

Vine Trust Connections

Issue 33 - Autumn/Winter 2018



Patron: HRH The Princess Royal

Connecting People to Change Lives

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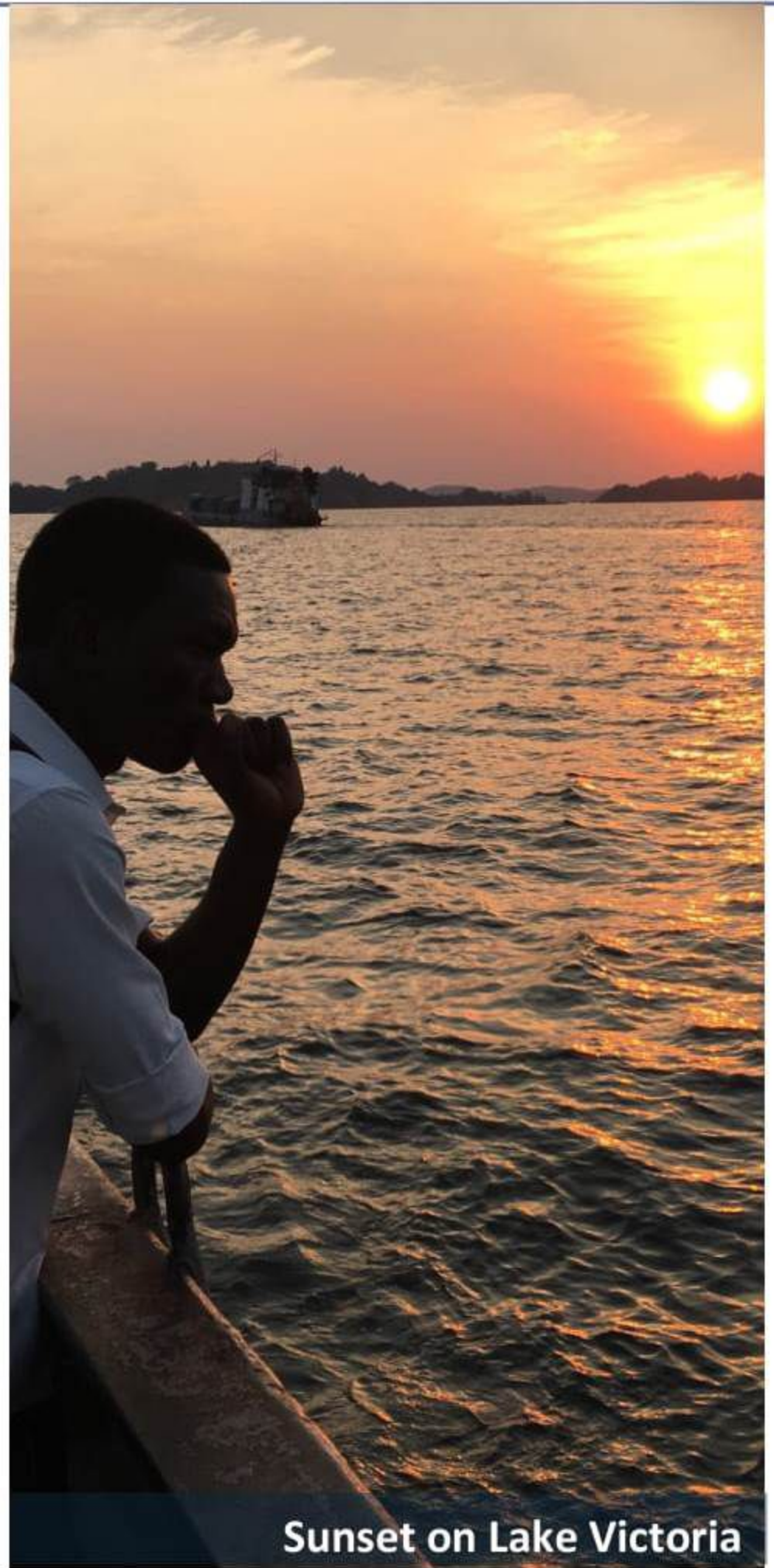
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Sunset on Lake Victoria

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A Warm Welcome!

