



working abroad—2009-2010

personal and professional experiences

Guy in Kenya



Go where? Nairobi? In ***KENYA***?



Our themes

The assignment

Living in Kenya

Guy's Kenya family

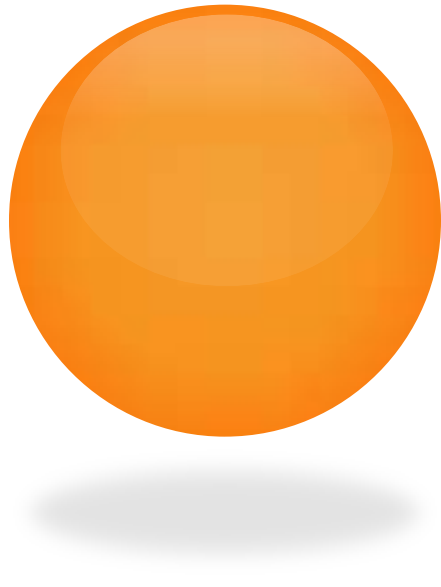
The safari fantasy

Specialized libraries in Africa

Joining hands

Contact information





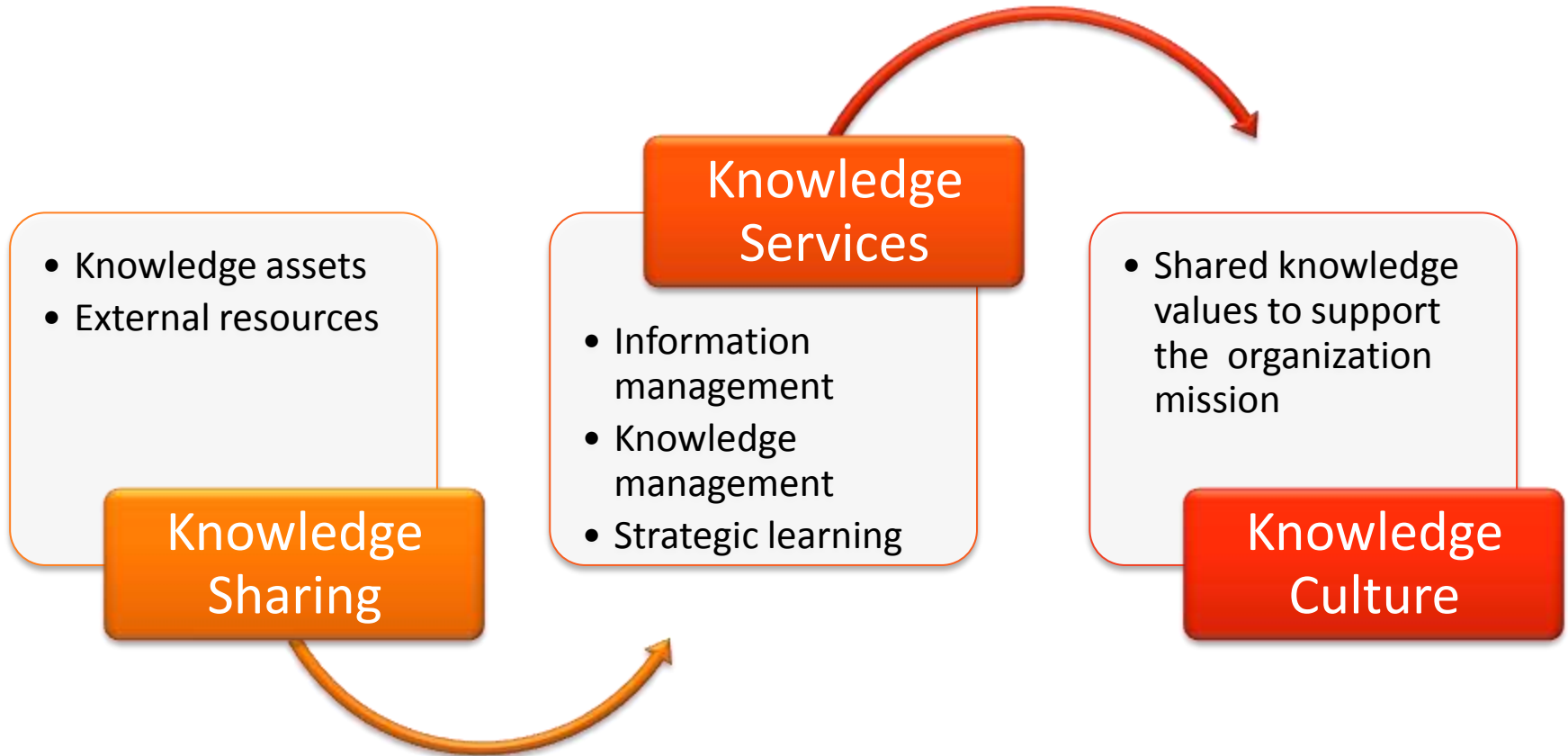
THE ASSIGNMENT

In Nairobi, build a team to develop a knowledge strategy for an international development agency

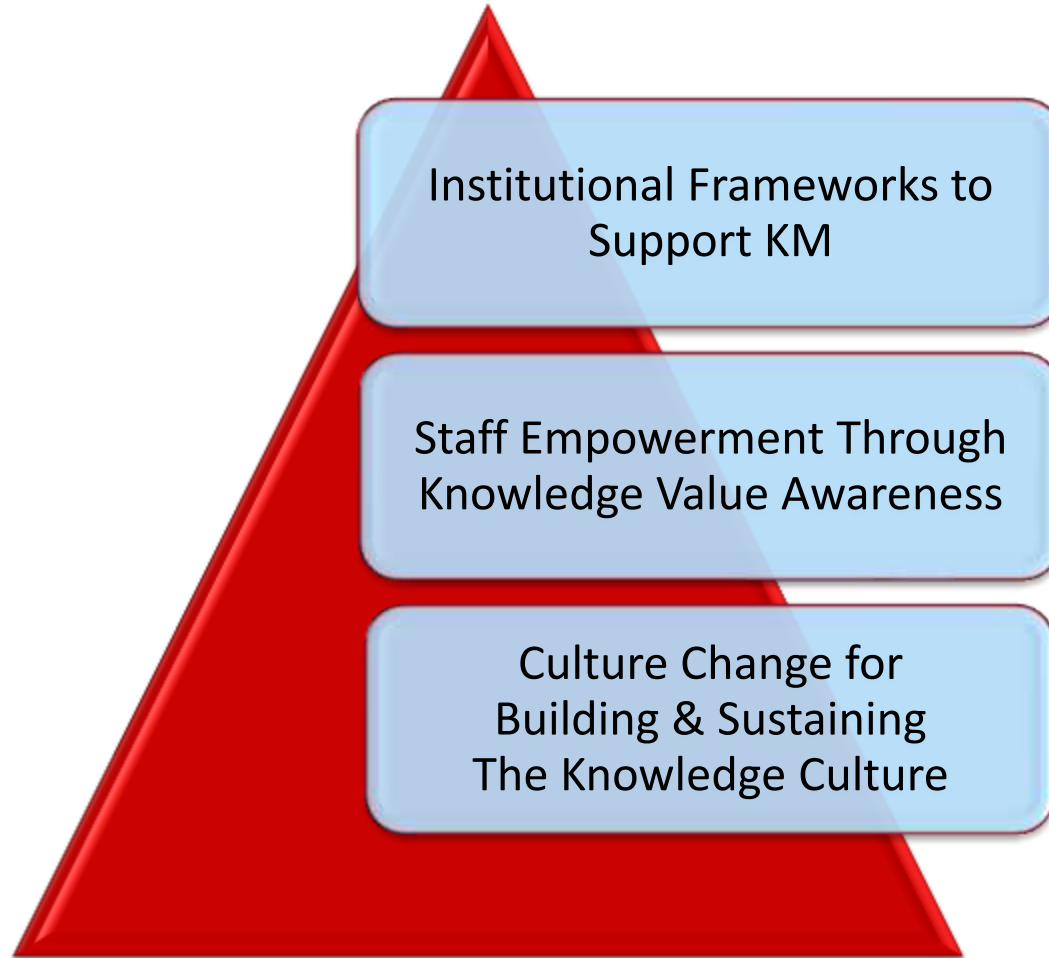
Why a Knowledge Strategy?



