



THE EAST AFRICAN
WILDLIFE SOCIETY

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JANUARY - MARCH 2014

NEWSLETTER

THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION IN EAST AFRICA



PHOTO BY: PAUL GOLDSTEIN

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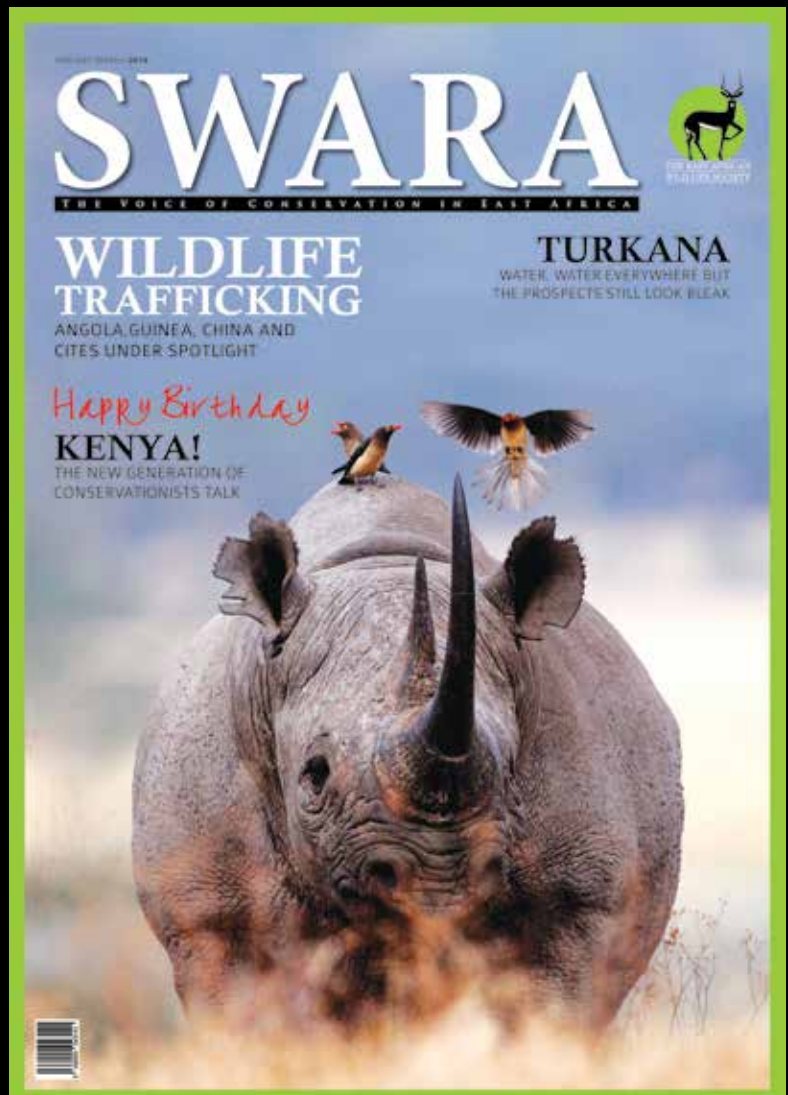
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For ease of reference, the rates provided are based on your area of residence. For members in Africa, please use Nairobi address and for East Africa members, take advantage of the new **MPESA** account see details below. Overseas members MUST, for security reasons; send their payment to the overseas representatives listed below OR use our new online payment by logging on to:

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(E-SWARA) CATEGORY			
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Card number: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ Expires: mo ____ / yr ____ last 3 digits at the back of card _____

Name on card: _____ Signature: _____

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Bank Name & Address: Barclays Bank PLC, Weybridge Branch, 3 Church Street, Weybridge Surrey KT13 8DD

Account Number: 40416711 Sort Code: 20-90-56; SWIFTBIC: BARCGB22; IBAN No: GB13 BARC 2090 5640 4167 11

Community Conserved Areas Management Plan for In-situ Conservation



Group photo of Kibuyuni BMU members and other stakeholders during CCA meeting.

By Agatha Ogada

East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS) has been an advocate for community participation in marine resource conservation and through its marine programme has worked towards setting up Community Conserved Areas (CCAs). In 2013, two CCA management plans for Vanga and Kibuyuni were targeted for completion with the aim of making the CCAs operational as soon as possible. These plans were endorsed in December 2013 by all relevant stakeholders including



Kibuyuni BMU Chairman, Mr. Jasho Mohamed, explaining the co management process and involvement of the BMU in the development of the management plan in Vanga.