Welcome to the Autumn - Winter edition of Connections and a whistle-stop tour of what we've been up to over the summer months and planning for the year ahead. There's a lot going on: a Village of Hope on the shores of Lake Victoria, development of our medical programmes in Tanzania and Peru and a whole new set of alternative gift cards, just in time for Christmas or any other time when we want to say something special to someone we know and care for. I very much hope you will be encouraged by what you read and help spread the news!

Social Media is also in this edition as we keep up with blogs from our volunteers and hear first-hand the impact our volunteering programmes have had on their lives and the lessons they have brought home with them.

"Connecting people to change lives" is part of our DNA, it works and is changing lives here as much as overseas and in the 16 countries our volunteers came from in 2018.

Now there's a thought!

Enjoy the read and thanks for the part YOU are playing in making all our work a reality.

With every best wish,

Willie McPherson, Chief Executive



MV Forth Hope

Kazunzu - Village of Hope

Kazunzu – Village of Hope is an exciting new project that we are launching for 2019. It will be the largest building programme the Vine Trust has ever undertaken and has the potential to change many lives, particularly of widows and orphans living on the islands and shores of Lake Victoria in Tanzania.

Through the work of Jubilee Hope, the team and volunteers have witnessed first hand the plight of those living on the islands of Lake Victoria. Whilst the scenery, wildlife and colourful fishing boats paint an idyllic picture, the reality is quite different. The health conditions are poor, many fishermen lose their lives on the Lake each year and the HIV infection rates can be as high as 30% in some communities. There are many widows and orphans living on the islands and we'd like to be able to offer them a brighter future at Kazunzu Village of Hope.

Kazunzu is located approximately 20km west of Mwanza on the shore of Lake Victoria. Our partners at African Inland Church of Tanzania (AICT) have secured a site that is a little over 53 acres in size. During late August and early September, we had a number of meetings with the local Town Planner as well as the District Commissioner. Whilst we need to go through a formal planning process at both regional and national level, we have their support to build a village at the site.

We hope, over the next few years, to build as many as 45 homes, each for a widow and up to six orphans. Houses will be built in clusters of three, with each cluster sharing a small 'shamba', or cottage garden, providing space to grow some crops and keep a few chickens. There will be a primary school and in time, the possibility of a secondary school. There will also be a Vocational Training Centre providing learning opportunities for those in the village and the broader community. Understanding how to run a small shamba and learning a trade at the vocational training centre will hopefully prepare those growing up at Kazunzu for a constructive adult life. It is also our hope that having a "mama" for a small "family" of orphans will help to avoid the institutional feel of an orphanage - a criticism that is sometimes levelled at traditional orphanages.





Kazunzu Village of Hope site on the shore of Lake Victoria

Sustainability will be key to the success of such a programme and we hope to create an array of income opportunities for the villagers. There will be an area of land set aside for farming cash crops, and we also plan to create a series of fish ponds where the villagers can farm Tilapia, a lucrative fish commonly found in Lake Victoria, which can be more effectively and safely farmed in small ponds. Crafts, income from the Vocational Training Centre and school fees all have the potential to expand the income for villagers.

The project is not without its challenges. We are talking to the local government about extending the current road the last four miles to the site and we welcome the Tanzanian Government's commitment to have electricity to all villages by the end of 2020.

It is a big undertaking and as such we intend to break it down into four phases. The first phase is likely to involve building the first 15 homes as well as the Vocational Training Centre and addressing some of the infrastructure elements such as water and sanitation. Encouragingly, through the support of church groups and corporate supporters we are well positioned for the first phase.

During 2019 we will be building at Kazunzu in addition to our existing programme of homebuilding at Moshi.

If you would like to be involved in this exciting new project, then please get in touch. We are currently recruiting volunteers for our October 2019 trip (12th-26th). If you would like to support this programme financially then you can do this via the donations page on our website.

Further details and a short video about the project can be found on our website: www.vinetrust.org

Building on our Building Opportunities

It has been an exciting year for our Building programme, with the conception and initial planning of Kazunzu which will expand our volunteering opportunities in 2019 and beyond.

It is also a landmark year for building individual family homes in Moshi, with the completion of our 100th home in partnership with TAWREF (Tanzania Women's Research Foundation). An original target was set to build the 100th home by the end of the 2018 and we were delighted to have reached this milestone by April, 8 months early!