KM/Knowledge Services/Knowledge Culture



Knowledge Strategy Focus Areas



Nerisa Kamar

Assistant Librarian

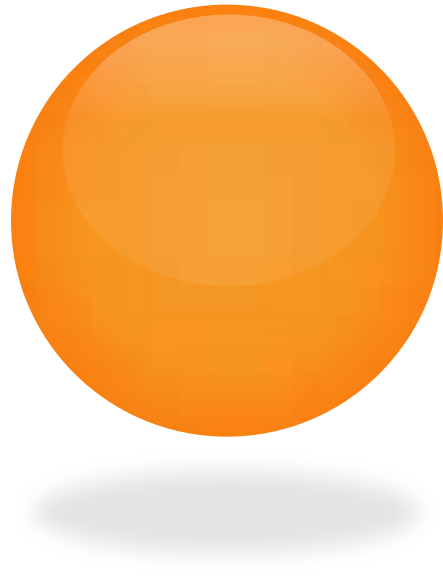
Vieira de Mello United
Nations Library at Nairobi

Knowledge Management
Specialist

Knowledge Management Unit

United Nations Human
Settlements Program
(UN-Habitat)





LIVING IN KENYA

Just a sample 



Guy's house in Gigiri, Nairobi



Other neighborhood houses



Another neighborhood view



Partying on a Saturday afternoon



Guy (guest of honor) learns about Kenyan food



...and about parts of the goat that are new to Guy



...and how to hide (or not hide) his reaction to it!