Kibuyuni BMU members and other stakeholders verifying the CCA boundaries.

representatives from Civil Society Organizations, local communities and the State Department of Fisheries, Kwale County.

The development of these management plans was done in a participatory manner with a focus on sustainable management of fish landing sites and fishing sites. Communities were trained to periodically conduct ecological monitoring, so as to be in a position to understand and make decisions on the management of their CCAs. It has encouraged patrol activities to be carried out at least twice a month and the Beach Management Unit (BMU) members are now working on reviewing their BMU by-laws to include management of their CCAs.

The approach used in developing the plans and the initiatives taken thereafter agrees with Kofi Annan's famous quote; "In an age where community involvement and partnerships with civil society are increasingly being recognized as indispensable, there is clearly a growing potential for cooperative development and renewal worldwide". In the near future, the management plans for Vanga and Kibuyuni CCA will be fully implemented.

Chinese Government supports four Community Conservancies with Anti-Poaching Equipment

By Michael Gachanja

The new partnership between the East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS) and Mara Conservation Fund (MCF) saw the Chinese Embassy in Nairobi support four community wildlife conservancies in elephant anti-poaching efforts in Kenya's Northern Rangelands and North Coast. It is noteworthy to observe that the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and other law enforcement agencies are trying their best to contain the situation, however the situation remains dire hence the need to provide assistance to community wildlife conservancies.

The four beneficiaries of 34 portable tents, 42 back packs, 42 sleeping bags, 42 camel backs, 8 binoculars, 4 Geographical Positioning Systems (GPS) and 2 Unit huts for radio room and office sets are; Nasuulu, Leparua, Nakuprat-Gotu and Ndera community wildlife conservancies. These equipment will be presented to the four conservancies to help enhance security cover for wildlife through targeted patrols by Community Conservancies in Northern Rangelands and North Coast and facilitate implementation of a standardized system for monitoring elephants in the two areas.

East African Wild Life Society Corporate Members' Day



By Liz Njiru- Membership EAWLS

2013 marked the first year EAWLS hosted a forum for her corporate members in Nairobi through the generous hospitality of Southern Sun Mayfair. This was in form of a breakfast meeting that took place on 14th November 2013.

The forum allowed us to share our work with our corporate members, get their feedback and explore ways of strengthening EAWLS. A similar forum will be held for our members in East Africa this year. Several other activities are planned for other categories of our membership.

MAZINGIRA QUIZ 2013

KENYATTA UNIVERISTY DOES IT AGAIN!

By Sharon Chepkemboi, Kenyatta University and Lucy Njuguna- Kenya Forests Working Group

Anxiety was written all over our faces as we got ready to participate in the 4th edition of the Mazingira Quiz Challenge at the Kenya Institute of Education on 8th November 2013. The event's theme dubbed, "Our Environment, Our Wealth" guided the university students on the presentation of their work in the various categories of the event including essays, innovation and art. Nine universities participated in the event: University of Nairobi, Masinde Muliro, Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), Africa Nazarene, Kenyatta University, St. Pauls, Kabarak, Technical University of Kenya and Maseno University.

Once the master of ceremony took over the stage, the battle of answering questions on topical issues including; forestry, wetlands, climate change and wildlife began as the defending champions Kenyatta University struggled to retain the coveted trophy and have the privilege of adopting a forest. The finals saw Kenyatta University (K.U) and Kabarak University students battle it out; and indeed Kenyatta University took it all home for the third time since the quiz challenge began in 2010. Kabarak University still flew their flag high by taking the prestigious prize for the best innovative idea. Winners for the best essay and poem were K.U and Masinde Muliro respectively.

As we trace back the footsteps of Kenyatta University in previous years; they not only took the trophy home but also had the privilege of adopting Ololua Forest. Since 2010,



Kenyatta University Students during the awarding ceremony.



Question session during the quiz challenge.

they have helped to rehabilitate the forest by planting over ten hectares of assorted indigenous tree species with 90% survival rate. The third win for K.U. marks the adoption of a new forest; the Ngong Road Forest. They acknowledged their new assignment by planting 300 indigenous trees in a ceremonial tree planting function graced by guests, students, EAWLS staff and community members on 9th November 2013. The chief guest was Mrs. Charity Munyasia, Head of Conservancy (HoC)- KFS, Nairobi.