With the incredible support of school teams, a further 8 homes were built over the summer and as our three remaining adult teams prepare to travel to Tanzania across October and November, we hope to have constructed a total of 115 individual homes by the end of 2018. Our volunteers particularly enjoyed the opportunity to visit some of the large children's homes previously built by Vine Trust volunteers in collaboration with our partners Evangelical Lutheran Church of Tanzania (ELCT). Engaging with the children now living in the homes, the visits provided ample playtime and laughter and also the opportunity to see a completed project which has been handed over to our partners and is being managed by them to give local, vulnerable and often orphaned Tanzanian children a helping hand.

Would you like to support us in providing further individual family homes for orphans and vulnerable families in Moshi? Or be part of the exciting new developments on the shores of Lake Victoria at Kazunzu, Village of Hope? Join one of our expedition dates below to join other like-minded volunteers:



A 2018 Building Expedition volunteer

2019 Building Dates

Moshi 14th April - 28th April

Moshi 24th July - 7th August

Kazunzu 12th October - 26th October

Our building expeditions are open to individuals, groups and schools with a desire to make a difference. You don't need any previous experience of building or working in a developing country.

Apply as an individual or get in touch with our expeditions team to tailor an expedition for your group or school.

Contact us at expeditions@vinetrust.org,
call 0131 555 5598 or head to
www.vinetrust.org

The Power of Social Media



Our volunteer team from Whitburn Academy

In 2018, social media at times has received a somewhat “bad reputation”. However, it can also be a tool for empowerment and a great way to tell our stories. We handed our website blogs over to our school volunteers on Building Expeditions this summer during their time in Tanzania and Peru, and were blown away by their reflections:

“Just before we left we got to meet Happiness, who is one of the four siblings who will be living in the house. She is only 15 years old, she said she felt so blessed to have us come along. This put things into perspective that she's only 15 and is counting on our help to build them all this new home.”

“I appreciate the little things in my life and this experience has been a real eye-opener, as I realise how lucky I really am.

Not only have we helped them, but they have really helped me.”

“As the walls grew so did the delight on the elderly grandmother's face who sat and watched on, graciously thanking us whenever we looked towards her. The day before she had described us as “angels from heaven” and although we may not be that, the sheer happiness and feeling that we were impacting an actual life made us feel something out of this world.”

“Seeing this little baby in a small shelter with a first-time mother in the dark and exposed to bad weather conditions put into perspective the importance of the bricks currently being laid with cement outside and made what we are doing all the more important. It also made each of us remark on how our own homes are taken for granted and go far beyond our actual needs, and what we thought was an essential was entirely unnecessary to our actual needs.”

“As the bus trundles down the road towards the plane that will carry us away from this amazing country, we gaze at the sun as it sets on our time in Tanzania. The thought floating through my mind was, we came here and we can't all change the world, but as we drive away from Lillian I realise we have changed her world, and that's a pretty amazing thing”.

Jubilee Hope Programme

April this year marked 3 years since the very first Jubilee Hope Medical Programme expedition to the islands of Lake Victoria, Tanzania. Over this period, through collaboration with local partners and communities, the Jubilee Hope Programme has grown to be the largest health care provider to the islands of the Kagera region, serving multiple locations across 5 island groups and having provided more than 150,000 consultations. Key to the Programme's development have been the partnerships with local communities, African Inland Church Tanzania (AICT) and Anglo Gold Ashanti, who have all played fundamental roles in the incredible progress.

To gain a better understanding of the needs and challenges faced by the communities served by the Programme, Vine Trust commissioned a household survey on the islands of Ikuza and Mazinga. The findings, which clearly highlighted a wide variety of socio-economic and health challenges, will be utilised in the development of the Programme and enable Vine Trust to better tailor its services to the needs of the communities.

Earlier this year, 78 healthcare professional attended Vine Trust's third Medical Conference. Guest speakers Ronald Kebaso (Programme Coordinator, Jubilee Hope) and Maseke Mgabo (Medical Sociologist) presented updates on the growth and impact of the Jubilee Hope Programme since its launch in 2015, as well as initial summary findings from the Household Survey.

