

KENYA  
WILDLIFE  
SERVICE



# PORINI

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2012 | ISSUE NO. 8

## Wildlife lovers to form lobby group



INSIDE

NEWS

ASK THE EXPERTS

ANIMAL OF THE  
MONTH

KNOW YOUR PARK



**Kenya Wildlife Service**  
0726 610 508/9/ 0726 610 533  
+254 20 237940/8/9, 2379410/1/4/5/6  
kws@kws.go.ke

KWS Editorial Committee Members

Paul Mbugua  
John Ringera  
Paul Muya  
James Nyakundi  
Nancy Kabete  
Carol Kiage  
Valentin Kanani  
John Karenju  
Sialo Maitoyo  
Loise Mboob  
Vincent Obanda  
Linus Kariuki  
Rogoi Wamba

Managing Editor:  
**Paul Udoto**

Editor:  
**Carole Kimutai**

Production Director:  
**Ngugi Gecaga**

Production Assistant:  
**Amos Rono**

Editorial Assistants:  
**Sammi Nderitu**  
**Dennis Kibet**

Contributing Writers:  
**Dr. Charles Chalo, Amos Rono, Denni Muritu, Laura Klappenbach and Peter Pueschel**

Photography:  
**Sammi Nderitu and KWS**

Design and layout:  
**Jessy Mundia**

PORINI is published for KWS by:  
**KIM Publishing & Creative Services**  
Luther Plaza, 2nd floor  
Nyerere Road/University Way roundabout  
P. O. Box 43706 – 00100 Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: 020 2535277, 2445555  
Email: msu@kim.ac.ke;  
Website: www.kim.ac.ke

We welcome articles or any feedback from readers on conservation and tourism. Please include your name, address and telephone number. Letters/articles may be edited for clarity or space.  
Email: porini@kws.go.ke

The views expressed in this newsletter are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Kenya Wildlife Service or the Kenya Institute of Management.

Reproduction of any articles or pictures without permission is prohibited.

## Foreword

# Leading change in wildlife industry

**K**enya Wildlife Service (KWS) is spearheading the formation of the Kenya Association of Wildlife Conservation Support Organisation (KAWSCO) to bring order in the wider wildlife industry. The new body is expected to become a lobby group for wildlife industry players while providing a forum for members to exchange information, ideas and experiences.

Currently, there are different civil organisations concerned with wildlife conservation. In the absence of a well-defined national entity, communities and private landowners lack the leverage and bargaining power to pursue their interests with the government, private sector and the international community. As a result, this void has been filled up by different organisations with each addressing specific or partisan aspects of the issues and interests – more opportunistically than strategically.

There is the need for a streamlined co-ordination and a comprehensive representative body to promote increased involvement of communities, landowners and service providers in the conservation and affiliated industries.

KAWSCO also aims to ensure that communities and landowners have greater access to benefits from conservation by the creation of appropriate legal mechanisms and incentives. To promote public participation in the process, a series of workshops have been planned across the country to collect views as well as sensitise and mobilise people to ensure a structured, transparent and inclusive framework for the development of the national wildlife conservation association.

As part of the ongoing KWS policy review and through comprehensive stakeholder involvement, we have successfully completed formulating the 2012-2016

Conservation and Management Strategy for the Black Rhino in Kenya.

The strategy emphasizes protection and law enforcement, monitoring for management, biological management, population expansion, awareness and public support and coordination and capacity. These objectives will be coordinated by a steering committee whose main role will be to monitor implementation of the Strategic Plan. The strategy defines a revised overall goal of conserving at least 750 black rhinos by the end of 2016, achieving at least a five per-cent national growth rate with less than one per-cent man-induced and disease-related deaths.

Kenya has become a major player in Africa in rhino conservation with the third largest black rhino population after South Africa and Namibia. The country has intensified its anti-poaching efforts by increasing the rhino ranger force by more than 25 percent during 2011, converting rhino scouts on private lands into Kenya Police Reservists, offering formal training of community scouts in wildlife protection, using sniffer dogs for monitoring and relocating rhinos from areas of high risk to areas of low risk.

On another front, the Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute (KWSTI) received a major boost following its branding and the unveiling of a new business plan and curriculum. KWSTI now stands as one of the leading middle-level training colleges in Kenya to revolutionise its training curriculum aimed at addressing the ever-changing job market. In recognition of its high quality programmes, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology granted the Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute authority to continue awarding its own Certificates and Diplomas. This will ensure that its certificates are recognized world-wide. ■

# The gospel according to wildlife conservation

By: DENNIS MURITU



Illegal wildlife trade is the greatest threat to many endangered species.

