

# ANIMAL WELFARE MAGAZINE

JANUARY - JUNE 2021  
KSH 500 | US\$ 5.00

VOL. 14

*Dr Kelly shares  
**KINDNESS**  
with animals  
in rural Kenya*

**ADVOCATING**  
For the Conservation-  
Development balance

**AFRICA'S JOURNEY**  
to protect its wildlife

**UNTOLD  
SUFFERING**  
for East Africa's  
donkey owners



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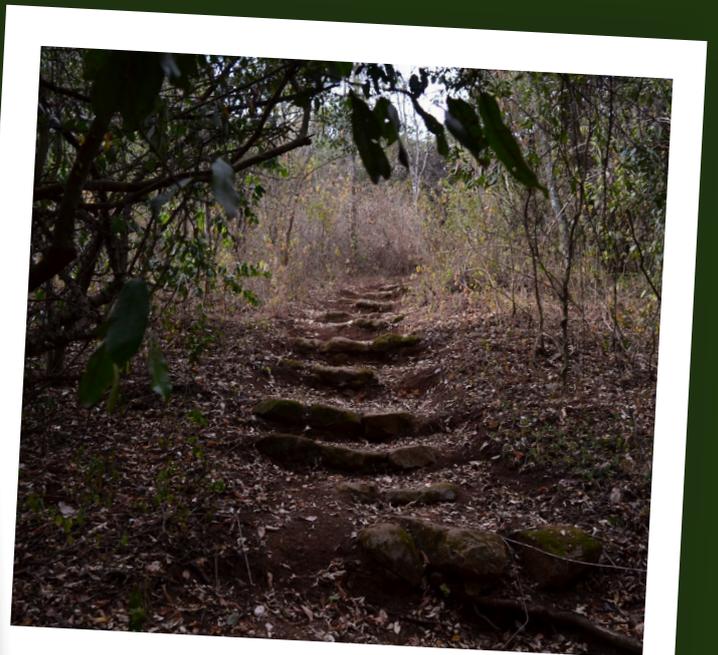
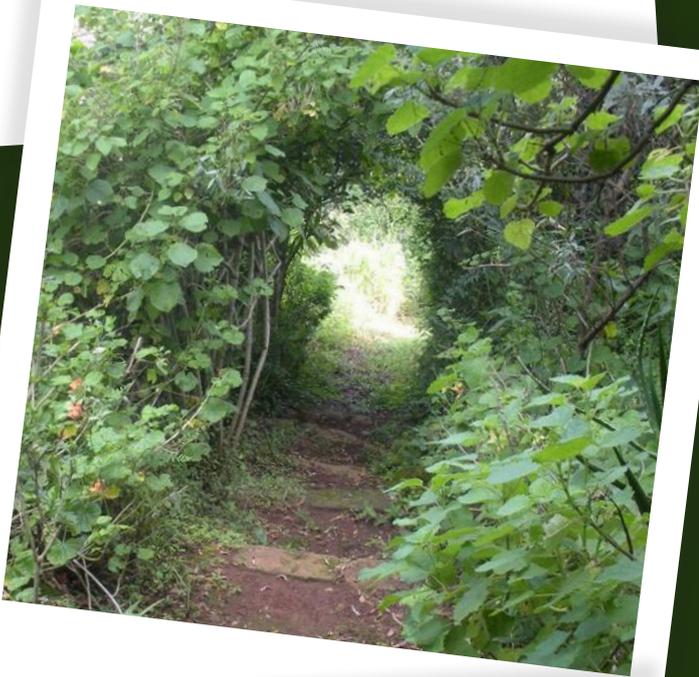
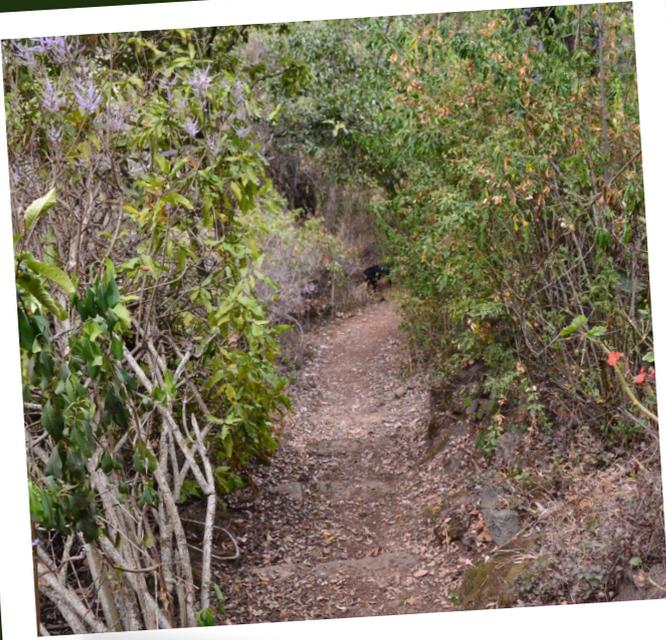
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Have you felt the need to talk about the important work people are doing in protecting animals? The Africa Network for Animal Welfare provides writers and photographers an opportunity to have their articles, opinions, interviews, profiles and photographs featured in each bi-annual magazine of Animal Welfare. Sharing your work on Animal Welfare will go a long way in enlightening others on the importance of protecting, caring and advocating for animals. If you are interested, you can send your stories and photographs to: [communications@anaw.org](mailto:communications@anaw.org).