As we begin 2014, we look forward to yet another Mazingira Quiz Challenge. The question is will K.U



Mrs. Charity Munyasia, HoC Nairobi taking the lead during the tree planting.

get the privilege to continue their new task of helping to rehabilitate the Ngong Road Forest or will another university clinch the price; only time will tell.

Kenya Forests Working Group (KFWG) would like to thank WWF, African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Climate Innovation Centre (CIC) and TECNO mobile, the organizing committee and all students who demonstrated their passion and commitment for the environment.

Laikipia County Natural Resource Network keeps track of the Governor's Promises

By Celine Achieng' and Mildred Menda

The Laikipia County Natural Resource Network (LAICONAR) had engaged aspiring county officials in debates on natural resource management during the pre-general elections campaign period in 2012. The aspirants made promises in regard to natural resources which they were to fulfil once they take up office. The Laikipia county Governor - Joshua Irungu was one of the aspirants who participated in the debates and then won in the Governor's election. These are some of the promises he made if elected

which were evaluated by LAICONAR at the end of 2013:

1. **Uphold passion about community based approach to conservation:** This is being done by involving grassroot groups in the development of Community Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) as well as convening of meetings to discuss human wildlife conflicts such as the one held at Kinamba area in Laikipia West. Members of LAICONAR have been included in a county committee that was
2. **Ensure self sustenance of the county with regard to funds generated internally:** Plans are underway to form a Laikipia County Development Authority that will engage in income generating activities.
3. **Ensure all the natural resources within Laikipia County are properly managed**

to follow up on issues raised at the meeting. This action has enabled reduction in human wildlife conflict and a reduction in poaching too.



Figure 1: Regional representative members of LAICONAR during the meeting to review the Laikipia County Governor's promises.



Participants during the Organizational Needs Assessment (ONA) for LAICONAR

for the benefit of all: This has been initiated through meetings such as the one held to resolve the management of Thomson falls in order to reduce the conflict between Nyandarua and Laikipia Counties, and distribution of improved jikos in the area. However, much more efforts are needed to guarantee the future of natural resources in the wildlife rich county.

4. **Safe guard the interest and strengthen Community Forest Associations (CFAs), Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs), Community Based Organizations (CBOs) and all other community groups dealing with natural resource:** Capacity building of community institutions is key to sustainable management of natural resources in future. Major efforts should therefore be made to address this problem, which is common to all counties in Kenya. Various strategic plans, for water and forest management have been prepared BUT these are inadequately implemented as a

result of the limited institutional capacity among community institutions.

5. **Reduce all households using wood fuel as the main source of cooking energy by 50%:** This would be achieved by facilitating introduction of a law that will make it mandatory for every household to have a fuel saving device. This has not been attained but use of improved jikos and briquettes made from maize cobs as an alternative to wood fuel thus conserving trees is being promoted by various CBOs, including women groups.
6. **Promote farm forestry by ensuring that 10% of every farm has trees.** In an effort to fulfill this promise, the County government has allocated money to purchase 2 million seedlings per year.
7. **Work to take advantage of carbon credit trade:** Awareness on carbon financing especially in Kinamba and Ng'arua areas is low. However, some farmers in Laikipia are being paid carbon credits for conserving their trees

through the International Small Group Tree Growing Programme (TIST) since 2008.

8. **Ensure trickle down of revenue to communities:** Local communities are being encouraged to make suggestions to County Government on projects that would generate revenue. There are also proposals to review land rates and encourage public participation in tourism, raise the price of maize from farmers to a reasonable price per bag, promote investments in silos and bio enterprises-packaging as well as ensure accessible and affordable water to all residents of Laikipia County. LAICONAR is monitoring the fulfillment of this promise.
9. **Cooperate and work together with the Laikipia County Natural Resource Network:** LAICONAR is recognized by the County Government as an important entry point to community participation in policy formulation as shown by their participation in the development of CIDP.
10. **Ensure restoration of wetlands** There are plans to map all water sources, get them titled and have them protected.
11. **Improved water supply:** There are plans to construct 6 dams per District. To curb uncontrolled sand harvesting, water scarcity and bore hole drilling, a Sand Harvesting Bill is being drafted for Laikipia County.
12. **Efficient utilization of land:** This will be guided by the County Spatial Plan.

LAICONAR will keep monitoring the implementation of these promises to ensure sustainable utilization of natural resources in Laikipia County.