More than 50 African religious representatives drawn from different faiths and countries have spoken against the killing of endangered species caused by illegal wildlife trade. Through a partnership with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and The Alliance of Religious and Conservation (ARC), the religious representatives called for an end to illegal wildlife trade which is diminishing Africa's wildlife populations. They spoke in a forum that was held recently in Nairobi.

Dekila Chungyalpa, the program director at WWF Sacred Earth, says that halting wildlife trade is a moral issue and therefore, faith leaders are the backbone of local communities who provide lessons and guidance that shape how people live.

"Having religious leaders from all major faiths come together to call for the protection of wildlife on religious grounds and urge their congregation to view the slaughter of elephants and rhinos in Africa as a serious crime that or may turn the tide of the disaster we face today," says Chungyalpa.

Illegal wildlife trade is the greatest threat to many endangered species, jeopardising decades of conservation work and threatening their survival. The year 2011 saw the highest recorded rates of killings on the continent in more than two decades and the largest scale illegal ivory seizures than any time in recorded history (equalling the tusks from more than 4,000 dead elephants). ■

## Ivory smugglers get clever

Sixty two pieces of elephant ivory sprayed with pepper and tobacco to avoid detection by sniffer dogs were recently intercepted at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. The ivory weighing 255 kilogrammes was packed in two metallic boxes and declared as 'avocadoes'.

However, they were detected and seized by a joint security team comprising the Kenya Airports Police Unit, the Kenya Revenue Authority (Customs Department) and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). ■

## Events Calendar



Pass out parade for community rangers Law Enforcement Academy - Manyani  
**October 12, 2012**



UNESCO - IUCN Mission to Mt. Kenya  
Mt. Kenya - Lewa  
**October 22 - 27, 2012**



Boat Race, Kisumu Impala  
**November 24, 2012**



Thanksgiving service for Uniformed Disciplined Officers  
**November 29, 2012, Homa Bay**



Conservation Heroes Day  
**December 2012, KWS Headquarters**

2nd Meeting of Signatory States to the Dugong MoU  
**December 4 - 5, 2012**  
Manila, Philippines

# Driving change in wildlife education

Story and photos by: **SAMMI NDERITU**

The Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute (KWSTI) has been branded and a new curriculum launched. In addition, the institute has unveiled its four year business plan. This was done recently at the institute in Naivasha during a function that was officiated by Prof. Margaret Kamar, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology.

This business plan is set within a framework of making KWSTI a comprehensive and competitive institution that combines its unique natural resources, tourism training centre and a hospitality facility. It has been developed using the balanced scorecard concept to better communicate, inform and articulate the business strategy.

This plan assesses areas for continuous improvement of KWSTI services and academic programmes. It identifies areas of strategic alliances, partnerships and linkages with other training and development institutions in the region, with a view of enabling

the institution to penetrate new markets and develop new products.

In branding KWSTI, the institution aims to provide high quality training, research and consultancy services in natural resources management, tourism development and offer quality hospitality services in partnership with stakeholders.

The branding also marks a complete break from its past. It was established in 1985 with the support of the World Bank and initially used as an in-service training institution for the Tourism and Eco-tourism Development, before evolving to provide specialised and refresher courses for KWS staff and her partners.

Going forward, the institute aims to be a centre of excellence in natural resource management, tourism development and hospitality services in the region.

KWSTI is registered and accredited by the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology and has been authorised to provide Diplomas and Certificates. Diploma courses offered are Environmental Management, Fisheries and Aquatic Sciences, Tourism and

Hospitality Management and Wildlife Management. Certificate courses include Nature Interpretation and Tour Guiding, Community Wildlife Management and Aquaculture.

The curriculum launched is divided into modules for students and has been revised with the help of the Kenya Institute of Education (KIE).

“With this curriculum, we want to see the whole of Africa come here for training. We want to produce skills that can support the wildlife industry and be a centre of excellence in wildlife courses in the whole continent,” says Dr. Julius Kipng’etich, the outgoing KWS Director.

Prof. Kamar notes that with the launch of the new curriculum and business plan, KWSTI has not only given itself a new brand but also enhanced its status within the cadre of middle level training colleges in Kenya. “Therefore, the institute has to strategically assert itself to effectively play its role in middle level training.”