And more partying with good friends



Nerisa and Guy



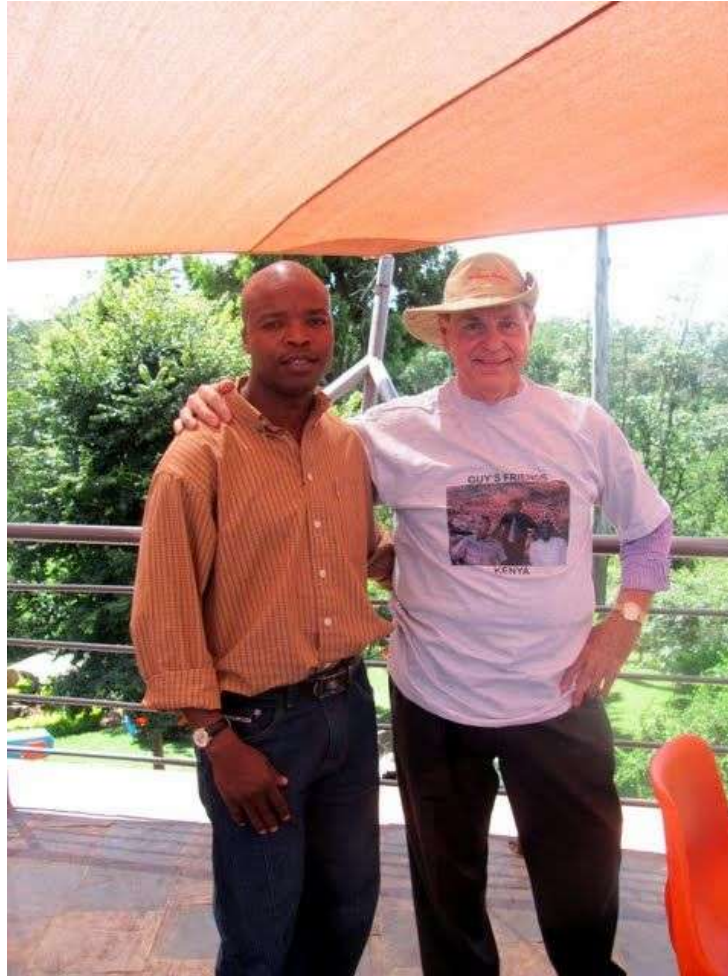
Nerisa's Koptega Seco / Kory Project



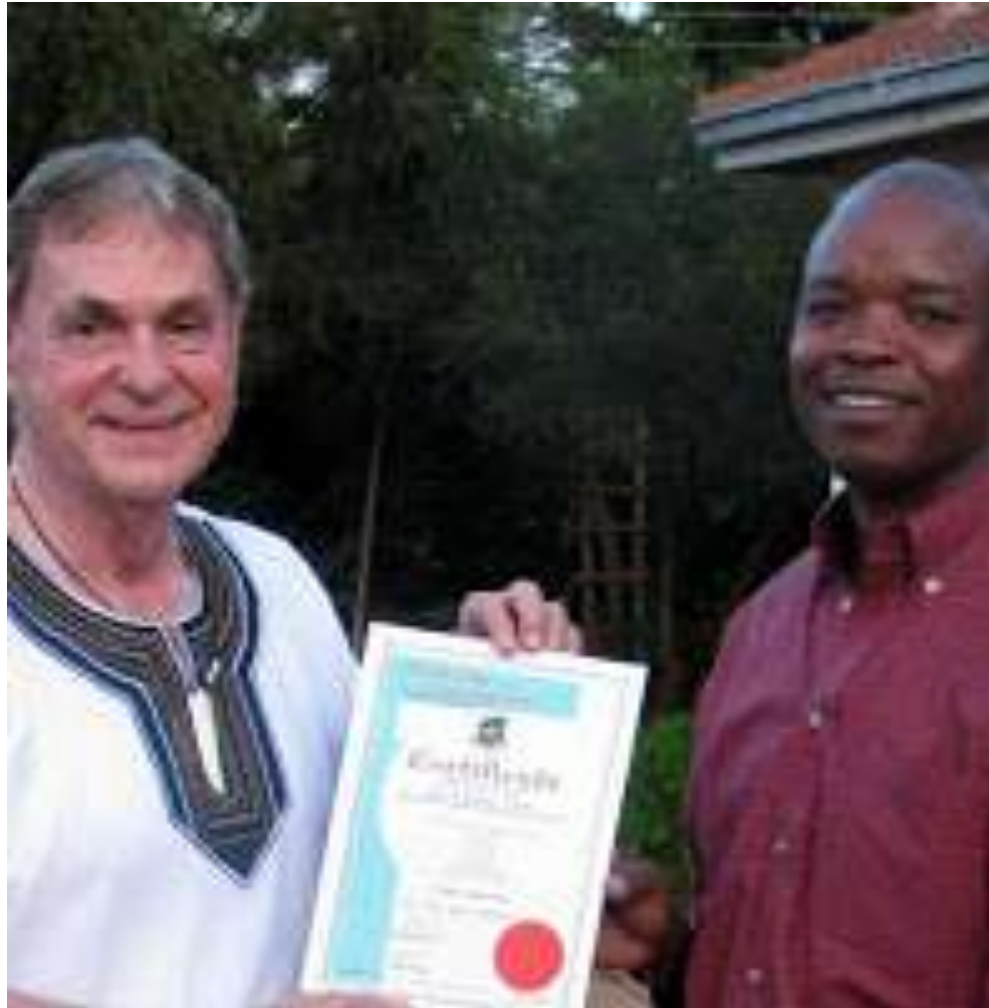
Nerisa's Koptega Seco / Kory Project



Charles Ombongi Masese and Guy



Charles Masese with certificate of computer skills competence



Children of Gachie neighborhood, near Nairobi

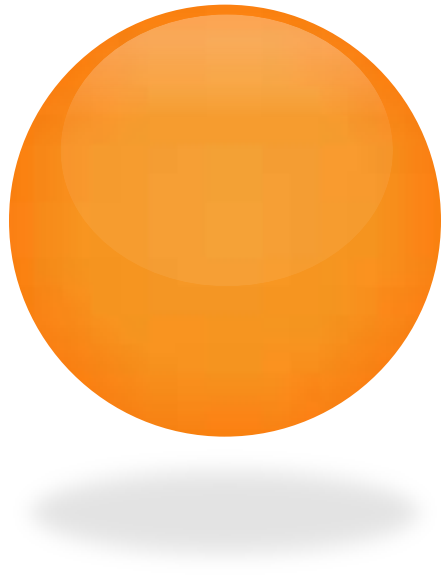


Children of Gachie neighborhood, near Nairobi



Children of Gachie neighborhood, near Nairobi





GUY'S KENYA FAMILY

Guy made very welcome by Nerisa Kumar and the Masese family

Masese home in Nyanguru Village, near Kisii



Kisii children welcoming Bwana Guy



Masese family in front of their house at sunset



Ian and Delfin Masese with Grandfather Masese



Mother Masese (with Charles peeking behind)



Ian Maseke in front of grandparents' house



Claire Kwamboka Ombongi Masese (b. October 31, 2010)



Claire Kwamboka Ombongi Masese (b. October 31, 2010)



Angel Claire Summer 2011

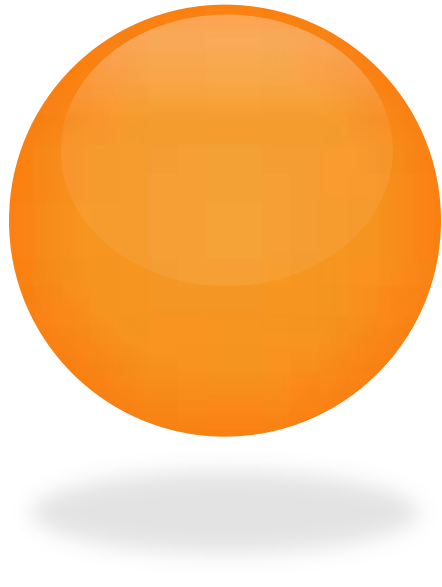


Angel Claire (Spring 2012)



Angel Claire (Summer 2012)





THE SAFARI FANTASY