## The Editorial Note

In coming to terms and finding solutions with what is happening around us, we have found solace in deep introspect in our quiet chambers. We look within in our journey so far to serve and ensure what is just and right for humanity, our environment, and the animal kingdom. Are we doing enough to ensure the health of these three pillars stand strong? Impact felt from the adverse effects of climate change, animal cruelty, bush meat trade, poaching, corruption, resource exploitation, disease, food insecurity, intense infrastructural development among others demonstrate that protecting one pillar and neglecting the other does not work.

Turn the pages to see how urbanization without mind to protect nature has impact negatively on wild populations. This has resulted in environmental degradation, deforestation, habitat encroachment pollution, toxic waterways and poor welfare in farming and transport. Read on to understand what needs to be done to curb these challenges.

Animal welfare practitioners, academia, governments, scientists and conservationists from different parts of the world took time to deliberate on this very fact in September in the first and largest virtual conference on animal welfare in Africa. Realize current challenges faced and views proposed in animal welfare, wildlife and environmental conservation as you read through the story. Predicaments exist that need everyone to play a part in coming up with solutions are discussed.

At the fore of victims hit hard by the COVID 19 pandemic is the Kenyan coast. We see how the crippling economy affected through tourism and fisheries, pollution at the seas, scarcity leading to destructive practices are among the hazardous effects experience. Read on and gain views in the dilemma faced by coastal communities.

It was not between a rock and a hard place that Luke Keloi Maamai found himself as he was herding his father's cattle in the depths of a swamp. It was worse. It was between a burning swamp and an angry lone male buffalo. Learn about the arduous physical and psychological challenges a young warrior had to overcome to become a respected community figure with a fond heart for animals in Amboseli.

In Taita Taveta, the community celebrates the much-needed veterinarian needs that Dr. Julie Kelly and her team of skilled professionals provide to their animals. You are acquainted with the team who face arduous challenges in ensuring that animals and humans are well cared for. The exciting feature takes readers through her adventures and achievements as she pursues what she loves making a huge impact.

The story of Ebenya is masked to give the tales and travails of a young lady searching for her purpose as she discovers the joys of her rich and beautiful continent. Venture off the trail with this travel series which points directions to travel enthusiasts who seek to learn the secrets of the African continent.

Join us and explore this fascinating world.

- *Catherine Chumo*

## To Agree or Disagree:

# AFRICA'S JOURNEY TO PROTECT ITS ANIMALS

By Catherine Chumo

## “I see factory farming as an opportunity for Africa.”

You could see all who had been distracted on the platform frowning and staring back at the screen. They were not sure if they had heard right. Though muted, you could almost hear the questioning murmurs and the confused retorts. A huge number of those on the platform were representatives of organizations working on the ground to promote and advocate for cage free farming.

Oblivious to the reaction of hundreds of participants in the virtual conference, Quixi Sonntag went on. “Let me explain why.” Quixi continued.

Her presentation offered an argument that anti-cruelty advocates should focus on should place more focus on the animal caregivers and not the systems. Good relations should be harnessed between the advocate and the caregiver as well as between the caregiver and the animals.

This controversial opinion was contrary to the previous presentations that had demonstrated the dangers and harm that factory farming caused to animals and human beings. It was established that there had been an increase in the use of battery cages from traditional systems to large agricultural units.

There was a strong argument in advocating against this as large cage free rearing where poultry or livestock was let to roam homestead without being confined was encouraged and strongly advocated for. Unheard murmurs of agreement were inferred when a delegate explained that natural behaviors such as perching, nesting, scraping soil and social behavior were undercut. Overcrowding, debeaking and nesting injuries were the norm in factory farming, and this cruelly hampered on the welfare of the animals.

All these was taking place at the virtual 4th Africa Animal Welfare Conference, on September 7 to 10, 2020. Hosted by Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP), African Union Inter- African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR) and the Government of Kenya in Nairobi, this was the first and largest virtual conference on animal welfare in Africa.