KWSTI is located in Naivasha and has a 1,500 acres of land. The business plan aims to also unlock the potential of this land for students’ learning purposes. Besides regular academic courses, camping, game viewing, educational tours, team building, events catering and conferencing have been identified as potential areas that will be exploited to generate revenue for the institution.

To date, the institute has trained students from across Kenya and other parts of the world. Most recently, it trained a group of wildlife officers from the Republic of South Sudan. ■



Prof. Margaret Kamar, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology and Prof. George Owiti Principle KWSTI during the launch of the new KWSTI curriculum and branding ceremony.

# New Director appointed

THE President of the Republic of Kenya, Hon. Mwai Kibaki EGH, MP has appointed Mr. William Kibet Kiprono as the new Director of Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). The appointment takes effect immediately.

Until his appointment, Mr. Kiprono was the Vihiga County Commissioner and his appointment follows the resignation of Dr. Julius Kipng'etich.

Dr. Kipng'etich has given KWS great leadership and important initiatives over the past eight years. Under his leadership KWS has transformed from a poorly run and managed organisation to a tower of



Mr. William Kibet Kiprono

strength that is emulated by others and a giant to reckon with in management and in conservation industry.

Hon David Mwiraria has expressed confidence in the management team at KWS noting that it has the capability and the competence to drive the business of the organisation to greater heights. "I am proud of what Julius has done and I wish him.

The Board of Trustees and Senior Management Team at KWS will remain committed to the organisational excellence and a smooth transition. ■

# Understanding threats to wildlife

By: LAURA KLAPPENBACH

Living things face a constant barrage of external stresses or threats that challenge their ability to survive and reproduce. If a species is unable to successfully cope with these threats through adaptation, they may face extinction.

As humans, we have a unique ability to understand the consequences of our actions, both present and past. We are capable of learning more about the effects our actions have on the world around us and how changes in those actions could help to alter future events. By examining how human activities have adversely impacted life on earth, we can take steps to reverse past damages and prevent future damage.

Man-made threats can be classified into the following general categories:

**Habitat destruction and fragmentation** - The destruction or splitting up of once continuous habitat

to enable humans to use the land for agriculture, development of towns and cities, construction of dams, or other purposes.

**Climate change** - Human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels, have altered the Earth's atmosphere and have resulted in global climate changes.

**Introduction of exotic species** - Accidental and intentional introduction of non-native species into regions never before occupied by the species have resulted in the extinction of numerous endemic species.

**Pollution** - Pollutants (pesticides, herbicides, etc.) released into the environment are ingested by a wide variety of organisms.

**Over-exploitation of resources** - Exploitation of wild populations for food has resulted in population crashes (over-fishing, for example).

**Hunting, poaching, illegal**



Loss of habitat affects wildlife. Photo by Sammi Nderitu

**trade of endangered species** - Some endangered species are targeted for their value on illegal markets.

**Accidental deaths** - Car hits, window collisions (birds), collisions with ships (whales). ■

# Wildlife lovers to form lobby group

Wildlife stakeholders across Kenya have come together to form an association that will represent their interests. **SAMMI NDERITU** attended the first stakeholders' workshop in Nairobi and reports.

Kenya's natural resources, in particular its rich biodiversity areas are among the country's most valuable assets. Well over 60 per cent of Kenya's Wildlife is found outside protected areas. Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) manages about eight per cent of the nation's total landmass and this includes 22 national parks, 28 national reserves and five national sanctuaries. In addition, KWS manages four marine national parks and six marine national reserves.

To take care of wildlife outside protected areas, more stakeholders, especially landowners are actively involved in conservation. It is estimated

that the public and private donor support to conservation exceeds USD25 million per annum, with an equivalent amount invested in associated local development projects.

Although Kenya has abundant wildlife resources coupled with an educated and dynamic human resource, a relatively advanced system of land tenure, progressive constitutional reforms, donor support and economic potential, the wildlife sector still faces growth challenges.

Findings from various studies on the status of the wildlife conservation sector (for non-protected areas in particular)

point to among others, a weak governance framework and inadequate institutional arrangements for effective management and coordination within the non-state constituency.

### A representative body

To realise effective and efficient coordination within the civil society and between the civil society and government, and enhance participation by stakeholders in the sector, there is need for a representative body. This body, proposed to be an association, is intended to give a voice to the wildlife industry in Kenya by providing a united lobby group

*"To take care of wildlife outside protected areas, more stakeholders, especially landowners are actively involved in conservation."*



for wildlife industry players in Kenya and provide a forum for members to exchange information, ideas and experiences.

