

## Who we are fundraising for this year



“Growing up, John Kahekwa dreamed of working with the endangered gorillas. After becoming a ranger and expert tracker in Kahuzi-Biega National Park, John saw that the future of gorillas and communities were bound together, living in poverty and amidst war in the DRC.

In 1992, Kahekwa founded the Pole Pole Foundation (POPOF) after he asked a poacher why he poached, and the man replied ‘empty stomachs have no ears’. He realised he needed to focus on the root causes of deforestation and bushmeat poaching: poverty and hunger in the community.

Today, the Foundation runs farming projects that grow low-cost, nutritious foods. It helps former poachers gain new skills, while teaching the importance of conservation to the next generation and providing vital support to rangers working in the park. And it has planted four million new trees, creating a buffer between people and the natural world.

Meaning “slowly” in Kiswahili, the Pole Pole Foundation proves that, with time and effort, conservation works. From their struggles and successes, they have created a blueprint for conservation that can be replicated across the world, helping people and nature thrive together.”

*from the Earth Shot Prize 2021 nomination*



## What we are fundraising towards

In the immediate future, we would like to raise money to fund a new toilet block for Anga Secondary School. The picture shows the current facilities, serving 190 students.

Future fundraising will go towards providing every girl who starts secondary school with a school bag containing a supply of re-useable sanitary towels as this is one of the main reasons why girls don't stay in education as long as boys in the DRC and particularly

in the area of the National Park.

The Pole Pole Foundation also pays for some of the top students to go to university to study subjects which relate to their work - ecology, agroforestry and renewable energy. Our fundraising efforts would contribute to this goal.

## Developing a genuine partnership

Following a visit and presentation to student leaders and Sixth form Geographers, we are working towards a collaborative partnership between Southam College and the PolePole Foundation's schools in the DRC. Our Sixth form French students recently used their language skills to discuss sustainability with John Kahewka and we are looking to establish regular curriculum links between the French and the Geography Departments. Sustainability is at the core of Anga Secondary School's curriculum and we are exploring ways of learning from our colleagues in the DRC to enrich the experience of students at Southam College.