The virtual conference brought together participants, presenters, panelists, delegates and session moderators from animal welfare, wildlife and environmental conservation NGOs, government officials and government affiliated institutions, academics, researchers, media, policy makers, legal practitioners, community members, interest groups, development practitioners including representatives of government from 37 countries, of which include 35 from Africa and 2 from Latin America that is Chile and Nicaragua. The conference deliberated on the theme, Animal Welfare, Wildlife and Environmental Conservation for Sustainable Development In Africa: Enhancing Nature-Based Solutions.

The Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC) is an annual conference that brings together professionals, practitioners and individuals to discuss on issues in animal welfare, wildlife and environmental conservation. The vision of the conference is to be a premier platform for animal welfare stakeholders in Africa to dialogue and address circumstances and developments in animal welfare. It aims to stimulate policy development, review and planning in animal welfare in Africa.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic in Africa, a unanimous decision was made to not stop but have the conference take place online. As described by the Chief of the UNEP Civil Society UNEP, Alexander Juras, the virtual conference allowed for more participation and outreach, created more

equality among participants, allowed more flexibility in terms of time and reinforced the appreciation that the ecological footprint is much smaller than that of physical meetings. The AAWC was in itself a response to the pandemic as described by the Secretary of the United Nations, Mr. Antonio Guterres as “...one of the most dangerous challenges this world has faced in our lifetime”.

The conference was initially planned to be a physical conference that would have taken place in Accra, Ghana. However, COVID-19 pandemic altered the scenario, hence the virtual conference.

### Africa Animal Welfare Conference Highlights

Varied information was given by presenters that outlined response mechanisms, fostered education, provided knowledge, presented findings, sought collaboration, inspired ideas, promoted awareness, lobbied strategies and took us vicariously through facing challenges in different countries globally. Many presentations given were a cry for help for aid in sharing information and providing interventions in different African countries.

“**Collaboration, inspired ideas, and promoted awareness.**”



### Animal Cruelty: Working Animals and Livestock in Africa

A delegate noted that the presentations showed gallant efforts by organizations towards protecting animals. As experience has proven, better cared for working animals can mean better livelihoods for people, better access to safe water, easier access to markets, greater gender empowerment and more opportunity for children to get an education. About 4.8 million donkey skins a year were needed by this industry, and in some parts of Africa this had led to donkeys being taken or sold therefore depriving communities of their working donkeys. This is cancelling out what many countries were doing to achieve sustainable development.

It was echoed that a gap is seen in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for failing to acknowledge animal welfare. Delegates urged that it was important that they pay greater attention to animal welfare, given the cruel and unusual punishment that animals are usually subjected to in Africa and elsewhere. In Nigeria, for instance there has been a long-standing conflict between pastoralists and crop farmers. Focus has never been on the animals entangled in this crossfire.

### Food Systems and Food Security

The nature in nomadic culture in Somalia creates a unique problem where the movement of livestock in seeking pasture has caused overgrazing and land degradation. There is great need to revise the country's efforts as there is no progress in agriculture, no plans in protecting terrestrial and aquatic environments. The presenter encouraged his own countrymen to cultivate their own crops to mitigate climate change.

A similar argument stated that in many parts of Africa, grass and feed crops are a cause of deforestation. It was urged that a decrease in livestock production in rural areas and a decrease in meat consumption among the urban and elite populations in the continent should be considered. In decreasing meat consumption and adopting more plant-based options, the continent will have a better chance to be able to tackle the environmental danger caused by the livestock revolution.

In a slight contrary view, a presenter stated that the reality is that animal source foods are considered highly nutritious in malnourished communities therefore there are high levels of consumption in Ghana

and in many other developing countries. However, experts caution that these foods are reservoirs of zoonotic pathogens. Live bird markets are a major concern as it is seen as a source of food safety issues. They cause high mortality and morbidity with associated socio-economic burdens.

### The Covid-19 Pandemic: A Zoonotic Perspective

Two delegates delved deeply into the current situation as the prevalent pandemic presides the continent and its relation to animal welfare. The conference prioritized a look at its possible cause and implored a way forward where pandemics such as this would not occur in future.

A presenter saw that while high income countries have seen little change in the consumption of animal source protein, South East Asia has seen a dramatic increase. The consumption of fish and animal products has doubled. With population growth, increasing meat consumption is likely to continue in low- and middle-income countries. Intense livestock production tends to breed genetically homogenous livestock which increases its vulnerability to disease.

The use and trade of live and dead animals increases close contact between animals and people. Harvesting for wild meat, recreational hunting, trade in live animals and use of animal parts for decorative or medicinal purposes are high risk factors in contracting zoonotic diseases. Other factors that contribute to these include encroaching wild spaces through the development of infrastructure, human habitation, disease incubation period through travel, changes in food supply chain and climate change.

