In a bid to save the Mara River, the East African Wild Life Society, UAP Insurance, Kenya Association of Tour Operators (KATO) and the Kenya Water Towers Agency have begun plans to restore Mau Forest; the main catchment for many rivers in Kenya, including the transboundary Mara River.

An assessment conducted by East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS) in 2017 revealed that the Mau forest complex, especially the Massai Mau Forest, has faced serious pressures from deforestation and as a result requires rehabilitation through concerted efforts by stakeholders.

Early this month, EAWLS staff conducted a visit to Maasai Mau Forest, managed by the County Government of Narok, for a fact-finding mission. The visit entailed meetings and site visits. The EAWLS representatives held series of meetings with various stakeholders, including the Narok County Commissioner, the Narok County Government (Departments of Water, East African Wild Life Society, P.O.Box 20110-00200 Nairobi, Kenya Riara Rd, Kilimani, Nairobi

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Kenya’s Mara river is integral to the Maasai Mara reserve’s ecology. But the river is under huge pressure with water levels dropping significantly over the past few decades.
Environment, Energy and Natural Resources, and Wildlife and Tourism), the Deputy County Commissioner, Ololulunga, Kenya Forests Service, the local chief and Community Forest Associations (CFAs) members. The visit was aimed at gathering relevant information to aid the development of a rehabilitation programme. The programme aims to mobilise corporates, CSOs, the government and local communities to work in concert to rehabilitate degraded parts of the Maasai Mau Forest, including areas recovered from people who had encroached on forest land.

EAWLS and its partners intend to carry out a feasibility study that will inform a decision to rehabilitate at least 450ha of degraded areas.

The partners are appealing to other interested parties to join them in their efforts to save the forest, which is the source of the Mara River and Ewaso Nyiro South rivers that provide much needed water to wildlife, people and livestock in the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem.

The Maasai Mau forest forms the southern part of the Mau Forest Complex, Kenya’s largest closed-canopy forest area. Despite the forest’s high water catchment value and its potential to become a twin conservation area with the Maasai Mara National Reserve, the forest is one of the most threatened woodlands in the Mau Complex.

EAWLS Participates in Young Water Professionals Workshop


The workshop brought together young professionals in the water sector to strengthen their networks and capacity on Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) and climate change.

The workshop in Nairobi followed a previous one held in Machakos last year. Through these workshops, an IWRM young professionals forum was formed and EAWLS became a member. The forum is hosted by KWP and is intended to help members take an active role in promoting sustainable water management and to address the effects of climate change.

KWP is an accredited national partnership of the Global Water Partnership (GWP) established in 1996 to help countries implement action plans drafted at conferences in Dublin (1991) and Rio de Janeiro (1992) on sustainable management of water resources.

It was formed in 2003 to support the sustainable development and management of water resources at all levels. It is currently comprises 56 accredited organisations from government, CSOs, academia and the private sector. EAWLS is an accredited member.

KWP works with partners to address water security issues and concerns in a country that faces many environmental challenges, including droughts, water scarcity, floods, food insecurity and the effects of climate change.
The East African Wild Life Society will host partners who sponsored or participated in the Forest Challenge 2018 at a tree-planting event in Eburru Forest in Nakuru County on 18th May 2018.

The aim is to plant 4,500 trees in 4.5 hectares of the degraded areas of Eburru Forest, an important catchment for Lake Naivasha and Lake Elementaita. The project is being implemented with funds raised in the Forest Challenge 2018, with most of the proceeds accruing from corporate sponsorship of the Challenge in Kereita Forest in Kiambu Country, as well as participation fees from the teams that took part in the event.

The project is being implemented in partnership with the Eburru Rafiki Community Forest Association, Kenya Forests Service and Rhino Ark.

The Eburru Forest comprises 8,715.3 hectares of prime indigenous forest area within the steep hills, deep valleys and rolling foothills of Mount Eburru, which means ‘the smoking mountain’ in the local Maa language. The forest features a broad variety of indigenous tree species and is recognised as a hotspot for birdlife within the greater Mau Forests Complex.

EAWLS with funding from Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) has been supporting the process of reviewing the Lake Ol Bolossat Integrated Management Plan (IMP) since late last year with Dr. Thuita Thenya as the lead consultant.

A draft plan has been produced and will be circulated for comment by various institutions. It outlines a clear governance structure and strategies for the conservation and management of the lake for the next five years.

EAWLS will support a series of community-led activities intended to foster harmonious sharing of resources between communities and allow meaningful engagement with the County Government of Nyandarua and other stakeholders for sustainable management of the lake. The co-management model will ensure that local communities are directly involved and are actively participating in decision-making with regard to the management of the lake. It will also help to dispel fears by the local communities who are wary of losing access to the lake and its resources as a result of gazettement.
**CITES 18th Conference of the Parties Postponed**

The Secretariat of the United Nations Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) has announced the postponement of the 18th meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP18), originally scheduled to take place from 23 May to 3 June this year in Colombo, Sri Lanka, as well as the associated 71st and 72nd meetings of the Standing Committee.

The postponement was apparently prompted by the Easter Sunday terror attacks in Sri Lanka that killed at least 250 people.

“The Secretariat has continued to monitor the situation closely through the Sri Lankan authorities and the United Nations Department of Safety and Security,” CITES said in a press release. Regular updates regarding the CoP18 preparations will be made available through the CITES Website.

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**Intrepid Foundation and EAWLS Support Conservancies in Mara Ecosystem**

Recognising the critical role wildlife conservancies play in Kenya as custodians of wild animals and plants outside state-protected areas and as sources of livelihood for local communities, EAWLS in 2017 initiated, with support from the Intrepid Foundation, a capacity-building programme for conservancy rangers within Maasai Mara ecosystem.

