

FEBRUARY 2019

THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION IN EAST AFRICA

NEWSLETTER



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World Wetlands Day 2019 Marked



Member of Parliament, Hon. Kimani Ichungwa (in red) plants a tree.

The World Wetlands Day (WWD) is celebrated on 2nd February every year to mark the day the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (otherwise known as the Ramsar Convention) was adopted in the Iranian city of Ramsar in 1971.

The Convention is the only international treaty that focuses on the conservation of wetlands. The Day is an occasion to raise awareness on how wetlands benefit communities and the importance of the ecosystems to the preservation of biodiversity. The theme of this

year's WWD is 'Wetlands and Climate Change'.

In Kenya, activities to mark the Day were held at Marura Swamp in the Rumuruti area of Laikipia County. Activities carried out in the run up to the Day included the Digital Wetlands Innovation Contest, a Camel Caravan from Lake Ol Bolossat to Rumuruti (31st January to 2nd February), a community forum, tree planting and an event to clean-up Rumuruti and Marmanet towns. The clarion call for WWD 2019 is 'Healthy Wetlands, Healthy Communities'.

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Some of the participants at the event to mark World Wetlands Day 2019.

Ondiri swamp in Kikuyu a key wetland that EAWLS has been advocating for its protection saw hundreds gather for a clean-up and tree planting activity. The event was graced by the local MP Hon. Kimani Ichungwa. Efforts to conserve

and restore Ondiri swamp whose ecological integrity is threatened by human activities was amplified on this day.

Wetlands play a central role in food and water security, human health, disaster risk reduction and climate

change resilience. Destructive human activities, however, continue to damage wetlands and many are in decline.

Coastal marshes and mangroves support plants that have greater ability to absorb carbon dioxide because they are fast growing. Wetlands also have the ability to absorb greater quantities of carbon because they store dead wood and plant matter in the soil. The waterlogged conditions prevent the material from decomposing and releasing carbon dioxide. They are critically important as flood and erosion control, and water purification by regulating the timing and quantity of water flow when it rains. They also provide products such as food, building materials and water.

Communities around Lake Ol Bolossat Trained on Wetlands and Forests Stewardship

As part of the Rufford-funded project dubbed "Inspiring local communities to restore Lake Ol Bolossat Catchment and its Riparian Reserve for continued Livelihood Support and Biodiversity Conservation", the East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS) held a seminar to sensitized 39 community members on wetlands and forest stewardship.

Participants were selected from various community groups from the seven wards around the lake. The objective of the training was to enhance environmental awareness among the local communities on the importance of forests and wetlands and the need to conserve them.

In a related development, EAWLS staff on 23rd January introduced 20 women drawn from around Lake Ol Bolossat to the use of affordable

energy-efficient innovations. The training was aimed at sensitizing members of the community on the use of energy-efficient alternatives, specifically stoves (Portable Multi-purpose Jiko (Stove) and to empower them to adopt the improved way of cooking.

Globally about 2.5 billion people rely on biomass such as fuel-wood, charcoal, agricultural waste and animal waste to meet their energy needs for cooking.

According to a 2013 report by the National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and the Society for International Development (SID) entitled "Exploring Kenya's Inequality", 78 per cent of residents of Nyandarua County, where Lake Ol Bolossat is situated, use firewood and 19 per cent use charcoal. After the training, about 20 households



EAWLS Wildlife Programme Manager, Jubes Okumu, at the training sessions.

received donated portable energy saving stoves. The stoves use less fuelwood, cook faster, emit less or no smoke, save on the cost of firewood transportation and the time spent in collecting firewood. The provision of the more efficient cooking stoves was part of the project funded by the Rufford Foundation, which aims to inspire local communities to restore and protect Lake Ol Bolossat catchment areas.

EAWLS Participates in the Expert Review of Wildlife Policy 2018

EAWLS Wildlife Programme Manager, Jubes Okumu, participated in a two-day workshop organized by the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife with support from African Wildlife Foundation.

The aim of the workshop was to refine the policy statements and identify any omissions in the Draft Wildlife Policy, and to draft a memo to be sent to parliament. The revision of the wildlife policy came about 33 years after Sessional Paper No. 3 of 1975 on the "Statement on the Future of Wildlife Management Policy in Kenya" that defined the Kenyan wildlife policy was enacted.

The draft policy envisions a healthy and resilient Kenyan wildlife that is valued by Kenyans and seeks to strike a sustainable balance between the needs of Kenyans and the opportunities that sustainable wildlife conservation and management brings countrywide through a broad range of responsive measures and actions.



Participants at the end of the two-day workshop on Kenya's wildlife policy review.

The review process necessitated by the need to realign it with the Constitution of Kenya (2010) and other policy instruments such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Aichi Target on biodiversity protection among others.

The recommendations of the Taskforce on Wildlife Security and that on the Consumptive Utilisation of Wildlife, the reports on Wildlife Dispersal Corridors and Deaths of the Rhinos that were Translocated to

Tsavo, as well as the National Wildlife Strategy 2030 were largely utilised in the review process.

Participants included representatives from the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, Kenya Wildlife Service, African Wildlife Foundation, WWF-Kenya, Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, Northern Rangelands Trust, African Conservation Center and Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association.

Nancy Ogonje Appointed EAWLS Executive Director



Nancy Ogonje, EAWLS Executive Director

Nancy Ogonje has been appointed as Executive Director of the East African Wild Life Society to replace Julius Kamau, who left in June 2018. Ms Ogonje emerged as the best candidate following a recruitment process. Ms Ogonje was previously the Head of Communications, Advocacy and Fundraising at the EAWLS.