Various sectors in Kenya have formed professional bodies that facilitate, coordinate and speak on behalf of their members. Some of these include the Flower Council of Kenya, Kenya Tourism Federation, Kenya Association of Manufacturers and Kenya Association of Tour Operators. However, the wildlife conservation sector lacks such a body.

Currently, different civil organisations are concerned about wildlife conservation in the country. In the absence of a national entity, communities and private landowners lack a platform and power to advocate their pressing issue with the government and other entities.

As a result, various organisations have emerged to fill this void, with each addressing specific or partisan aspects of the issues and interests. Organisations that are more strategically located in the hierarchy monopolise the space and opportunities compared to actual stakeholders. The demand is also informed by the fact that neither KWS nor NGOs can effectively challenge development actions by government or private developers that compromise the integrity of the conservation estate outside of protected areas.

Outside the official KWS mandate, there is a multiplicity of processes and non official frameworks that have been designed to facilitate conservation by civil actors in Kenya.

In Kenya, most efforts have concentrated on developing new laws and policies as opposed to strengthening institutions that will deliver quality service and ensure compliance with rules. The Technical Working Group notes: "However, without a service ethic and compliance, laws and regulations are meaningless – or worse, they undermine respect for the rule of law – and cannot promote conservation."

It further argues that without a structured and functioning institution of governance, "there cannot be good management, investment and assumption

of risk that form the basis of Kenya's market economy and the underpinning conservation estate." It cites an example where a governance and accountability crisis has been encountered in many communities, including County Councils where a few individuals benefit from the sector at the expense of the many. "No sector can be built on such foundations."

### **Public participation**

In forming an association, whose name is yet to be decided, a series of workshops are planned in various parts of the country in order to collect views as well as mobilise people. The development of this association is provided for in Article 69(1) (d) of the Constitution which says that the State shall encourage public participation in the management, protection and conservation of the environment. This is further grounded by the constitutional right to freedom of association granted by Article 36 of the Constitution.

The Constitution gives all Kenyans the right to freedom of association which includes the right to form, join or participate in the activities of an association of any kind. The government is facilitating the revision of the current Wildlife Act to incorporate regulations that will govern the formation, registration and operations of conservancies within Kenya.

The objective of the association will be to provide support to members for development of sustainable wildlife conservation enterprises and support entities, play an advocacy role for wildlife conservation and management as a land use option alongside other land uses.

The association will also lobby for incentives for persons practising wildlife conservation and management as a land use option, liaise with the government and other state corporations that promote and support wildlife conservation policies and initiatives.

### **Policy guidelines**

The functions of the association shall be to suggest policy guidelines for national wildlife conservation, facilitate institutional networking amongst stakeholders in the

wildlife industry and implement the aims and objectives of the association. It will also evaluate projects funded through the association's initiatives and take appropriate actions where necessary, raise, administer and manage funds for the wildlife conservation programmes, implement the decisions taken by members in general meetings among others.

Once formed, the draft constitution of the proposed association says membership shall be on two levels. "These are full members who shall be conservancies and landowners who carry out wildlife conservation on their land and affiliate members who shall include wildlife conservation NGOs, private sector, investors, donor agencies and institutions that are involved in wildlife conservation."

Stakeholders involved in the process plan to have the association operational before the end of 2012. To achieve this, the development process has been broken down into four phases.

Phase one, which has already been accomplished, involved the formation and inception of activities including the identification and appointment of the steering committee, validating the development process, drafting and review of articles of association/constitution among others.

Phase two will involve the registration and inception of some core activities that will include approval of constitution and registration, launch of the organisation, the development of information materials and the recruitment of executive management team.

Phase three which has been planned to start in November 2012 will entail making the association operational and undertaking capacity building. This will involve the development of the strategic and business plan, establishment of a secretariat as well as membership recruitment and registration drive.