The programme aims to strengthen the capacity of rangers through trainings and providing them with the equipment required to effectively carry out their duties. Last year, EAWLS facilitated a training for rangers on field safety, professionalism and work ethic, ecological monitoring and incident reporting.

The project has led to better patrol planning, improved reporting skills, improved job appreciation, as well as improved relationships among the rangers. Currently, Enonkishu and Ol Kinyei conservancies are the main beneficiaries. This year, the programme will donate equipment to the conservancies with the aim of enhancing field safety and the quality of data gathered.

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**The Global March**

The Global March for Elephants and Rhinos (GMFER) is a worldwide call to speak out against the poaching of elephants, rhinos and other endangered wildlife as well as trafficking of wildlife trophies.

In Kenya, this year’s March took place in Nairobi on April 13 and was flagged off by the Cabinet Secretary in charge of Tourism and Wildlife, Najib Balala. The multitude of Marchers called upon governments, the civil society, communities and all stakeholders to be proactive and collaborative to ensure the survival of elephants, rhinos, lions, pangolins and whales. During the event, Balala announced that citizens could on April 14 gain free entry to Nairobi National Park, Nairobi Safari Walk and the Nairobi Animal Orphanage.

The march attracted students, NGOs, government officials, members of the diplomatic corps and the media.
Organisers of the Africa Protected Areas Congress (APAC) that was scheduled to be held in Nairobi in November have announced that the meeting has been postponed indefinitely due to unavoidable circumstances. The congress was planned to deliberate on a common agenda and a shared vision for the continent’s protected areas to ensure that they contribute to the region’s socio-economic transformation. Some 2,000 delegates from 54 African countries were also expected to develop a consolidated input into the development of the Post-2020 Global Framework for Biodiversity.

Detailed information regarding the postponement and a new date for the congress will be made available through the official APAC Website before 30th June 2019.

On 1st and 2nd April, the EAWLS-led Kenya Forests Working Group (KFWG), which is a member of the Mitigation Thematic Working Group under the Kenya Platform for Climate Governance (KPCG), conducted a two-day follow-up meeting in Makueni County to help climate change stakeholders identify and understand their role in the implementation of the existing climate change policy documents and how grassroots CSOs can mainstream the documents in their projects.

The forum was an opportunity for the Mitigation Thematic Working Group and CSOs from the county to exchange information with National and County CSOs and strengthen their network for future county interventions and evaluate the gender approach on climate change policy in Makueni County. The Mitigation Thematic Working Group had a field visit to two ongoing projects in line with adaptation and mitigation for monitoring and evaluation of the projects.

MTWG members at Kaiti Sand Dam, a climate change adaptation project

- KFWG was represented in a one-day stakeholders meeting on 9th April, 2019. The meeting’s objective was to review the Natural Resource Benefit Sharing Bill (NRBS) 2018 with a view to developing a common position for Natural Resource Sector. The stakeholders did a Memorandum on the NRBS Bill, 2018 to be tabled in the Senate.

- KFWG under the Kenya Platform for Climate Governance, Pan-African Climate Justice Alliance (PACJA), Council of Governors (COG) and African Centre for Technology Studies (ACTS) held a two-day workshop on Mapping and Scaling County Climate Action in Kenya on the 10th-11th April 2019 in Makueni County.

The overall workshop objectives were on mapping the extent of county climate action in Kenya, understanding the motivations, challenges and opportunities of county climate action. Recognizing the critical role of counties play in implementing policy as envisaged by the Constitution of Kenya 2010, the workshop sought to map and catalyse climate action and foster peer-learning on how to facilitate and scale up climate action in Kenya.

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The Mara Conservancies Model: Does it Pay?

Is it economically, socially, and environmentally viable?

Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA) is a membership organization for the 15 current and any future community conservancy that surrounds the Maasai Mara National Reserve. Since MMWCA’s formation, the land protected through these democratic agreements between Maasai landowners and tourism parties for the benefit of people and wildlife has doubled to 1,420 Km², and the number of households receiving lease payments has quadrupled to 13,625, with an estimated economic impact for 100,000 people. MMWCA’s initiatives have also led to notable improvements in education, vocational employment, gender sensitization, ranger training, and conservancy infrastructure, all while improving wildlife densities and reducing human-wildlife conflict. But some still ask, is the model of community conservancies really the best option for landowners in the Mara? With almost all conservancy leases set to end in by 2024, the time to discuss the economic, social, and environmental benefits is now.

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**VENUE:** In the Ballroom

**DATE:** 5th June, 2019

**PROGRAMME**
- **6.30 P.M:** Bar and canapés
- **7.00 P.M:** Lecture starts

**LECTURE & CANAPÉS:**
- Members & Guests: **1,500**
- Additional Dinner charges: **1,950/-**
- Extra **500/-** at the door

**MUTHAIGA:**
RSVP: events@mcc.co.ke

Daniel Sopia was the founder and first chair of MMWCA in 2013, then became the Chief Program Officer and finally CEO. His work focuses on strengthening the legal and leadership governance of the conservancies, generating sustainable revenue streams and increasing the value for land under conservation.
EAWLS GIFTS CATALOGUE

Branded Polo Shirts

Branded T-shirts

Branded T-shirts

Tote bags/eco bags

Branded Maasai shuka with fleece

Branded Maasai shuka with fleece

Branded Safari hats/Car badges/lapel pins

Wildlife spotter

Wall, Desk calendar and Season's cards

Branded Polo Shirts

Branded T-shirts

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