Benefits of the New Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2013

By Celline Achieng' - Kenya Wildlife Conservation Forum

The East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS) was a member of a technical committee appointed in 2010 by the then Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to review the Wildlife Policy and Wildlife Act. EAWLS utilized this opportunity to consult Civil Societies' views as well as financing some meetings to facilitate the Technical Committee's review of the two wildlife conservation and management documents. The Kenya Wildlife Conservation Forum (KWCF) which is hosted at EAWLS actively participated in the review process by analyzing sections of the then Wildlife Bill during

its traditional monthly meetings. The outputs of such monthly discussions were proposals presented in form of memoranda to the Ministry.

This 3 – 4 year process resulted in the enactment of a new Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, at the end of 2013 and the Act came into force on 10th January 2014. Tradition has it that Kenya is good at making very good policies and laws but fails to implement them. Is that going to be the case with this Act? It is difficult to predict, as the Act introduces new institutions such

as the County Wildlife Conservation and Compensation Committees and recognises wildlife user rights on Community and Private land. However an encouraging example has already been set when on 28th January 2014 two people, a Kenyan and Chinese, were convicted for possessing wildlife illegally. The Kenyan was sentenced for illegally possessing nine love birds while the Chinese was sentenced for possessing ivory. Their sentences were commensurate with the much stiffer penalties set out in the new Act. If this example is sustained, then



A monthly meeting of Kenya Wildlife Conservation Forum (KWCF)



A National Workshop to review the Wildlife Policy and Bill held in 2011.

the deterrent value of the penalties should work. The stiffer penalties in the Act were strongly supported by public opinion.

In addition, implementation of the Act will ensure achievement of EAWLS' mission to promote the conservation and wise use of the environment and natural resources in East Africa. The Act requires the equitable sharing of benefits and having direct incentives derived from managing wildlife, hence helping in improving the living standards of those who live in wildlife areas yet are very poor. However there is still a need to articulate the above requirements in a specific manner in regulations.

The reasonable compensation amounts as indicated in Part V Article 24 (3) (a)-(c) and (4) and Part IX Article 78 (1) will address human-

wildlife conflict, thus further helping the reduction in the costs born by communities living with wildlife.

Further, the Act ensures participation in wildlife management under the facilitation processes that will be implemented by the County Wildlife Conservation and Compensation Committees (CWCCCs) as set out in Part IV Article 18-19, and by the ability to register Community Wildlife Associations (CWAs) as set out in Part VI 40-41. This will give a custodianship value to those who have wildlife on their lands. EAWLS has a current engagement in fostering County Natural Resource Forums. Through these forums, EAWLS will be able to involve communities and civil society in the formulation of County policies and legislation as well as creating an understanding of CWCCCs and CWAs.

Finally EAWLS has emphasized the importance of research, monitoring and the provision of good and reliable information for public dissemination. The establishment of the Wildlife Research and Training Institute, with a mandate to undertake this role is therefore very much welcome.

These are only a few examples of the good things that the EAWLS, communities, the wildlife sector, and the tourism industry and related business should benefit from the Act. EAWLS and KWCF hope that all stakeholders will work together to effectively implement this law that had the widest and largest stakeholder involvement and representation in its drafting. To this end, Schedule 4 on Public Participation sets a good standard.

Kenya Goes Regional For World Wetlands Day 2014

By Catherine Yaa- Kenya Wetlands Forum

This year's (2014) World Wetlands Day (WWD) event marked on 2nd February took a regional approach in Kenya with focus on the transboundary Sio- Siteko wetlands in Busia County. So why Sio- Siteko one may ask; the agricultural activities and initiatives made to ensure wise use of these wetlands and their resources gives a realistic picture of the WWD theme; ***“Wetlands and Agriculture: partners for growth”***. This theme emphasises on the need for water, agriculture and wetland sectors to work together so as to achieve the best results in the management of wetlands.

A tour to a section of the Sio- Siteko wetlands reveals that the communities in Busia County are making efforts in their own small way to conserve and uphold the wise use principle by practicing



Community members during the official launch of Tana Delta as a Ramsar site on 30th January 2014.

agriculture that will not compromise the functions and existence of their wetlands. However, they are faced with a myriad of challenges and their Deputy Governor- Kizito Wangalwa takes his time to share them with us.

He further explains that it has been a challenge to use wetlands resources to benefit the residents of his County due to poverty levels which are rated at 70%. A reality that faces many communities in the East African region; and then comes the question can environmental sustainability be achieved in the midst of poverty? ; A thought for us all to ponder on.