“An inspirational and heart-warming day”

Conference Delegate & Jubilee Hope Volunteer



Maseke (left) and Ronald

Particular emphasis at the conference was given to the activities being undertaken to address the high levels of HIV infection on the islands including the establishment of support groups for women living with HIV, who suffer increased stigma, prejudice and risk of physical violence. Since their launch in 2016, groups have provided orientation, education and access to micro-enterprise initiatives to almost 400 women across the islands served by the Programme.

Global Citizenship in the Scottish National Health Service and the value of overseas volunteering was also emphasised by guest speaker, Mr Stuart Fergusson in reference to the recent 'Global Citizenship' report published by the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

Since the conference, we have been greatly encouraged by further developments within the Jubilee Hope Programme, having now received full accreditation as an HIV Care and Treatment Centre by the national government. This certification permits the Programme to provide the full complement of HIV services, including the distribution of antiretrovirals to new patients.



Jubilee Hope 2019 Expeditions

- 13 Jan - 27 Jan
- 10 Feb – 24 Feb
- 03 Mar – 17 Mar
- 31 Mar – 14 Apr
- 28 Apr—12 May
- 26 May – 09 Jun
- 23 Jun – 07 Jul
- 21 Jul – 04 Aug
- 18 Aug – 01 Sep
- 15 Sep – 29 Sep
- 13 Oct – 27 Oct
- 03 Nov – 17 Nov
- 24 Nov – 08 Dec

Email: health@vinetrust.org or visit www.vinetrust.org

Amazon Hope Programme

It is hard to believe that 12 months have already passed since the MV Forth Hope first sailed into Iquitos, its new home, just after dawn on 8th September 2017! Its arrival signalled the end of a 43-day, 6793-mile delivery journey adventure from Scotland but also the beginning of an exciting new expansion for the Amazon Hope Programme.

Just 9 days later, the vessel departed Iquitos en route for the village of Oran on the banks of the Amazon river to start providing medical services. The patients who came aboard were the first of thousands of people who have now received free health consultations on board the Forth Hope. In fact, in its first year of service, MV Forth Hope has been the location where 117,760 primary healthcare consultations been delivered. Incredibly, 111 overseas medical volunteers from 8 countries have also travelled on board, working alongside the Peruvian workers to deliver the vital healthcare services.

Since its arrival, the MV Forth Hope has been working alongside the MV Amazon Hope 2 to visit 5 different river basins over the past 12 months. The extra capacity for service provision has allowed the programme to visit new communities and zones previously unreachable by the ships, with an estimated 170,000 consultations being provided in 2018, growing to 200,000 per year from 2019.



MV Forth Hope

“Personally, the connections made with the team on board and the fun we shared was just incredible. They really are as family and we were welcomed with open arms into that family. Professionally, the chance to see things we would rarely see in the UK and the confidence gained from working in such a supportive environment”.

Forth Hope Volunteer



A consultation on MV Forth Hope

“I have been able to use my medical experience to help others which has been a real privilege. I think I have grown as a person - more flexible and able to problem solve. I really value the ethos and professionalism of the programme”.

Forth Hope Volunteer

2019 Expedition Dates

- 20 Jan – 04 Feb
- 29 Jan – 14 Feb
- 23 Feb – 10 Mar
- 04 Mar – 20 Mar
- 27 Mar – 11 Apr
- 05 Apr – 21 Apr
- 29 Apr – 14 May
- 08 May – 24 May
- 01 Jun – 16 Jun
- 10 Jun – 26 Jun
- 03 Jul – 18 Jul
- 12 Jul – 28 Jul
- 04 Aug – 19 Aug
- 13 Aug – 29 Aug
- 05 Sep – 20 Sep
- 14 Sep – 30 Sep
- 07 Oct – 22 Oct
- 16 Oct – 01 Nov
- 09 Nov – 24 Nov
- 18 Nov – 04 Dec

Email: health@vinetrust.org or visit www.vinetrust.org

Record Year for Barge Hire!

This year is on track to be our most successful year of barge hire, which is fantastic news because the funds we receive support our UK based activity. The more clients that climb aboard, the more general funds we have available to develop and expand our charitable activities. It helps us to continue "Connecting People to Change Lives".