Research indicates that the corona virus is 96 percent identical to the bat corona virus. It is hypothesized that the origin of the unknown pathway resulted in the transmission of SARS-Cov-2 to human beings. SARS-Cov and SARS-Cov 2 may be associated with wildlife harvest, trade practices and intensification of wildlife farming in East Asia.

In many countries, wildlife breeding and wildlife farming were established as wealthy consumers tend to prefer wild-caught animals and is consumed by the growing middle class. The illegal nature of wildlife trade or legal trade that is not well regulated as a result of it not being monitored are opportunities for potential spillover or transmission effects. This also happens when animals are kept in the home and those kept in the zoos.

The presenters delved into ways human beings can manage and prevent zoonoses. Some proposed policy recommendations include taking the One Health approach where linkages are identified between animal, human and environmental health at the local, regional, national and international levels, address degrading habitat, bring in different expertise, raise awareness, improve health governance and engage environmental stakeholders - prevent outbreaks from becoming pandemics, expand science inquiry to include environmental dimensions of zoonotic diseases, financial accounting for societal impacts of zoonotic diseases, enhance monitoring and regulation, stronger biosecurity measures, unsustainable agricultural practices and strengthen animal health.

It was highlighted that the pandemic presented an opportunity to make necessary changes to avoid similar occurrences in the future. A presenter encouraged relationships or partnerships that incorporate viable survival and resilience mechanisms of the value chains and have wholistic approaches that serve communities.

It was pointed out practices such as factory farming, as detrimental to the environment and being key breeding ground of pathogens that easily transmitted to humans. The WHO





**In many parts of the country, donkeys are valued for their strength and hardiness, but the need for donkey skins in other industries sees the livestock being taken or sold, depriving communities of their working animals.**

reports that about 75% of the emerging zoonotic diseases [e.g. COVID-19] originate from wildlife. A strong recommendation was that a conscious approach in the food system that shifts from unsustainable industrial farming towards a future-fit food system on regenerative agriculture.

### Engagement with Global Stakeholders

The UN urged the conference to discuss concrete solutions that governments could adopt to ensure that nature was put at the center of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as recommendations ahead of the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) that will take place in Nairobi, Kenya. There is hope in working out ways in which animal welfare can be put at the center of the nature agenda, at the center of the social and economic agenda so that all could speak of a truly sustainable development agenda.

It came crucial that NGOs play a massive role in being part of the biggest assembly in the world, the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA) where decisions are made on environmental matters. The UNEA process recognizes or the civil society as the stakeholders in the decision-making process that is arrived at by the government.

NGOs' participation was mandated through a resolution made in July, 1996 during a meeting in Rio De Janeiro and is recognized by the Member States. He explained that the civil society engaged with UNEP through nine (9) major groups as follows: Children and Youth; Women; Farmers; Workers and Trade Unions; Indigenous Peoples and their communities; Scientific and Technological community; Local Authorities; Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs); and, Business and Industry (private sector). Therefore, a civil society must be accredited under one of the nine (9) major groups to

qualify for engagement with UNEP.

The civil society represents the voices of the people on the ground, and were in position to give first-hand feedback on the effects of environmental degradation on the ground and also provided transparency that enabled UNEP to get conclusive reports from all parts of the world. Moreover, the partnerships that are created with governments are important as they helped states implement specific projects which involved bringing people together, which was done through a resolution process that validated and vindicated the outcomes. The recommendations from UNEA were passed on to the implementing organizations, such as UNDP, which worked directly with governments.

To be part of it, an accreditation process is required. The criteria for accreditation with United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) through Major Groups and Stakeholders (MGS) was outlined.

Organizations have to be registered with a Member State of the UNEA/Government for at least two (2) years; a non-governmental; not-for-profit making; have a major focus on the environment and/or sustainable development and have an international scope: working in more than one country. It was indicated that the applications could be made through the UN website.

### Conclusion

The 4th Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC) updated and renewed the delegates vision for animal welfare stakeholders in Africa to dialogue and address circumstances and developments in animal welfare. It aims to stimulate policy development, review and planning in animal welfare in Africa.

Through the conference, delegates were able to assert that the linkages to zoonotic diseases are complex and need more research. A one health approach where linkages are identified between animal, human and environmental health presents an avenue in which we can tackle this challenge. It was echoed that education is needed to increase awareness. It is vital that the world learns from the COVID-19 pandemic experiences and build a sustainable, resilient, and inclusive society.

A strong educative process made clear that there is a strong connection between the theme of the conference and that of the upcoming UNEA5 in 2021, which is "Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals". Participants were strongly encouraged to be part of it following the successful virtual conference.

All delegates were urged to acknowledge the challenges ahead but take heart that through collective commitment, knowledge and skills, we would be able to build a better world for animals, and a safe and sustainable planet for all beings.