In phase four, the proposed association will be implementing and sustaining its activities through work implementation, networking and communication activities and resource mobilisation/fundraising. ■



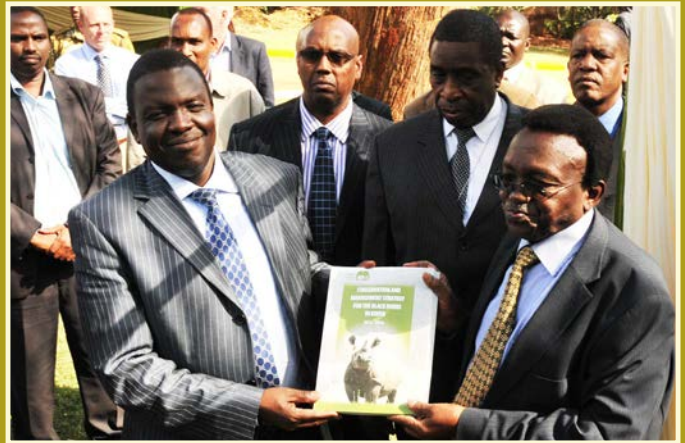
Wild Aid Ambassador and Former NBA Houston Rockets Basketballer Yao Ming (Right) greets KWS Board Member Ms Pat Awori. Looking on is Save the Elephant CEO Dr. Ian Douglas-Hamilton (2nd Left) and KWS Board Member Ms. Winny Kiiru. Yao Ming was in the country to shoot a documentary on illegal rhino horn trade in Asia so as to drum up support in Rhino Conservation.



KWS Deputy Director Corporate Services Mr. Tom Sipul hands over a Value Transfer Solution gadget to Staff from Private Safaris' who officiated the launch of the pilot project of the upgrade. With him is the C.E.O Kenya Association Of Tour Operators Mr. Fred Kaigua (3rd Right) Assistant Director Southern Conservation Area Ms. Ann Kahihia (1st Right) and KWS Safari card Manager Mr. Tom Boit(left).



KWS officers arrange boulders on the road after Lake Nakuru National Park expanded its banks washing up roads around it.



KWS Chairman Hon. David Mwiraria and KWS former Director Mr. Julius Kipng'etich display the newly launched black rhino management strategy.



KWS Chairman Hon. David Mwiraria flags off 25 new vehicles in Ngong after he officially commissioned new accommodation flats for rangers.



Finance Minister Hon. Njeru Githae and KWS Fence Manager Engineer George Odhiambo roll over a fence before construction during the commissioning of the Mt. Kenya Fence in Castle, Kirinyaga.





Mr Davis Kinuthia from Kikuyu crosses the finish line as the winner of 2012 Cycle with the rhino. Mr Hussein Mantred (Nairobi) was the runners up.



KWS Senior Assistant Director and Head of Species Conservation Mr. Patrick Omondi (Fore right) hosts a chinese delegation who paid KWS a courtesy visit and discuss issues of possible funding in conservation.



KWS Board of Trustees Chair Hon David Mwiraria unveils a plaque to commission newly built flats for rangers in Ngong. With him is KWS Capture and Veterinary Services Senior Warden Dr. Isaac Lekolol.



KWS molecular biologist Moses Otiende explains how the thermal shake machine works to AG Githu Muigai (Centre) and Deputy Director of Public Prosecution Ms. Dorcas Oduor.



Ag Deputy Director Strategy and Change Ms. Race Musumba Tavasi hands over a framed piece of wildlife art to the former Permanent Secretary Mr. MAM wa Mwachai. Looking on is former KWS Director Mr. Julius Kipngetch.



Minister for Higher Education, Science and Technology Hon. Prof. Margaret J. Kamar unveils a plaque for the ground breaking of the Professor Wangari Maathai Complex during the branding of Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute.

# The crawling Nile crocodile

Story by: **SOLOMON KYALO**

**N**ile crocodile (*Crocodylus niloticus*) is an egg laying reptilian species. Eggs are laid between August and March in nests with clutch sizes of between 20 to 60 eggs. The eggs weigh between 70 to 110 grammes and are between 65 to 80 cm wide and 40 to 45 cm wide. Males grow up to 30 per cent larger than the females to five metres, and weigh more than 500 kg.

There are several sub-populations of Nile crocodiles found in Kenya. Crocodiles are found in most fresh water bodies such as lakes and rivers. Some of the major habitats include Lake Turkana, Lake Baringo, Lake Victoria, Mara River, Ewaso Nyiro River, Tana River, Athi/Galana/Sabaki River and Ramisi River. The Tana River system has the biggest living population of Nile crocodile in the country.

Crocodiles in these rivers and lakes are considered healthy and are inferred to be increasing in numbers based on reports from communities in these areas. The species habitat range has, however, shrunk as a result of encroachment by human activities resulting from increased human population.

The Nile crocodile is a predator species whose diet is very broad and includes aquatic invertebrates, fish, amphibians, birds and other reptiles. Hatchlings eat insects and small aquatic invertebrates.