Our clients experience a unique and inspiring venue and leave knowing that they have played a part in supporting our ongoing work and we now have a number of return clients for whom the Vine Trust barge is a preferred choice. Whatever the event, we have a space for you!



The Glass

Board Room: With a stunning view across the port and video conferencing capabilities, this room will give the 'wow' factor to any presentation.

Glass Room: On the top deck, with floor to ceiling windows and almost 360 degree views, the Glass Room is our most versatile space. Sit down dinner for 50, conference for 70, a wedding!?! No problem!



The Training Room

Training Room: Through the tardis-like space of the lower deck, the Training Room is the perfect space for a group event. Complete with presentation facilities and break out area, the Training Room also has direct access to a private outdoor deck.

"The Barge was an exceptional and unique venue for my husband's 60th birthday party. With stunning views and a highly flexible space, we were able to create a look which matched our plans for the event with a staff team who couldn't do enough to help us. Exceptional value and a bespoke experience"

"The venue was easy to locate and it was great for our team meeting. The meeting room offered a good space while also offering a good amount of privacy."

Find out more at www.vinetrust.org, call us here in the office on 0131 555 5598 or email admin@vinetrust.org.

Gifts That Keep On Giving!

Owing to the exciting development of our programmes over the last couple of years, we decided it was time to update our shop products. First up, our Gift Aid cards, the purchase of which directly supports the work of our programmes. Each card features a stunning picture on the front, a description of how the card can support the Trust's work and a blank page for your own message, making them a truly meaningful, alternative gift.

We are proud of all the cards and the stories they tell about our work but the Amazon Hope Gift Aid Cards are particularly special. Our Support & Development colleague, Emily, was on board MV Forth Hope earlier in the year and took each of the pictures of the three children featured on the front of the cards in the same day in which they, and many others, were treated on board!



Mother & Child Services



Dental Services



Reaching Remote Communities



Medicines



Child Services



HIV Support



Skills



Sustainable Agriculture



Education



Following our summer Photo Competition, we are excited to release a number of new Vine Trust shop items.

Our 2019 Vine Trust Calendar features 14 inspiring photos and quotes by Vine Trust volunteers. Blank for all your important dates, including Vine Trust expedition dates, it is the perfect way to keep track of the year ahead.

Also featuring photos and quotes from the photo competition are our packs of country-themed notelets. With a unique volunteers' insight into the countries in which we deliver our programmes, these notelets make a great stocking filler! Each pack has 6 different cards which come with an envelope and are blank inside for your message.



Order and donate by credit/debit card online at www.vinetrust.org.

Alternatively, complete the postal order form on the next page.



We've also teamed up with Squad Scarf and you can now purchase a Vine Trust branded neck buff. Whether you are building in Tanzania, sailing up the Peruvian Amazon, or relaxing in your back garden, a Vine Trust styled buff is a great way to protect yourself from the sun and keep cool. Buy direct from Squad Scarf for £15 and £5 will be donated to Vine Trust!

Vine Trust neck buffs are available online at <https://www.squadscarf.com/products/vine-trust-squad-scarf>

Amazon Hope Gift Aid Cards	Amount	Jubilee Hope Gift Aid Cards	Amount
Mother and Child Services (£5)		Medicines (£5)	
Dental Services (£10)		Child Services (£10)	
Reaching Remote Communities (£20)		HIV Support (£20)	
Shop Items	Amount	Kazunzu Gift Aid Cards	Amount
2019 Calendar (£10)		Sustainable Agriculture (£5)	
Tanzania Notelets (£6)		Education (£10)	
Peru Notelets (£6)		Skills (£20)	
Donation	Amount	Donation	Amount
General Operations		Amazon Hope Programme	
Jubilee Hope Programme		Kazunzu Project	
Total :			

Title: _____ Forename(s): _____

Surname: _____

Address: _____

Post Code: _____

Telephone No: _____ Email: _____

Did you know that Gift Aid can be claimed on your donation if you are a UK Tax Payer?
 For every £1, an extra 25p will go to Vine Trust, at no extra cost to you!