**“The virtual 4th AAW Conference - Action 2020 was profound! A rich platform that brought together 523 participants amongst them 54 Government policy makers, varied professionals, academicians and relevant practitioners to discuss and resolve matters animal welfare, wildlife and environmental conservation. It is hoped that going forward, the delegates' desire to have an animal welfare resolution at the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA), harnessing on this collaborative spirit, will come to fruition. ”**

- ANAW Executive Director - Josphat Ngonyo

# Animals Across the Globe Nudge the Human Mind to Healing

By Eunice Robai



**Y**ou are feeling frightened and helpless; you have just experienced a violent attack, bullying or a disappointing experience, you may have lost a loved one during the global pandemic, you are likely to be traumatized. Trauma is the response to a deeply distressing or disturbing event that overwhelms an individual's ability to cope. It is the result of extraordinarily stressful events that shatter your sense of security, making you feel helpless in a dangerous world. The more frightened and helpless you feel, the more likely you are to be traumatized. It does not discriminate, and it is pervasive throughout the world. Sources of trauma can be both physical and emotional. For people in such situations, animals come in crucial as they provide special benefits. Animals offer multiple levels of support for their human companions.

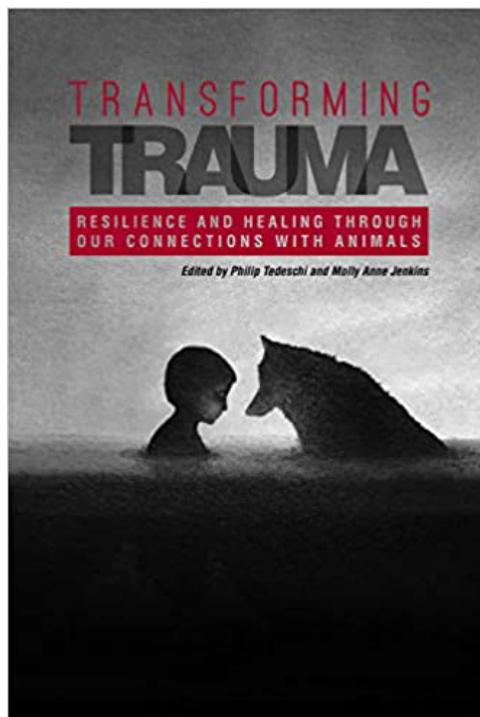
Animal Assisted Therapy is one of the therapeutic approaches that bring a specifically selected animal and person together. Professor Philip Tedeschi and Molly Anne Jenkins from the Institute for Human-Animal Connection (IHAC) in the Graduate School of Social Work at the University of Denver have penned down a book,

**Transforming Trauma: Healing Through Connecting with Animals.** Transforming Trauma is an outstanding compilation of original transdisciplinary essays by renowned scholars that cover a wide array of topics, all of which focus on animals' ability to help people learn the importance of forming and maintaining deep, meaningful, and reciprocal relationships with animals and other human beings. There is significant potential for animal intervention programs designed primarily to benefit humans and their well-being. At the same time, they are firm believers in the multifaceted benefits of connecting with animals—for humans, for animals, for the planet we share, and for all collective (one) health.

In each chapter of Transforming Trauma, the reader will find a thoughtful discussion regarding these and other ethical considerations, as well as specific steps that one can take to protect animals from any harm or distress that may arise during animal-assisted interventions (AAIs) participation.

According to Professor Tedeschi, the relationships we share with non-human animals – *whether through close, personal friendship or brief encounters in therapeutic settings* – are increasingly gaining serious recognition as important components of our health and well-being. This relatively recent development has led to a rapid growth in the study and implementation of Animal-Assisted Interventions (AAIs), particularly for people coping with the trauma of war and injustice, personal and community violence, child maltreatment, large-scale natural disaster, chronic diseases and illness, and profound loss. Despite recent advancements, post-traumatic stress disorder - remains a difficult condition to treat successfully, with various forms of trauma showing treatment resistance. The professor explains that as the risk and rates of trauma-related suicide continue to increase, the need to provide effective and informed treatment options for this population has become more urgent.

In preparation for this book, the professor did a lot of research, practice and went through personal experiences to know the connecting and caring of non-human animals in association with a wide range of therapeutic benefits. In this book, the professor and his co-authors have recorded





studies that show that animals can help alleviate anxiety, reduce depression, provide social support, companionship, and purpose; and even improve physical health. They also found out that when thoughtfully included in traditional treatment settings and interventions, animals may enhance mental health outcomes by strengthening the alliance between therapists and clients and providing a motivating and safe presence for people to engage in therapy. With these steps taken, the benefits may have a powerful impact on one's ability to recover and heal from trauma.