Adults can take a wide range of large vertebrates. The species plays a significant role in the ecosystem and is

responsible for checking populations of other aquatic species such as the barbell catfish.

However, it is a problem animal, killing people and their livestock more than any other wild animal in many areas where they co-habit.

### Threats

The Nile crocodile faces many threats in Kenya. They include loss of habitat as a result of human population encroachment, erosion and loss of nesting areas and riparian habitats as rivers change courses due to land degradation upstream, persecution as a result of human-wildlife conflict and in a limited way, egg collection for ranching operations and commercial trade.

During drought in some of the arid and semi-arid land, people and crocodiles increasingly come into contact with rivers/lakes that are sources of water and fish, thus causing conflict in the use of resources. Results of such conflicts are normally human and livestock deaths caused by the crocodiles and or persecution of the crocodiles by human beings.

Nile crocodile populations have thus reduced in specific areas of high human population in Kenya. However, due to the species resilience, Nile crocodiles are able to co-exist successfully in areas with human disturbances.

To conserve the Nile crocodile, a management plan was developed in 1990 to provide guidance and a code of ranching practice and guidelines.

### Crocodile farming and trade

Nationally, Nile Crocodile is a protected animal species under the Wildlife (Conservation and Management) Act CAP 376 of the Laws of Kenya. Internationally, trade in Nile crocodile and its products are regulated under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES); an international treaty that regulates international trade in certain endangered species of wildlife. Kenya is a signatory to the CITES Convention. In Kenya, with express permission of Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), people can be licensed to breed crocodiles for commercial purposes.

KWS has put in place measures that should be adhered to in regards to crocodile breeding. When a potential crocodile breeder meets these conditions, he/she is issued with a letter of authority/licence to begin operations. This licence stipulates conditions and standards to be observed and can be revoked if the breeder fails to comply. ■

*Solomon Kyalo is a Senior Scientist - Biodiversity Conventions/Agreements (CITES), Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).*





Caption

# Value, not price will bring real change

Story by: **PETER PUESCHEL**

Photo by: **SAMMI NDERITU**

It just came from the Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). They say it, “is the world’s oldest and largest global environmental network - a democratic membership union with more than 1,200 government and NGO member organisations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries.”

There is certainly an enormous amount of knowledge and expertise on the state of nature, the loss of individual species, general biodiversity and their

conservation. The projection for the future, if we continue on our current path is grim. Climate Change is just one example, aside of over-consumption and habitat deterioration. But if we manage to limit the average global temperature increase to “only” 2°C, which unfortunately seems more a hopeful objective than a realistic one, we may still lose 20 per cent of the world’s biodiversity.

Imagine: 20 per cent just gone forever! And still I don’t see governments jointly acting to ensure that we are not

exceeding 2°C. But not all is lost. We can still overcome much of the damage if we treat this as an emergency.

My feeling at the IUCN Congress is that more and more delegates are coming to the same conclusion. Nevertheless, it worries me very much that so many IUCN members are focusing only on the economic value of wildlife to combat poverty, but still ignoring all its great non-economic values.

And what about all these ecosystem services like clean water, medicinal plants and food which nature, when it is allowed to flourish, supplies us for free? Not to mention the ecosystem services that is so essential for non-human species which we and IUCN are trying to protect.

I take it as a good sign that we have been able to convince proponents to withdraw their ill-minded proposal to condemn the EU import ban for seal products.

Instead of recognising the unacceptable cruelty involved in commercial sealing, they argued that seals are a pest just because the market value dropped! Unbelievably, the seals are still made a scapegoat for overfishing. Anyone with a sober mind knows that it is humans destroying our planet’s biodiversity. Again and again, I had to remind conference participants that in the past the UN and IUCN have recognised and welcomed the intrinsic, cultural, ethical, spiritual ecological, and other non-economic values of wildlife.

Conservation can only be successful if we protect nature based on all values – not just economic ones. To bring the animal welfare dimension into IUCN’s conservation approach is therefore essential to success. I am pleased that we made some good progress at the congress in this regard and more delegates will focus conservation efforts on values, not price, to bring about real change. ■

*Peter Pueschel is the Programme Director for the Wildlife Trade Programme, IFAW and CITES Co-ordinator, European Union, IFAW.*



# The green hills of Africa



*Mr. Francis Mbaka, Warden*

Story and photos by: **SAMMI NDERITU**

From kilometres away, Chyulu Hills spreads across the horizon. They are inviting, daring you to go closer and hike to the peak. Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) describes Chyulu Hills National Park as the magical land of black frozen lava studded with blazing red-hot poker trees. Trees of extinct volcanoes wreathed in dense forest and hung with Spanish moss.

