

# NEWSLETTER



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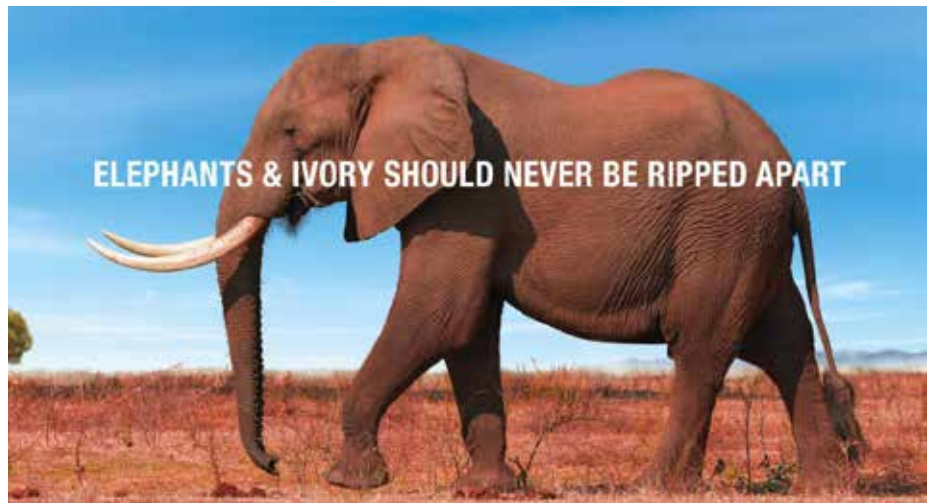
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## Kenya to Propose Total Ban of Ivory Trade at CITES Conference



The #StopIvoryTrade campaign.

**T**he next triennial meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES CoP18) will be held in Geneva from 17th to 28th August.

CITES seeks to ensure that international trade in wild animals and plants does not threaten their survival in the wild. The 2019 conference will adopt a wide range of decisions to expand and strengthen the global wildlife trade regime. A key highlight will be the 57 proposals that governments have submitted for changing the levels of protection

afforded to over 500 species of mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians and plants.

Kenya and its allies in the African Elephant Coalition (AEC) will propose that all African elephants populations be placed in Appendix I to offer maximum protection under CITES in the face of the ongoing threats posed by the unsustainable demand from the ivory trade, the uncertainty of the impact of that trade on the species across its range, and the enforcement problems that current split-listing may create.

All the populations of the African elephant -- except those in

Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe -- are already listed in CITES Appendix I, which lists species that are the most endangered among CITES-listed animals and plants. Elephants in Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zimbabwe fall under Appendix II, which lists species that are not necessarily threatened with extinction now, but which may become threatened unless trade is closely controlled.

Kenya's and AEC members backing its proposal will insist that elephants in the four southern African countries revert to Appendix I.

In the run-up to and during the Conference of Parties proceedings in Geneva, the Kenyan Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Airways and Kenya Airports Authority (KAA) will jointly run a month-long campaign in support of Kenya's position against ivory trade. The three agencies have requested other conservation organisation to partner with them in the campaign, which will mainly run in Kenya's airports, to amplify the



**The First Lady of Kenya, H.E. Margaret Kenyatta launches Kenya's CITES CoP18 campaign dubbed #StopIvoryTrade.**

message. The campaign was officially launched by Kenya's First Lady Margaret Kenyatta on July 31.

The publicity campaign includes the printing of 400,000 limited edition boarding passes for the month of August that will feature the

image of an elephant on the back. When ripped apart prior to boarding, the elephant tusk will be removed from the elephant. Travellers will be instructed on how to find out more about the #Ripoff campaign on the flight.

## About the African Conservation Platform

**The African continent is endowed with rich biodiversity and natural resources from which its people derive their livelihoods. Increasingly, the continent's rapid population growth and need for infrastructure and economic expansion pose threats to its ecological integrity.**

The perception that conservation is about the preservation of nature at the expense of the well-being of the people has influenced and shaped conversations about development and the continent's natural resources.

The good news is that the challenge of linking economic growth to environmental protection and sustainable resource consumption is possible; they need not be mutually exclusive. There are numerous

opportunities to safeguard Africa's natural resources and ensure its economic development.

A group of African leaders in conservation met in December 2017 and decided to form a platform where proponents of conservation in Africa could come together and engage in shaping the discourse around conservation in Africa. Consequentially, the African Conservation Platform was established to promote African leadership and voices to influence policymakers in the African Union and the African Development Bank on sustainable and inclusive future for Africa. The Platform acts as a catalyst in changing the conservation narrative in Africa; making conservation relevant to the African people.