In 2015, the team hosted a conference dubbed "Transforming Trauma: Research Developments and Methods for Trauma-Informed Animal-Assisted Interventions". This event, was held at the University of Denver (DU) as part of our "Animals on the Mind" conference series, offered two days of presentations by their colleagues at DU's Institute for Human-Animal Connection (IHAC) and other inspiring scholars, on the contemporary research, practice, and ethical considerations of AAI for trauma. In addition, they received numerous accounts from their students and other conference participants on how bonding with animals has helped them overcome the challenges of their own trauma histories. Professor Tedeschi has witnessed that people enrolling for the animal-assisted social work program at DU sharing that their interest in AAI stems from personal experiences in which an animal helped them cope with the impacts of child maltreatment, parental divorce and grief related to other losses. Overall, the conference organized helped shape the

primary themes and areas of focus for this book's essays. The book highlights child maltreatment, military service, and crisis response as three main sources of human trauma; advocates for ethical standards and mandates regarding the respectful treatment of individual animals who take part in AAI; and emphasizes on the important and often transformative impacts that human-animal relationships can have for diverse populations, species, and environments across the globe.

The readers of the book will get to know that people thrive through connection with other living beings, but only when animals and their surrounding environment are thriving too. For a person who has experienced trauma, merely seeing an animal who is feeling well and receiving gentle affection may alleviate much of his or her anxiety by signifying that the immediate environment and those within it are safe and non-threatening.

Given that the health of humans, animals, and the planet are all interconnected (otherwise known as the "One Health Nexus"), the role of the social worker as animal-assisted social workers is to underscore the broad impact of treating individual animals with kindness; to recognize the deeply-rooted issues of privilege and oppression that exist in humans' relationships with other animals; and to ensure that ethical standards are established and followed regarding the inclusion of animals in human health agendas, such as trauma treatment. As such, the authors felt that it was essential that animal welfare considerations be discussed as a central theme in this book—one that is as important, if not more so, than

those regarding the improvement of human psychological health through AAI. At a fundamental level, if an animal's well-being is jeopardized during an intervention, that interaction is no longer ethical nor can any meaningful therapeutic transfer take place.





Professor Tedeschi reiterates that social workers are inherently committed to social justice and to elevating the well-being of others, including human and non-human animals, in their social and natural environments which is at the heart of this book as well as their work at the University of Denver. This book's authors target a variety of audiences. They aim to reach a broad audience of transdisciplinary practitioners and researchers (e.g., in the HAI, mental health, animal welfare, and conservation fields), as well as students and the general public (e.g., pet owners). As animals and animal relationships are important to the well-being of people all over the world, the authors intend to draw attention to the culturally diverse AAI practices of their international colleagues. In part, this volume is intended to be a resource to inform and optimize formal AAI practices for people who are struggling with the aftermath of trauma.

It presents an opportunity for readers to rethink their everyday relationships with other animals, and to begin to see the parallels between their own health (or trauma) and that of the animals they cherish, briefly encounter, or never even meet. As human beings are collectively traumatized through witnessing the health decline of our planet and its inhabitants (i.e., "solastalgia"), this book may indeed play an important role in identifying how they may start to repair or transform the damage humans have done through respectful, compassionate, and mutually beneficial human-animal relationships.

The AAI field may be one of the best mechanisms of improving animal well-being by modeling how to respectfully interact with an animal, and through encouraging AAI recipients to provide empathic caregiving based on the animal's individual needs, history of trauma, behavioral and emotional responses, personality traits, and preferences. Integral to this process is an unwavering commitment to applied ethics and ethical standards in the field; in essence, AAI mental health practitioners must also be ethicists. Over time, we have observed that, while well-intentioned, many

## **Mental health practitioners must also be ethicists.**

other disciplines that promote animal well-being have not significantly improved human behavior.

Professor Philip Tedeschi is the Executive Director for Institute for Human Animal Connection at University of Denver in which Molly serves as affiliated faculty and adjunct professor, seeks to intentionally elevate the value of the living world and the interrelationship and health of people, other animals, and the environment. This is accomplished through natural and social science-informed education, applied knowledge, research and advocacy, with an ethical regard for all species. They both work closely with graduate level social work students in the classroom and on a variety of projects.

Their objective is that this book as well as the AAI field as a whole, not only highlights the importance of animals in our own health and recovery from trauma, but also the significance of animal lives and our responsibility to actively advocate for their welfare.





# The Untold Suffering: EAST AFRICA'S DONKEY COMMUNITY OWNERS

By Sebastian Mwanza and Dr. Dennis Bahati

Even as Kenya operationalized four donkey abattoirs for commercial export of its skin, unscrupulous traders turned to Tanzania to feed the waning supply, which came with wanton theft of donkeys along the trade routes, leaving donkey-reliant communities in anguish and economic meltdown.