Indeed, as the Deputy Governor put it, there is need to transform the mind set of his people more so when it comes to meeting their basic needs versus using their resources wisely so as to enable them meet these needs; another reality, which reflects the predicament many communities face in the East African region. Again, the basic needs (education, housing, food security) among others versus environmental sustainability come to mind. Dr Alice Kaudia, the Environment Secretary- Ministry of Environment, Water



Community dance group during the launch of Tana Delta as a Ramsar site.



Site visit at a section of the Sio Siteko wetlands in Busia County on 2nd February 2014 by National and County government officials and partners.

and Natural Resources (MEWNR) proposed possible solutions which can take us closer to environmental sustainability; more so for the residents of Busia County.

First, she echoes the need to respect the riparian reserves/ zones and where demarcation has not been done then there is need for it as it becomes difficult to hold anyone accountable where wetland boundaries are not clear; capacity building on appropriate agricultural activities suitable for wetland areas is her second proposal and she gives an example of bamboo planting around wetlands for their conservation and rehabilitation while emphasising on the use of the right species in order to reap the desired benefits. This,

then takes me back to the perception many often have on wetlands as agricultural barriers thus their continued reclamation and drainage to pave way for agriculture. Perhaps it is time we begin to focus more on best agricultural practices which support the function and existence of our wetland ecosystems.

As different speakers representing the East African region share their sentiments; one thing is clear there is hope as East Africans surely do cherish and clearly understand the benefits that come with healthy wetland ecosystems. The spirit of partnerships and realization that we all stand for the implementation of the East African protocol, Ramsar Convention and many other pieces of

legislation that bind the region lights a ray of hope for the survival of wetlands. It is important to note at this point that, a management plan for the Sio Siteko transboundary wetlands has been prepared in partnership with Ugandans and Kenyans who have diverse expertise in the wetlands sector not leaving the communities behind. However, the implementation of the plan has not yet been realized. As we all think of development, the environment is often far from our minds but not with the Deputy Governor of Busia. He intends to put forth a proposal to the County assembly to set aside KShs 2 million to support activities within the Sio Siteko wetlands hopefully the aspirations of Ugandans and Kenyans in the border County of Busia will be realized as such a provision can initiate



Students lead procession to Busende Primary School during national WWD event.

has survived several threats related to agricultural developments. It was encouraging to hear the communities talk of the wise use principle and they go ahead to explain that development is welcome and more so if it allows them to put into practice this principle. Something they recall learning from the East African Wild Life Society in the past. As we nurture partnerships for growth there are definitely many opportunities for the wetlands, water and agriculture sectors to plan and develop programmes that will enhance the management of wetlands in the East African region.

the implementation of the management plan. Clearly, there is no need to reinvent the wheel as the Sio Siteko management plan covers not only environmental aspects but the social and economic as well.

As the day came to a close, the need to educate the children on the importance of wetlands was echoed if at all we are to walk closer towards environmental sustainability. The Environment Secretary- MEWNR handed over reading materials on wetlands to the head teachers who hosted the national event on the grounds of Busende Primary and Secondary School to share with the young minds they feed with knowledge. As the Swahili saying goes, "Samaki mkunje angali mbichi" meaning fold a fish while it is still wet to fit in the frying pot and so the saying applies to the minds of young children and nurturing their knowledge on environmental matters.

I also must say that, several prelude events to mark WWD and show case this year's theme were held and one such event was the official launch of the Tana Delta as a Ramsar site in Minjila, Garsen on 30th January 2014. As we reflected on the theme, the Tana Delta is one wetland that

The Sio Siteko wetland system spans the Kenya- Uganda border and it traverses Busia County and Samia Sub County in both Kenya and Uganda. The wetlands are part of the wider Sio-Malaba-Malakisi catchment which consists of a number of interconnected secondary and tertiary wetland subsystems that drain into the Lake Victoria. The Sio River originates from the foothills of the Kenyan segment of Mount Elgon with a total length of 85km and catchment area of about 1,338 sq. km.

IMRE LOEFLER TALK

TOPIC OF DISCUSSION

Introducing the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013.

BRIEF ON TOPIC

The Wildlife Conservation and Management Act 2013 was approved by parliament and consented to by the President in December 2013. The Act came into force on 10th January 2014. What reforms and changes has the Act introduced?

SPEAKER

Nigel Hunter; a member of the Technical Committee set up by the then Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife to draft the 'Wildlife Bill'

VENUES AND DATES

MUTHAIGA COUNTRY CLUB

Wednesday 9th APRIL 2014

PURDY ARMS, KAREN MARULA LANE

Thursday 24th APRIL 2014