'I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax in the current tax year than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations it is my responsibility to pay any difference'

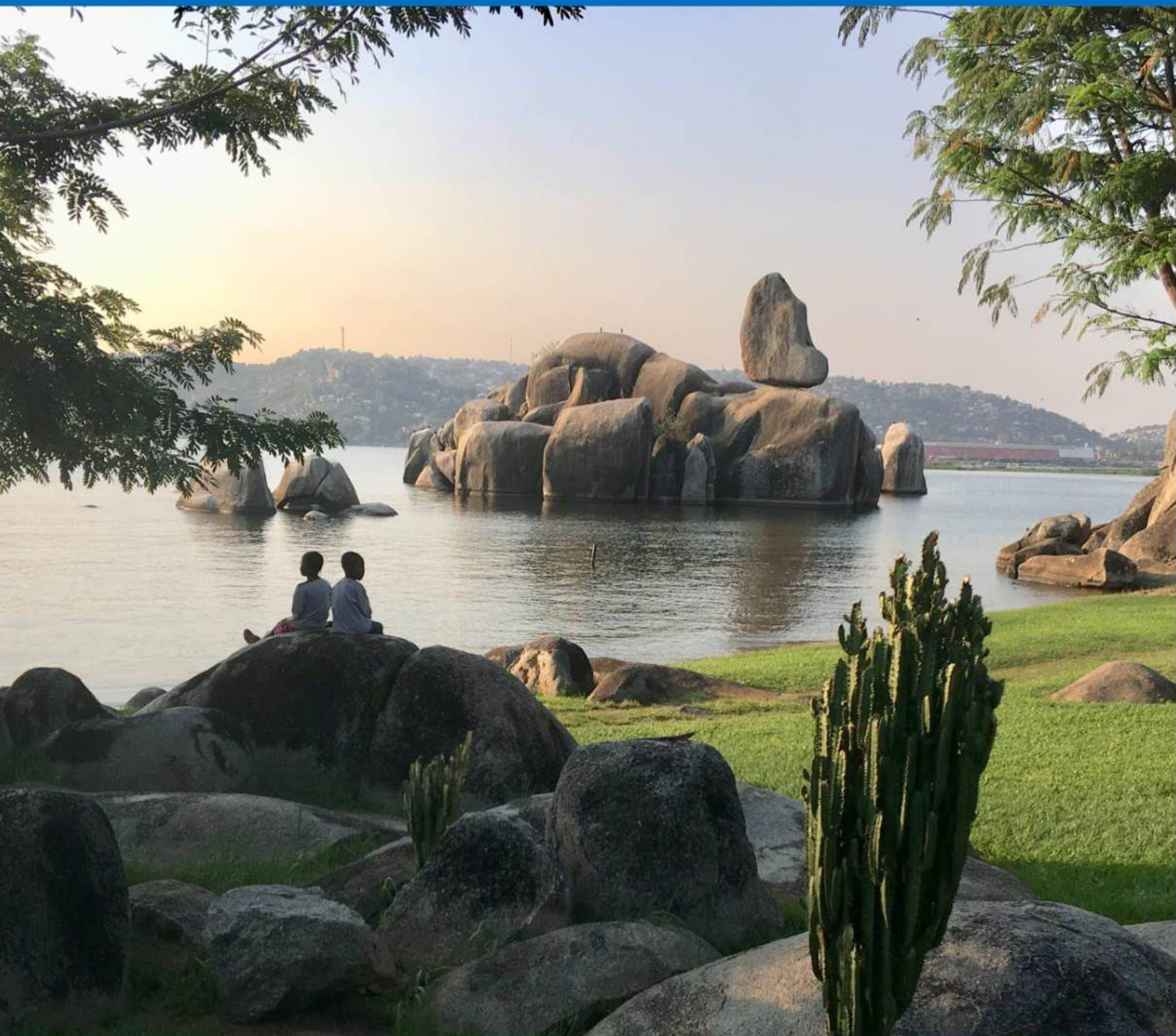
I want to Gift Aid my donation of £_____ and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to Vine Trust – SC017386

Please notify Vine Trust if you:
 - want to cancel this declaration - change your name or home address - no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains

Pay Income Tax at the higher or additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to you? You must include all Gift Aid donations on your Self-Assessment tax return or ask HMRC to adjust your tax code.

VineTrust

Connecting People to Change Lives



www.vinetrust.org

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