**African Conservation Platform Meeting: Left to Right: Ademola Ajagbe (Birdlife International's Regional Director, Africa), Nancy Ogonje (Executive Director, EAWLS), James Isiche (IFAW's Regional Director, East Africa), Azzedine Downes, President and CEO, IFAW) and Munira Anyonge Bashir (The Nature Conservancy's Program Director, Kenya)**

# EAWLS Participates in Experience Sharing Networking Event in Uganda

**E**AWLS Programmes Manager, Jabes Okumu participated in the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund's Experience-Sharing and Networking Event at Imperial Botanical Beach Hotel, Entebbe, Uganda from 2nd to 5th July 2019.

This event was organised by the Tropical Biology Association (TBA) under the CEPF-funded project entitled "Systematic Evaluation of CEPF and Capacity Development of CEPF Grantees". The four-day event brought together CEPF grantees from 10 countries within the Eastern Afromontane Region to network, share experiences and lessons and discuss the sustainability of projects.

The CEPF programme is expected to close this year and therefore the workshop also sought to evaluate CEPF impact in the Eastern Afromontane region over the past seven years (since 2012) with a view to informing its new strategic focus and direction in the hotspot for the next phase. Projects implemented or being implemented by CEPF grantees vary from research, community livelihood and species and habitats conservation to Key Biodiversity



Delegates together with facilitators from Tropical Biology Association and CEPF pose for a group photo at Gorilla Conservation Coffee Café.

Areas (KBAs) management and protection.

The event also sought to demonstrate the contribution of the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in attaining the Aichi Biodiversity targets under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). CEPF is a joint initiative of l'Agence Française de Développement, Conservation International, European Union, Global Environment Facility, the

Government of Japan and the World Bank, and aims to strengthen CSOs.

Through this event, EAWLS was able to showcase the impact and the lessons learnt from the projects it has been implementing within Lake Ol Bolossat KBA in Kenya since 2016. Collectively, the grantees with guidance from the event facilitators developed shareable lessons that are authentic, significant and applicable.

## EAWLS' Mt. Elgon Elephant Project Kicks Off

**I**t has been noted that the elephants of Mt. Elgon are the only elephants in the world known to go deep into caves to mine salt for their own consumption. This unique elephant culture, along with severe threats to the survival of elephants on Mt. Elgon and the fragile ecological status of the mountain call for urgent action to

protect the pachyderms in that environment.

Their security profile and exposure to poaching has been largely unassessed. EAWLS' Mount Elgon Elephant Project (MEEP) has kicked off with the training of community scouts on Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) and Cyber Trackers as monitoring tools to help



Officers of EAWLS-MEEP with trainees drawn from KWS and the local community.

collect data using smart phones on the Mount Elgon Cave elephants. Trainees were drawn from the Kenya Wildlife Service and the local community.

# Proposed Dam Threatens Uganda's Murchison Falls Park



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**A** plan to construct a 360MW power plant on Uganda's River Nile, at Murchison Falls National Park in Kiryandongo and Nwoya Districts, has been met with outrage by wildlife conservationists, private tour operators and one of Uganda's prominent kingdoms.

The Ugandan government aims to expand the country's energy generating capacity to provide inexpensive, clean and renewable energy as well as to help fuel the country's industrialization drive.

But should industrialization of a developing country be at the expense of its irreplaceable natural heritage? A heritage that is increasingly under threat from climate change, cultivation expansion, rising human population, corruption, construction of roads and dams through ancient wildlife habitats and lands belonging to indigenous communities, as well as

poaching and trafficking?

"Murchison Falls are the most spectacular falls on River Nile and are the biggest tourist attraction in the park. They provide tourists with amazingly unrivalled experience. They are therefore a must-see iconic feature... The falls also create a spectacular view that leaves tourists yearning for more and have enhanced the attractiveness of Murchison Falls," it added.

Murchison Falls National Park (MFNP), which covers an area of 3,900km<sup>2</sup> and spans the northern end of the western (Albertine) Rift Valley, is the country's oldest (and largest) conservation area whose roots go back to 1926 when it was first gazette as a game reserve.

Murchison Falls, which bisects MFNP, is the crown jewel of the park. It is here where the Victoria Nile plunges some 45 metres over

the remnant Rift Valley wall with an 80-kilometre stretch of rapids.

The park is home to important African wildlife species, including an estimated 76 species of mammals, such as buffalo, giraffe, crocodiles, a rising elephant population and 451 varieties of birds. This biological diversity as well as the park's unique landscape on the Nile, which attracts over 100,000 visitors and generates over 15 billion Uganda shillings (\$4.1 million) annually (not to mention attracting private investors who have not only establishing accommodation facilities for visitors to the park but also pay the relevant taxes and provide jobs to Ugandans) according to figures from the Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA), a government statutory body which oversees the country's wildlife while promoting tourism.