Every third or fourth week-end, if we can get away



The elephant orphanage



The elephant orphanage



The elephant orphanage



Masai Mara landscape and sky (typical)







Masai Mara landscape (with animals)



Guy's Sunday elephant



Guy's Sunday elephant

























Serengeti view from Masai Mara



The end of the migration safari—at the Tanzania border



Looking out into the great beyond....



Mount Kilimanjaro from Amboseli



Mount Kilimanjaro



Amboseli elephants—coming in for the evening







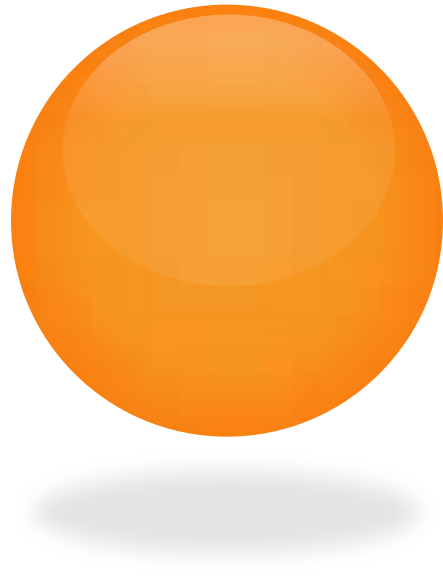




Flat Stanley

And, yes, I had
my little boy with
me, and there's a
story behind that.
Remember
Flat Stanley,
Jeff Brown's
delightful story
published in
1964?





SPECIALIZED LIBRARIES IN AFRICA

General statement 



Overview of the library profession in Kenya

Information professionals in Kenya are embracing innovative KM/KS initiatives by co-opting all KM stages in their work programmes. These include knowledge creation, transfer and use; knowledge sharing; capturing tacit knowledge; moving into leadership positions in developing knowledge policy.

