the front garden, which are used in cooking. The back garden is too shaded to grow fruits or vegetables. There is no way to make money from either the front or the back garden. Can we invent one, based on the variety of birds and insects who live there?

Who else is involved?

I manage the front container garden alone, but the back garden is managed by an occasional gardener and, sometimes, by other owners of the flats.

I would like help with ...

1. attracting a variety of birds and insects into the gardens;
2. identifying and monitoring the creatures in these gardens;
3. creating markets which pay me and my neighbours for creating and maintaining healthy habitats for birds and insects

Attachment: Barbet Site Description Outline

Name of Site and/or contact _____

Location: _____

Date _____

My Barbet site today

photo1 & identifying caption

Photo2 & identifying caption

Environmental ambitions for my Barbet site

Livelihood ambitions for my Barbet site

Who else is involved?

I would like help with ...

4. ..
5. ..
6. ..