The final orange-hued rays had appeared on the skyline, which went through the clouds and the prodigious sky was easily visible. And now, the hot bowl had gently come out of its abode across the brilliant orange horizon and glimmered in the sky, just above the tangerine Kenya-Tanzania border hills.

The time is 9:27 AM. A silhouette feeble figure, walking with a cane and draped in green Maasai regalia warily crosses the international beacon-marked border, from Tanzania to Kenya, at the Olposumoru border Point in Narok County, Kenya, headed for a donkey forum at the Chief's camp just a stone throw away. He looks as though a puff of wind could blow him down.

When he was within sight, the old man's deep wrinkles seemed to carve a map of his life on his still agile and mobile facial features. With each movement, there was the creak of old bones, hand tremor, and constant waggling and bobbing of the head. Mzee (loosely translated to mean 'male elder') Ezekiel Morintat, as we would later learn of his name, had a fringe of grey-white hair around his balding, mottled scalp and a back slightly hunched.

After joining the meeting and exchanging normal pleasantries with fellow donkey owners, he quietly latched his seemingly tired body frame on a stone's slab facing the direction to which he had come.

Fifteen minutes later, Julius Lekoole, the Olposumoru area chief called the meeting to order. With the help of a Maasai translator, he introduces Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) Staff and their mission to this sleepy and almost forgotten corner of East Africa's economic powerhouse. When the 27 donkey consultative meeting attendees learn that ANAW staff members are there to discuss the impact of illegal cross-border movement and trade of donkeys and to partner with the community in seeking ways of stopping the prevailing rampant donkey theft, the initial disquiet mood of the meeting suddenly lightens up, and nods multiply.

Eerie silence ensues before the next person shares his or her experience. They painfully absorb and swallow hard as harrowing narratives of donkey loss are shared. Before 2016, when wanton donkey theft visited their village at the border, many of them were keeping an average of 20-70 donkeys per household. Life changed so dramatically when the Kenyan government allowed commercial slaughter and export of donkeys. They all agree that is when their donkeys started missing and could not find them even after reporting the theft cases to the area chief, who jiggled his head in agreement. They learned that their stolen

donkeys were being slaughtered in Naivasha's Star Brilliant Donkey abattoir and wanted ANAW to help them 'talk' to the government to close the donkey slaughterhouses so that they may keep their remaining few donkeys.

Towards the end of the meeting, we notice Mzee Morintat who had introduced himself as a Tanzanian once-a-donkey owner, residing not far from the border had not uttered a word. All through the discussions, his expression was of frustration and fatigue. The world seemed no place for him; he had had enough. He seemed to have had stories to tell, experience danced on his lips like a curious child. And yet he stayed silent, those listless eyes just watching, not telling. His not-so-good memories haunted him, sometimes drawing a tear.

The chief gestured to him to share his story. After clearing his throat, the wizened old man described his life, and we were instantly transported to another place and time. His voice was slow, and he stumbled on his words at times. Sometimes, he was overtaken by emotions that had been buried for years and he would have to pause.

**Makeshift police post at the Kenya-Tanzania border in Olposumoru, Narok County, Kenya. This was one of the alleged routes where stolen donkeys passed through from Tanzania to Kenya.**



**Beacons mark the International border between Kenya and Tanzania at Olposumoru, Narok County, Kenya.**



**Maasai elders meet Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) team in a Focus Group Discussion on donkey cross-border movement at Kona Maziwa near Shompole, in Kajiado County, Kenya.**

“The manyatta where our seven families have stayed for more than four decades had 600 donkeys before 2016. Now we have only eight remaining. We have sold none; all of them stolen at night, and we have not recovered any.” Mzee pauses and continues after whisking a fly away from his weary eyes. “My family has no donkey currently, and yet we had 48 donkeys before 2016. The first batch of 29 donkeys were stolen in March 2017 and the remaining taken away by December of the same year.” He looks down, with his left gnarled hand supporting his stubbled chin and leaning on his walking cane, by his right hand.

His eyes were so heavily lidded and weighed down with wrinkled folds that it was almost like talking to someone asleep, yet he was quite alert. He looked up and in unexpected crescendo said, “Those donkeys were our lives. We drank water because of them. We ate because of them. We moved because of them. They were part of our family. We bewail their disappearance. Life has been hard for my family. At times we sleep hungry. Children sometimes miss school. My wives are now the donkeys themselves...”

With those words, Mzee staggeringly rose. His eyes were wet. Amid difficulty, he started out for the border point, from where he had come. After three steps he abruptly stopped and turned around to face the gathering. Looking directly at ANAW staff he firmly said, “If you can, ask Kenyan government to shut

the donkey abattoirs. Communities that rely on donkeys for their livelihoods are suffering. People are dying.” He then straightened up and with the cautiousness of a calculating chameleon, he proceeded for home, with that resigned look of one who knows that at his age, life had stopped giving and only took away.