Achieving these processes has led to cultural change for building and sustaining knowledge culture, including—in libraries—staff empowerment through added knowledge value and ultimately supportive institutional frameworks.



Overview of the library profession in Kenya

Not surprisingly, these changes have resulted from numerous challenges that face libraries and the professionals in most institutions (and not only in Kenya):

- Institutional shrinking budgets—direct impact on drastic reduction of library budgets
- Institutional shrinking spaces (leading in some cases to the loss of library space)
- Formation of Library committees in institutions without representatives from library professionals/ library staff
- Deployment of institutional staff with no library educational background to libraries without the knowledge of librarians
- Re-deployment of library staff to other departments, damaging the “environment” for library professionals.



The influence (and acceptance) of KM

See GStC papers written when in Kenya:

- [May 2010 SMR International Special Report: Closing the Digital Divide: Dealing with Drucker's 'Responsibility Gap' in Africa – Kenya Anticipates the ICT/KM Future with Enthusiasm, by Guy St. Clair](#)
- [KM/Knowledge Services: The Future of Academic Knowledge Sharing is *Now* \[Presentation Text\]](#)
- [KM/Knowledge Services: The Future of Academic Knowledge Sharing is *Now* \[Presentation Slides\]](#)



The United Nations/World Bank/University Librarians Partnership Initiative

- Capacity building collaborative initiative between UNHABITAT Knowledge Management Unit and Kenya university librarians (both public and private universities)
- Founded October 2008—originally four universities—now 61



The United Nations/World Bank/University Librarians Partnership Initiative

Goal: local universities and specialized libraries benefit from UN library activities:

- access to the UN library to university students and lecturers
- donations of UNHABITAT, UNEP and other UN agency publications to libraries for a set-aside UN collection at their respective institutions (3,000 volumes to date)
- information and knowledge sharing
- development of centralized digital union catalog of Kenya academic and specialized libraries (in progress)
- capacity building among library, information science, and strategic knowledge professionals (professional workshops every six weeks—30 workshops to date)
- exploration of social networking sites and tools for librarians and libraries.

UN Habitat recognizes the role of information knowledge support unit in library capacity building in slum areas (per UN-Habitat theme on slum upgrading):

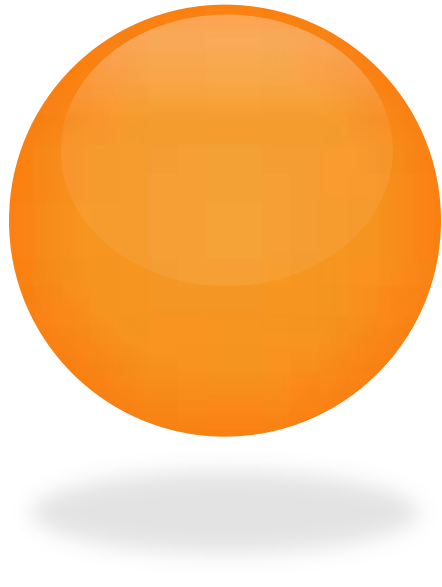
- outreach programme in collaboration with the Kenya National Library Services—container project library in Kibera slums (Nairobi)
- collective collection development for this library has been collective, with strategic book drop points during festive sessions at UN-Habitat campus
- (huge donations, incidentally, from partnership members).



Support and awareness-raising activities

- Recognition of outstanding libraries through the Library of the Year Award (LOYA), sponsored by the Kenya Library Association, the Goethe-Institute Kenya, and the Jomo Kenyatta Foundation.
- Formation of KLA chapters at the local level
- Re-launch of SLA's Sub-Sahara Provisional Chapter in 2011





JOINING HANDS

An opportunity for us New Yorkers



How about a strategic alliance?

Guy's Recommendation (perhaps appropriate for International Special Librarians Day?):

A strategic alliance between SLA NY and the SLA Sub-Saharan Provisional Chapter, with the two chapters working together as “sister” chapters.