Chyulu Hills National Park stands at an altitude of 1,500 - 2,160 meters above sea level and is located in Makueni District, south-east of Nairobi about 230 kilometers. It covers an area of approximately 741 sq.km.

On the western side of Chyulu Hills is another majestic peak of the highest mountain in Africa, Mount Kilimanjaro.

Francis Mbaka, the Warden at Chyulu Hills National Park says the park comprises the eastern side of the hills and more than half of the forest area. The park boundary runs down the centre of the hills along the lines of the peaks.

## Attractions

The park has several major attractions to visitors. It offers breathtaking views from the Chyulu Hills and has numerous caves. The local community in the area, the Akamba people, refers to the caves as Kisula. To make the caves accessible, KWS has built staircases to the openings of the caves.

Animals in the park include reptiles among them black mamba, puff adder, rock python, gecko, tortoise and lizards. Other animals are buffalos, bushbuck, elands, elephants, leopard, giant forest hog, bush pig, reedbuck among others.

Activities that can be done in the park are game viewing, camping, mountain hiking, horse riding and bird watching.

Mr. Mbaka notes that Chyulu Hills are the catchment area for Mzima Springs in Tsavo West. Mzima Springs is the main water source for Mombasa. Umani Springs found within Kibwezi forest also gets its water from Chyulu Hills.

## Accommodation

While there is no accommodation within the park, numerous options exist in nearby Tsavo West National Park and in ungazetted portions of the Chyulu Hills

The park has three public campsites. The campsite at Kithasyo Park offers basic amenities. There is also a KWS campsite outside the park boundaries near the guest house at Kiboko

## Travel to Chyulu

The park can be accessed by air or road. It has three accessible gates, the main gate at Kibwezi, and other two at Mukuruuro and Kiboko.

If travelling by road, drive towards Mombasa and take the first right turn after the Kibwezi Town junction. The road leading to the park from the Kibwezi junction has visible signage that will lead you to the park which is about 230 kilometres away from Nairobi. ■

# Elephant translocation set to reduce human-wildlife conflict in Narok

Story by: **DENNIS KIBET**

Human wildlife conflict in Narok North District is set to reduce significantly as a result of the translocation targeting 150 elephants. This follows a series of consultative meetings between the Narok local communities and KWS.

The translocation of the jumbos was agreed upon as the most effective and sustainable option for mitigating human-elephant conflict in the area.

Narok County is currently designated as one of the human-wildlife conflict (HWC) hotspots in the country, with elephants identified as the most problematic species.

Population increase and rapid change in lifestyle of local communities from pastoralists to crop farming and other incompatible land-use practices have tremendously led to increased human wildlife conflict. Residents are now growing crops, mainly wheat, extensively for commercial purposes.

Resident elephant population have been invading these farms, thus necessitating the need for translocation.

Earlier this year, KWS carried out a similar translocation exercise in the area that saw 62 elephants successfully translocate to the Mara.

These elephants continue to be monitored intensively by GSM/GPS satellite collars, aerial and ground patrols.

During the translocation exercise, KWS received a donation of two elephant collars by the Manager of the Mara Elephant Project, Mark Goss. The collars

will be used to monitor and track the elephants' movements over a period of two years.

Despite the fact that the elephants will be removed from the area, KWS urged communities living in Narok to conserve the environment to avoid desertification of the area.

The existence of elephants was the only cause for the presence of the few

urged leaders to cooperate and work together with KWS to benefit from tourism and wildlife conservation.

She proposed the setting up of wildlife sanctuaries in Narok that would attract tourists and ensure the Maasai community benefit directly.

In February this year, KWS launched a national elephant conservation and management strategy. The document



*Elephant translocation in Narok. PHOTO BY KWS*

remaining visible forest patches in the area. On the other hand, the removal of elephants from the area is seen as likely to fuel cases of insecurity. Cattle rustlers had been kept at bay from the area for fear of possible confrontations with elephants.

Outgoing KWS Director, Julius Kipng'etich, told locals to be mindful of the environment and desist from cutting trees for charcoal burning to prevent further degradation.

His sentiments were echoed by the area councilor, Lydia Masikonte who also

provides a clear roadmap for conservation and management of elephants in Kenya for the next 10 years.

