

A report in English to a streetworker of Mkombozi center for street children in Arusha and Moshi:

The reason that I wanted to take the children on safari is that I realised that so many tourist go on safari and that I guessed that orphans or streetchildren have no opportunity to do so as well. I find that a very sad idea. I want the children to see the beautiful nature and animals in their own country. I also know that nature and specially to be around animals can give us a lot of strenght. I know that streetchildren need a lot of extra strenght and happy things and to do because they had such a hard life.

In december 2007 I stayed in the Impala Hotel for two nights. Than I invited 15 orphans to come their to swimm. They never had done so, and it was their first experience to go in an elevator, toilet, swimmingpool and hotel room. It made them very happy and after that event the idea was born to take streetchildren on safari. Also as a school project to learn about the trees, plants and animals.

I came to Mkombozi in may 2007 with 15 clowns. That time we also visited Amani center, CCF, TunaHiki kids and the Tacoda children.

We all loved it to play and perform with the children that time.

This time I choosed to take the Amani and Mkombozi children and the orphanes and friends I know on safari.

I wanted to do this since a year ago. Last year I visited many children in Bali ( Indonesia ) and the money was finished to go again very far away.

Than I started to miss Tanzania very much and found out I could have a free airoplane ticked, because of airmiles I safed. ( that is a systeme KLM has.)

So suddenly I could go and then I wanted to take the children in Januari as a Christmass present.

Luckely I know two friends, Michael and Ernest, they just studied to be tourguides and they helped me to organise the bus, parcs and food. That was realy great. And they came all three times with me.

I felt very very honnoured that I could go with the children and that my dream came true.

I was so happy to be in the very full bus with all the beautiful boys. The bus was too full but that made it as an extra adventure. I must say I prayed the whole way not to get an acident. Luckely we had a very skilled driver. Sometimes in the parc I was afraid we would capsise.

Being in the bus, singing, laughing, eating, reminded me of my own schooljourneys when we went out for the day. It was not sure in the beginning if we could take all the children because it became a lot of money. But we did and that was great. I looked at the children in the bus and thought: wouww we really are all in this bus, first it was in my head, now it is reality and that was such a great feeling.

I was very happy to walk in Arusha National parc and hold hands with the children, to talk and to play at the waterfalls. To take pictures of their happy faces, to eat together; the boys had to share the food, we did not bring enoug lunch boxes and they did very well.

We had a very nice tall guide with a big gun who told us a lot about the animals and plants. All the boys listened to him and were very quit during the walk.

I felt very happy all the time: something I wanted to do became reality. And I could feel how good it was for all of us to walk around in the parc, surrounded by nature and silence. Back in the bus I gave small stickers out and in a few moments all the boys where covered in colourfull stickers.

We also had a lot of fun throwing balloons in and out of the bus.

And then it was time to be back in the center and to say goodbye. I hope it made the children a bit stronger and lighter and that it give them new perspective on their lives.

I feel very rich I could be with them and with Herry and Daddy. I was very glad with their support and to see their happy faces. Thank you so much to all the people who helped me to organise this trip, THANK YOU!!!

I also want to thank my mother who sponsored me to do this. Without her, the safari would not have happened.

So it all was a very fullfilling day out. I hope to meet the children again. I wish them all a lot of light and love and joy.