

**VOLUNTEER REPORT FORMAT**

*To be submitted to CRS at the end of volunteer assignment and shared with the Host*

**1.1 Assignment information**

- a) Volunteer Name: Jeff Knowles
- b) Host Organization: Archdiocese of Arusha
- c) Assignment: TZ71
- d) Dates of Assignment: 3/20/16-4/8/16
- e) Number of days worked: 18

**1.2.1 Objective 1 in your SOW** To effectively and efficiently utilize the land resource for agricultural production in order to finance the running of the secondary school and other educational programs for the Arch-diocese

- a) Progress with the objective-a strategic farm plan along with a drawing of the farm was completed and reviewed with the hosts.
- b) Expected impacts/results-it is believed the plan will set the groundwork for the diocese to make the farm profitable and fully achieve the Objective.
- c) Recommendations<sup>1</sup>-See below

**1.3 Action Plan**

Recommendation	Specific Action	Responsible person	By when
1. It is recommended the Diocese bring in a priest or lay person to live on the farm and serve as the farm manager. This individual would be responsible to run, operate and manage all future farming endeavors on the 840 acres. It is recommended this individual not be Maasai in order to eliminate potential corruption and favoritism within the local Maasai community. This individual should have the following traits; 1) faithful to the Diocese, 2) committed to the Diocese, 3) extremely competent in <u>all</u> aspects of farming. This should be the highest priority to stop the illegal and unpermitted use of the land that is currently occurring and to prevent future land grab efforts. This individual needs to have good	Hire a farm manager	Board of directors	ASAP

<sup>1</sup>**Note:** Only make not more than 6 recommendations. The most useful recommendations for hosts are ones that they can implement themselves with minimal expense. For example, a cooperative might change its financial reporting procedures or hold more regular meetings of its board. Broad recommendations on tax or credit reform, changes in government policy, or investment in large-scale equipment, are usually not within the host organization's reach.

communication skills and should be required to report directly to the Auxiliary Bishop on a monthly basis. The farm manager's job responsibilities should only include the operations of the farm and not the operations of the new school, both of which should be considered full time jobs.			
2. It is recommended the Diocese plant trees along the western, northern and eastern property boundaries. Not only is this a requirement of Tanzania's "Certificate of Occupancy", it will prevent future encroachment from neighboring farmers. See the proposed schedule of operations for further recommendations. It was noted during field visits that neighboring farmers in the north western part OF the farm have plowed approximately 1 acre of Diocese lands this spring.	Plant trees along western, northern and eastern property line	Board of directors	ASAP
3. It is recommended the Diocese remove the farmers who are currently using Diocese lands for farming at the end of the 2016 harvest. The Diocese should begin to farm the 315 acres that were brought into production in 2016, beginning in 2017. The current caretaker should be replaced with the farm manager chosen by the Diocese. In addition, the Diocese should request a percentage of profits from the illegal farming that is occurring on their property in 2016.	Remove current caretaker	Board of Directors	End of 2016 growing season.
4. It is recommended the Diocese conduct a meeting with the local Maasai community and inform the Maisai of the future plans for	Conduct meeting with Maasai community	Board of directors	ASAP

Diocese lands and ask for their assistance in preventing future land grabbing efforts among local farmers. The Diocese should be clear about the apparent wrong doings committed by local farmers, (believed to be Maasai) in 2016.			
5. It is recommended the Diocese use this strategic/farm plan as a guide for future decision making to make this land profitable and serve as a model conservation farm within the surrounding communities.	Use strategic/farm plan	Board of directors	Immediately
6. It is recommended that William Msuya become proficient with the knowledge contained in the folder, "Unlock the secrets of the soil". The majority of farmers throughout Tanzania and East Africa are farming their land in an unsustainable manner. The plowing and planting methods result in the soil left bare with no protection from the elements and over time the soils become compacted decreasing crop yields. In addition, the life (micro-organisms) within the soil as well as organic matter is being destroyed. Soil like the world's oceans and forests store vast quantities of atmospheric carbon, however, carbon can only be stored in the soil if the soil is covered with live or dead plant materials. One of the solutions to solving climate change is protecting our soils. It is recommended the Diocese begin to collect scrapes and unusable pieces of charcoal being produced in numerous areas around Arusha. These scrapes (less than ½ inch) called biochar have tremendous potential as a soil supplement. Begin to add biochar with compost and manure to gardens on church grounds, convents and Diocese gardens. Currently the scrapes of	Become proficient in material with, unlock the secrets of the soil	William Msuya	Overly the nest couple months

unusable charcoal are discarded. The four basic rules of unlocking the secrets of the soil are; <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Keep the soil covered as much as possible</li> <li>2. Disturb the soil as little as possible</li> <li>3. Keep plants growing throughout the year to feed the soil</li> <li>4. Diversify as much as possible using crop rotation and cover crops.</li> </ol>			
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#### 1.4 Number of people Assisted

- Through formal training - 6
- Through direct technical assistance (Do not double count)-1
- Out of these above, number of host staffs-all
- Training/assistance by field

Category	Total	Males	Females
Members/ owners	6	5	1
Employees			
Clients/ Suppliers			
Family Members			
Total	6	5	1

#### 1.5 Gender

- What gender roles did you recognize in your host community? Did these roles play a part in your assignment? How? Maasai women have no voice in decision making of farm operations. No
- How might CRS or the host organization improve opportunities for the women in this host or host community? It will be very difficult for CRS to directly improve the lives of women. However, this project involves farm plan development so the Diocese can open a girls secondary school at the Simanjiro farm.