# World Rangers Day

**W**orld Ranger Day (WDA) is marked on July 31 every year to pay tribute to rangers who have been injured or killed in the course of their duty and to celebrate their colleagues who are still boldly performing their roles in protecting the world's natural and cultural treasures -- wild animals and their habitats. Rangers do not only ensure safety for wildlife but also that of people visiting our parks, reserves, sanctuaries, and conservancies.

EAWLS in partnership with Embassy of Finland to Kenya, Embassy of China to Kenya, Mara Conservation Fund and Intrepid Foundation has been supporting rangers in an array of ways through its conservancy support programme since 2014. The programme focuses on building the capacities

of conservancy rangers through trainings and provision of equipment.

A total of 30 rangers have been trained on different aspects, including ecological monitoring, field safety, planning effective patrols, incident reporting and response, and professional ethics.

The most recent beneficiaries are rangers from Ol Kinyei, Mt. Suswa and Enonkishu Conservancies. The trainings have enhanced good working relationships among rangers, boosted their morale, enhanced quality data gathering as well as accurate and effective reporting of incidents.

The programme also supports rangers through the provision of anti-poaching equipment such as binoculars, motorbikes, portable tents, camel backpacks, sleeping bags, boots, uniforms and unit huts

for radio room. These have not only boosted the morale of the rangers but also enhanced their effectiveness and efficiency resulting in reduced poaching of wildlife. In total, the programme has supported rangers from up to 20 conservancies in Maasai Mara, Amboseli, and Taita Taveta and the coastal and northern regions.

Rangers are on the frontline in defending not only our wildlife but also people and their livelihood.

EAWLS would like to encourage our partners, members and the public to support our rangers programme through funding or donation of equipment. The Society also appeals to you to plant least one tree to commemorate our rangers who died while defending our heritage.



# KFWG Stakeholders Meeting

**S**ince its inception in 1995, the Kenya Forests Working Group (KFWG), a EAWLS-led forum, has been carrying out advocacy work and has driven policy reforms in the country's forestry sector. The network has been key in the development of forestry laws, regulations and sound governance. KFWG also runs a monthly forum every last Friday of the month that brings together stakeholders from various parts of Kenya in the forest sector to deliberate on emerging issues that require urgent action.

The KFWG secretariat at EAWLS collaborates with government agencies and local communities and has played crucial roles in promoting the integration of local communities in forest conservation and worked to improve the capacity of communities for effective participation.

Since the beginning of 2019, KFWG's Management Committee and the secretariat have been looking into ways of making the



**EAWLS hosts a Kenya Forest Working Group (KFWG) stakeholders meeting at the EAWLS offices.**

network more vibrant and efficient in executing its advocacy mandate and playing its watchdog role to ensure sound management and conservation of forest resources in the country.

Following a meeting held on the 18th June, 2019, a resolution on the way forward was passed. It underlines the need for the network

to review its strategies further to ensure continued impact through engagement in the sector with other partners. The secretariat has organised a stakeholders meeting on 2nd August, 2019. The forum will deliberate on a plan to revise the KFWG strategy later in August.

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# EAWLS Strategic Planning Meeting

**T**he East African Wildlife Society (EAWLS) had the honour of hosting Dr. Matt Walpole, Senior Director of Conservation Programmes for Flora and Fauna International (FFI) on the 30th and 31st July 2019 at the EAWLS offices. The purpose of this workshop was to hold consultations with the staff and Board of Directors on the development of the Society's new strategic plan which will come into effect in 2020. The activities of this session entailed a critical examination of the internal and external activities of the Society to forge a clear path for its future.

The consultation session was initiated with an overview of the

work of FFI whose mission is largely focused on strengthening organisations to allow them to effectively fulfil their roles in conservation. The participants were challenged to share their outlook on the current position of the organisation including its strengths and areas for improvement. The final consultation session was focused on reflecting on the participants' views on the long term vision of success for the Society. EAWLS looks forward to further collaboration with FFI as we work to strengthen our organisational capacity to fulfil our mission of promoting the conservation and wise use of the environment and natural resources in East Africa.