Changes at EAWLS Board of Directors

During the EAWLS Annual General Meeting held in December 2018 Mr Philip Coulson stepped down as chairman. Ms Elizabeth Gitari, previously the vice chairperson, was elected as the new chairperson.

The Board of Directors:

Elizabeth Gitari – Chairperson
Cissy Walker – Vice Chairperson
Gabriel Ouko – Hon. Treasurer

Members

William Pike
John Otekat (Uganda)
Michael Wamithi
Davinder Sikand
Nancy Ogonje (Secretary)

Students, Recent Graduates Trained on Data Collection Using K-Macho

With funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF), EAWLS is supporting the review process for the Integrated Management Plan (IMP) for Lake Ol Bolossat as part of "Strengthening the management and protection of Lake Ol Bolossat" project.

The review process will entail the gathering of socio-economic data from the community around the lake. The lead consultant for the review of the IMP conducted a one-day training for 10 participants who are either university students or recent graduates drawn from the six wards around Lake Ol Bolossat. The training included the fundamentals of data collection and the use of K-MACHO application to gather socio-economic data.

KMACHO is an application system that allows a user to collect geographical location



specific information, take images/photographs that could be used for monitoring and management of resources/incidents. It integrates a cloud database to allow easy access and centralized storage of all required information for monitoring and relaying the information for decision-making and management purpose.

The trained will be expected to collect socio-economic data that will be used in the review of the Lake Ol Bolossat Integrated Management Plan.

EAWLS and MCF to donate motorbikes to 15 conservancies

EAWLS in partnership with Mara Conservation Fund (MCF) is pleased to invite interested conservancies within Kenya in need of motorbikes to help ease their work to make application for consideration to info@eawildlife.org

A total of about 15 off-road motorbikes have been earmarked for donation to the needy conservancies who will put a case on why they need one. The partnership between EAWLS and MCF has previously seen the donation of anti-poaching equipment to four community wildlife conservancies and motorbikes to organizations like Ewaso Lions.

The Mara Conservation Fund is a Kenya based NGO founded by Chinese national Zhuo Qiang and is dedicated to conserving endangered carnivores and other wildlife by protecting natural habitats.

Ol Kinyei Conservancy gets listed on the IUCN Green List

Ol Kinyei conservancy a community conservancy formed in 2005 within the Mara ecosystem was in December 2018 listed on the IUCN Green List of Protected and Conserved Areas thanks to concerted efforts of EAWLS as a key stakeholder with support from Intrepid Foundation.

To be listed on IUCN Green List, it means the area is certified as being effectively managed and fairly governed, with long-term positive impact on people and nature. The process is usually done every five years and areas are evaluated against a set of demanding criteria defined by the IUCN Green List Standard. These criteria include the quality of protection of natural values and the effectiveness of actions against threats.



One of the motorcycles that will be donated.



THE EAST AFRICAN
WILD LIFE SOCIETY

EAST AFRICAN WILD LIFE SOCIETY IMRE LOEFLER LECTURE



WORKING WITH COMMUNITIES TO CONSERVE RHINOS AT OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY

BY MOSES MUTHOKI

Ol Pejeta Conservancy works to conserve wildlife, provide a sanctuary for great apes and deliver a Community Development Program (CDP). The Conservancy holds significant rhino populations with a total of 121 black rhinos, 32 southern white rhinos and the only last 2 northern white rhinos on earth. The greatest threat to Ol Pejeta in its conservation work remains losses incurred on endangered species through poaching. These rhinos are under significant poaching threat necessitating Ol Pejeta to institute proactive measures in community engagement and law enforcement.

Ol Pejeta's CDP works in 18 focal community areas providing developmental support focused on supporting health, education, livestock and agriculture activities as a means to offset the negative social impacts that the Conservancy can have on its nearest neighbours, to enhance environmental sustainability and to build trust and relationships important in securing critical community support. This engagement encourages and strengthens the voluntary reporting of poaching activities by local communities to the conservancy and wildlife authorities.

Moses Muthoki is a Head of Community Development Programmes at Ol Pejeta Conservancy since 2014, developing and implementing programs in livelihood support, healthcare, education and energy to enlist support for conservation work among neighboring populations.



VENUE: Muthaiga Country Club in the Ballroom

DATE: 6th March, 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

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EWLS: (events@eawildlife.org) or info@eawildlife.org

Tel: 3874145/0722 202 473/0734 600 632

EAWLS GIFTS CATALOGUE

Branded Polo Shirts



Polo Shirt
Kshs. 1,500/-

Branded T-shirts



Branded
T-shirts (S/M/L/XL)
Kshs.
1,000/-



Branded
T-shirts (S/M/L/XL)
Kshs.
1,000/-

Branded T-shirts



Branded
T-shirts (S/M/L/XL)
Kshs.
1,000/-



Branded
T-shirts (S/M/L/XL)
Kshs.
1,000/-

Tote bags/Eco bags



Branded
Tote bags
Kshs.
1,000/-



Branded
Eco bags
A3-250/-
A4-200/-

Branded Maasai shuka with fleece



Branded Maasai
shuka with fleece
Kshs.
3,000/-

Branded Maasai shuka with fleece



Branded Maasai
shuka with fleece
Kshs.
3,000/-

Branded Safari hats/Car badges/lapel pins



Branded
Safari hat
Kshs.
1,200/-



Branded
car badge
Kshs.
400/-



Lapel
pin
Kshs.
100/-

Wildlife spotter



Wildlife
Spotter
Kshs.
400/-



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Wall, Desk calendar and Season's cards



2018

Wall Calendar
2018
Kshs.
500/-



2018

Desk Calendar
2018
Kshs.
400/-



Pack of 6 assorted
Season's cards
Kshs.
450/-