#### 1.6 Value of volunteer contribution in \$10,000 US

- Hours volunteer spent preparing for assignment 40
- Estimated value of all material contributions volunteer contributed to host during assignment, \$100

#### 1.7 Value of hosts' contribution in \$ (Please consult the host as well)

- Meals-\$200.00
- Transportation-\$300 US



- c) Lodging-\$935 US
- d) Translation-\$1000 US
- e) Other (Specify)

#### 1.8 Host Profile Data:

Did you obtain any data that supplements or corrects the data in the existing host information as detailed in the SOW? Please list it,

Yes, we learned the 1070 acres is actually 840 acres The 230 acre reduction in Diocese lands were land grabbed by neighboring farmers sometime in the last 10 years.

In addition, beginning spring of 2016 people within the Simanjiro community are illegally and without Diocese consent farming nearly 40% of the total 840 acres. The care taker and former principal appear to be making a current attempt to land grab additional lands. It also appears that the care taker, former principal are attempting to turn the local Maasai community against the Diocese.

1.9 Recommendations for CRS: The auxiliary Bishop Prosper has requested CRS advertise an assignment with a CRS volunteer to provide training in project development and grant writing skills for the Diocese of Arusha.

#### 1.10 Press Release

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**VOLUNTEER CONTACT:** Jeff Knowles  
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## **Kealakekua, HI Area Volunteer Travels to Tanzania to Share Skills with Local Farmers**

**Farmer to Farmer program promotes economic growth and  
agricultural development in East Africa**



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Jeff Knowles  
Retired USDA employee  
8088960504  
Jknowl12@yahoo.com

**Jeff Knowles**, a retired USDA employee from **Kealahkekua, HI** travelled to **Tanzania** for **3** weeks to share his/her technical skills and expertise with local farmers. Knowles's assignment is part of Catholic Relief Services' Farmer-to-Farmer (FTF) program that promotes economic growth, food security, and agricultural development in East Africa.

After completing CRS assignments in Uganda and Ethiopia, Knowles was eager to see a side of Africa that is quickly disappearing, wildlife in a natural state unobstructed by fences. Knowles work took him to a farm 100 km west of Arusha over unpaved dirt roads into the heart of Maasai country. Knowles said he was not disappointed as the road between Arusha and the farm crossed a migration route used by wildlife to go from the Tanrangeti National park to Lake M-----. Hundreds of zebras, wildebeest, gazelles, antelope and ostrichs were seen during the first trip to the farm. Knowles indicated that in 1986, the local Maasai deeded 1070 acres of land to the Diocese to be used to open a school for Maasai children. Because the majority of the land has been undeveloped by the Diocese the Maasai have used the land for grazing their cattle and goats. Knowles said during his first drive over the property, wildebeest, zebras and antelope were seen grazing amongst the Maasai herds of cattle and goats for protection against lions. Knowles was told by the properties caretaker that lions do not feed on Maasai livestock, because they know they will be hunted and killed by the Maasai.

Funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the five-year program matches the technical assistance of U.S. farmers, agribusinesses, cooperatives, and universities to help farmers in developing countries improve agricultural productivity, access new markets, and increase their incomes.

**In Tanzania, Knowles** worked with **Archbishop of the Arusha Diocese in strategic/farm plan development** training and giving technical assistance to **Catholic Diocese personal**. The money earned on the farm enable the diocese the financial ability **to support a proposed girl's secondary school**. In addition it is hoped enough money will be earned to provide income to support the Diocese educational and development office in Arusha. All diocese personal involved with the farm were briefed on the completed plan. With the opening of the school up to 200 Maasai girls/year will benefit from an education they would otherwise not have received.

Knowles's volunteer assignment is one of nearly 500 assignments that focus on agriculture, food security and nutrition in Ethiopia, Tanzania, Kenya and Uganda. This is the first time CRS has been involved in the 28-year-old Farmer-to-Farmer Program funded by the U.S. government.

CRS is partnering with five U.S. institutions to tap into the rich diversity of the U.S. agriculture community: the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, Foods Resource Bank, National Association of Agricultural Educators, American Agri-Women, and the University of Illinois' College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.



The U.S. volunteers will travel to East Africa for anywhere from one to six weeks, their expenses covered by USAID.

“One thing we are certain of is that this program will be beneficial not just to the farmers in East Africa, but also to the volunteers from America,” said Bruce White, CRS’ director for the program. “It’s going to make the world a little bit smaller for everyone involved.”

For more information, visit [farmertofarmer.crs.org](http://farmertofarmer.crs.org)

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*Catholic Relief Services is the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States. The agency alleviates suffering and provides assistance to people in need in nearly 100 countries, without regard to race, religion or nationality. For more information, please visit [crs.org](http://crs.org) or [crsespanol.org](http://crsespanol.org).*