Our objective: to identify opportunities and develop an implementation framework for sharing resources, experience, expertise, and/or simply connections with one another between the two chapters.



How about a strategic alliance?

Why?

- Altruistic—help a chapter in an emerging country move forward
- Not-so-altruistic—perhaps put some "meat" behind all our talk about SLA being an international organization (that metaphor doesn't quite work, especially with specialist librarians and other strategic knowledge professionals in other countries)

Concept might be of value to all of us (even other chapters could use it as a model)



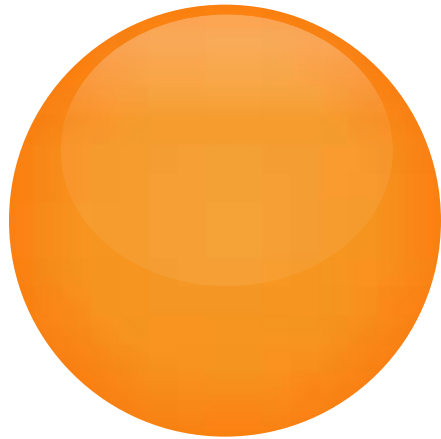
How about a strategic alliance?

Why?

- Are we satisfied (not quite the right word) with how our emphasis on our role as an *international* association never seems to lead to much?
- That said despite all the glowing comments I ("Mr. International SLA") made in my article in *Information Outlook* on the topic back in June, 2004, when we had a special issue of the magazine devoted to "SLA and The World."
- And I know from my own experiences and observations over 'way too many years that our international members aren't particularly satisfied with the idea of SLA as an *international* association (although I expect that might be only a natural reaction in most cases—aren't we all sort of provincial in our thinking, most of the time, even with respect to professional activities?)

So let's focus on the altruistic: let's think about the concept of "sister chapters" and how we in New York can be of use/value to our colleagues in Africa and *vice-versa*.





CONTACT INFORMATION

Guy St. Clair

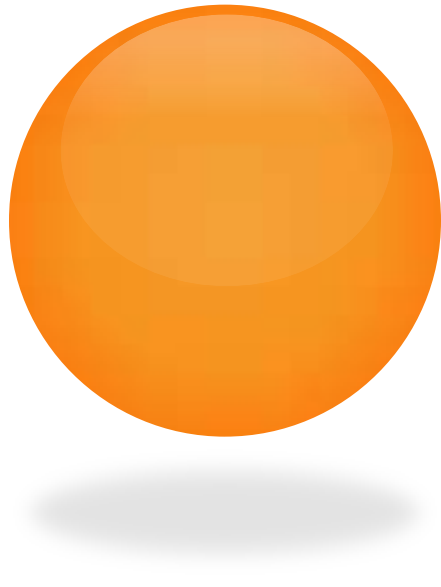
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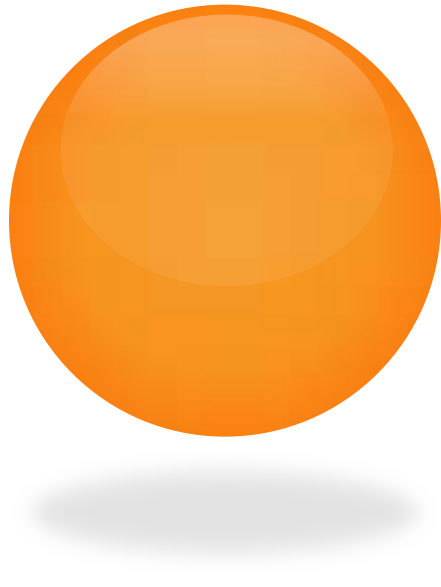


THE PERSONAL BLOG: SHARING GUY'S JOURNEY

November 2009—January 2011

<http://www.gstcjourney.blogspot.com/>





GUY'S PERSONAL APPEAL: THE ELEPHANTS ARE IN TROUBLE

[Guy's Elephant Walk—Let's Save the Elephants](#)

March 17, 2013