The elephant strategy seeks to reduce cases of human-elephant conflict and increase the value of elephants to people and habitats. It outlines strategies KWS and other conservation partners will use to protect the species, particularly in key strategic locations such as dispersal areas, migration corridors and in the human-elephant conflict hotspots such as the Narok ecosystem. ■

# All in a ranger's day

A ranger's job requires one to be flexible, committed, disciplined and ready to respond to any situation quickly. Jacob Kedipa, a ranger at Chyulu Hills National Park talks to SAMMI NDERITU about his job.

“A ranger's work goes beyond taking care of wildlife. There are times when you will be required to handle issues of human wildlife conflict, conduct search and rescue within parks and reserves and at times become a tour guide to visitors besides undertaking other assigned duties.

My work also involves providing escort services to Kenya Wildlife Service personnel, data collection, keeping information, manning gates and ensuring all KWS resources are taken care of.

Therefore, in going about my daily work, I have become a wildlife conservation ambassador. This has involved conducting awareness campaigns to encourage communities not to kill wildlife but treasure it as a rich heritage to the country.

I have been a ranger since 2001. I was recruited in Chepareria, West Pokot

County. My first posting was in Lamu where I worked for a year before moving to Tsavo East National Park. I was thereafter transferred to Tana River then to Kiunga, along the Kenya Somali border. In 2005, I was moved to my current duty station, Chyulu Hills National Park.

### Human wildlife conflict

Each of the areas that I have worked has had its unique challenges. However, human wildlife conflict has been and continues to be the major challenge in all parks in Kenya. This has largely been necessitated by the increase in human population. This has led to the loss of wildlife dispersal corridors which have been replaced with farming.

In my opinion, these areas that were formerly designated as wildlife corridors

should not have been inhabited and fenced off. This would have gone a long way in reducing human wildlife conflict.

Bearing in mind that most parks are not fenced, animals like elephants, buffaloes and zebras move out of parks to look for food and water. Carnivores too will stray into people's compounds to kill cattle for food. Besides destroying crops, there are times when wild animals injure or even kill human beings. Consequently, this leads to conflict.

When that happens and rangers go out to assist, community members become enraged and sometimes threaten to kill the animals and rangers. Hence, as a ranger, it is important to know how to deal with angry community members.

KWS has done a tremendous job in addressing this problem. Sadly though, we are sometimes not able to respond quickly to a human wildlife conflict reported due to lack of adequate transport at Chyulu Hills National Park. This delay in response angers the affected community and creates mistrust and anger against KWS.

A ranger's job is very risky, especially when patrolling deep in the bush. You have to be always alert and watchful. Besides wild animals that may attack you, poachers may ambush you. Poachers continue to acquire sophisticated weapons for their illegal activities. Also, in case of an attack, for example a snake bite, it may be difficult to get emergency treatment while deep in the bush.

### Family

Despite the challenges, I am very proud of my job and so is my wife and two children. They have been very supportive. With so many things to do in a day, being a flexible person has been an advantage to me since I am able to execute my duties professionally even in the most challenging situations. ■



Ranger Kedipa. PHOTO BY SAMMI NDERITU

# Leisure



**Why are mosquitoes annoying?**

Because they get under your skin.

**Why are spiders like tops?**

Because they are always spinning.

**Why did the farmer plant old car parts in his garden?**

He wanted to raise a bumper crop.

**Why did the lady mouse want to move?**

She was tired of living in a hole in the wall.

**Why did the nature lover plant bird seed?**

He wanted to grow canaries.

**Why didn't the man believe what the sardine said?**

It sounded too fishy.

**Why do bees hum?**

Because they don't know the words.

**Why do cows wear bells?**

Because their horns don't work.

**Why do flies walk on the ceiling?**

If they walked on the floor, someone might step on them.

**Why do gardeners hate weeds?**

Give weeds an inch and they'll take a yard.

Talk to Porini, Do you have an article or an interesting photo to share? Email: [porini@kws.go.ke](mailto:porini@kws.go.ke)

• Follow Porini on: [twitter@kwskenya/](https://twitter.com/kwskenya/) Facebook: Kenya Wildlife Service



**KILL THE TRADE  
THAT KILLS THE  
RHINO**



**... is on the frontline.**

**SHOW YOUR SUPPORT**  
**Tweet #KILLTHETRADE**  
**facebook.com/WWF**  
**twibbon.com/Support/killthetrade**



**For more information, please contact:**  
**WWF Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Programme Office**  
**P.O. Box 62440 Nairobi 00200 Kenya**  
**info@wwfesarpo.org**