**Left to right: FFI Senior Director Matt Walpole, EAWLS Chairperson Elizabeth Gitari, Vice chairperson Cissy Walker, Head of Communications Elodie Sampere, board member Captain John Otekat, Executive Director Nancy Ogonje and Head of Operations Daniel Letoiye.**

# SAFARILINK BECOMES A CORPORATE SILVER MEMBER



EAWLS Executive Director, Nancy Ogonje presents Safarilink CEO, Alex Avedi, with a certificate of membership. Safarilink, now a Corporate Silver member of EAWLS, is Kenya's premier safari airline, distinguished for its commitment to the environment as the first carbon-neutral local airline.



## Welcoming Nichola

EAWLS is pleased to welcome Nichola Ciera as a volunteer in the Projects Department. Nichola holds a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from the University of Plymouth and a Master's degree in Environmental Sustainability from the University of Edinburgh. She has previously worked as an intern with the United Nations Environment Programme and the OI Pejeta Conservancy in Kenya and hopes to start a career in environmental sustainability in developing countries. As a volunteer with EAWLS, she will focus on drafting concept notes and proposals for grant opportunities and supporting the work of the projects department.

# IMRE LOEFLER LECTURE

MUTHAIGA COUNTRY CLUB  
IN THE BALLROOM  
4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019



# Soysambu

## An important landscape and natural heritage

Soysambu Conservancy (Latitude DMS: 0°24'18"S; Longitude DMS: 36°14'26.99"E) is a 48,000 acre property located on Lake Elementeita in Kenya's famous Rift Valley with Lake Nakuru National Park (LNNP) bordering it on the west. Soysambu, along with the broader landscape, has World Heritage status, declared in 2011, and is an Important Bird Area (IBA). Lake Elementeita is a RAMSAR site given its important water bird populations. Together, lakes Nakuru, Naivasha (south of the Conservancy) and Elementeita form a network of lakes that constitute a significant natural habitat for in-situ conservation of threatened and endangered species in Kenya.

But this landscape has not nearly enough recognition of the important natural heritage it brings to Kenya's rich biodiversity. By bringing a conservation dimension to the management of Soysambu, this heritage obtains much better value. This talk sets out the approach being made by the Conservancy to achieve this conservation goal and thereby provide value and greater benefit to Kenya both locally and internationally.

### About the Speaker

**NIGEL HUNTER** was born and grew up in Kenya. He worked in Botswana as the National Co-ordinator for Land Use Planning and later In 2001, he was appointed the Director of Wildlife and National Parks for five years. Appointed as Director of the CITES Monitoring of Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE Programme). He later worked for IUCN for 2 years. In 2009, he joined the East African Wild Life Society where he worked, firstly as Executive Director and then as Head of Development. In 2015, he was requested to join the Board of Soysambu Conservancy as chairman, and is continuing in that role for the time being.

### 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/-

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# IMRE LOEFLER LECTURE

KAREN COUNTRY CLUB  
@ THE NGONG ROOM

25<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2019



## Innovative Approches To Community Based Conservation Programmes, Combinig Science And Indeginous Knowledge

The decline of biodiversity and species across the world and intensified conflicts between protected areas and local communities led the realization and promotion of community based conservation during and since the World National Parks congress of 1982 in Bali Indonesia.

Indeed community based conservation is proving to be successful in reducing threats to nature and positively impacting on the livelihoods of the local communities in Kenya. However the role of science in providing guidance and striking a balance between conservation goals verses meeting community livelihoods needs remains critical. Needless to say integration and utilization of modern science and indigenous knowledge for mutual optimum benefits for both conservation and development goals is highly recommended. Indeed sustaining ecosystems processes in the face of climatic variability, first growing human population coupled with modernization requires a sound foundation of research and monitoring and a good working relationship between scientist and local land owners.

### About the Speaker

**LESHAKWET PETER** is currently the CEC in charge of Tourism, Cooperative, Trade and Enterprise Development Samburu County Government. He hold a bachelor of arts degree in Environmental studies-Planning and management from Kenyatta University and a Master of Science degree in conservation and tourism from University of Kent United Kingdom.

### PROGRAMME

6.30 P.M: Welcome glass of wine  
7.00 P.M: Lecture starts

### MEMBERS & GUESTS

Members & Guests: 1,500/-  
Lecture & Dinner: 2,800/-

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# EAWLS GIFTS CATALOGUE

## Branded Polo Shirts



Branded Polo Shirts  
Kshs. 1,500/-

## Branded T-shirts



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



## Branded T-shirts



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



## Tote bags/Eco bags



Branded Tote bags  
Kshs. 1,000/-



Branded Eco bags  
Kshs. 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/-



## Wall, Desk calendar and Season's cards



Wall Calendar 2018  
Kshs. 500/-



Desk Calendar 2018  
Kshs. 400/-



Print off a seasonal Season's cards  
Kshs. 450/-