Mzee Morintat represents hundreds of donkey owners especially those living on the borderlines of Kenya and Tanzania who have wallowed in the miasma of pain, sorrow, and abject poverty arising from the illegal cross-border trade of donkeys that has continued since 2016 leaving behind a trail of socio-economic destruction.

From Kenya’s Oololaimutia, Olposumoru in Narok County to Shompole, Namanga, Olgulului, and Olmapinu in Kajiado County, deep etched pain and resignation register in the eyes of donkey owning communities; their facial furrows occasioned not by age, but of sorrow and poverty are marks of their endurance. In Tanzania’s Longido, Sinya, Tarakea, and Mgagao regions the story is the same for the donkey dependent communities. The situation is so dire that community elders warn there would be no donkey left roaming the expansive border stretch by 2023 if nothing is done to halt the illegal cross-border movement of donkeys.





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**Maasai elders meet Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) team in a Focus Group Discussion on donkey cross-border movement at Kona Maziwa near Shompole, in Kajiado County, Kenya.**

**“ The manyatta where our seven families have stayed for more than four decades had 600 donkeys before 2016. Now we have only eight remaining.**

**We have sold none. ”**

## When the Rains Started Pounding

Since 2016, Kenya has seen the operationalization of four donkey abattoirs—more than any other country on the continent—that has hitherto driven the ‘beast of burden’ to near annihilation. These entities: Star-Brilliant (Nakuru County), Goldox Kenya Limited (Baringo County), Fuhai Machakos Trading Company (Machakos County) and Silzha Limited (Turkana County) have been slaughtering over 1,000 donkeys every day to quench an insatiable demand for donkey skin products by the Chinese and Asian populace, crippling an already dwindling population of 1.8 million as per the Kenya National Population and Housing Census (2009).

Kenya and Tanzania share a scarcely unmanned border stretch of nearly 769 kilometers with only two official border crossing points (Namanga and Kibauni) along Kajiado and Narok Counties that link the two countries to facilitate socio-economic ties.

According to our sources, the donkey cross-border movement was driven by the soaring demand for donkeys in Kenya induced by better prices offered in donkey markets and slaughterhouses. Unscrupulous traders would pay middle-men mostly Maasai traders around KES 5,000 to ‘get’ donkeys from Tanzania and move them across the border through unofficial routes to Kenyan soil from which they would load them inhumanely on waiting trucks and transport them for days without any nourishment, to slaughterhouses or donkey markets, where they would sell

them between KES 12,000 – KES 15,000 making exorbitant profits, a claim confirmed by the County Director of Veterinary Services in Kajiado County, Dr. Achola Yala. “An estimate of 108,000 donkeys were trafficked into Kenya from Tanzania between 2017 and 2019 through seven unsanctioned and treacherous routes: Ololaimutia, Ilkerin, and Olposimoru in Narok County as well as Shompole, Namanga,” Dr. Yala added.

## The Promise That Never Was!

The promulgation of the Constitution of Kenya in August 2010 promised a fresh epoch for its subjects’ dignity (both human and non-human). One of its key promises was sustainable exploitation, utilization, management, and conservation of the environment and natural resources; while fostering public participation in the management, protection, and conservation of genetic resources and biological diversity. A decade down the course, this realization and conviction is still a transient ambition.

The wanton slaughter of donkeys in Kenya for meat and skin with no regulation or resource allotment towards research and future preservation is contrary to the ideals of Kenya’s 2010 constitution. There exists a massive disparity regarding policy and legal frameworks that are responsible for upholding donkey welfare, public health, and

environmental conservation both at national and county levels. In addition, the lack of a national donkey identification, registration, and traceability system has muddled the tracking and recovery of the animal across the vast border.

## Glimmer of Hope

After a sustained media campaigns against illegal cross-border movement of donkeys by ANAW and Brooke East Africa climaxing on airing of a special investigative piece dubbed #HideousBurden by a regional broadcaster, concerned communities breathed a sigh of relief on February 24, 2020, as Kenya’s Minister for Agriculture and Livestock, Hon. Peter Munya made a landmark pronouncement that the government was banning donkey export trade and subsequently giving the proprietors of the existing four donkey abattoirs a month’s notice to wind up donkey business. Hon. Munya has since published the ban in Kenya’s Gazette Notice to make it a government directive.

However, while this seems to be good news to many, there are fears that this trade is far from over, for it may have just opened the dark door to donkey’s black market. Importantly, with Kenya still reeling under the cancer of corruption, some shrewd businessmen with a keen interest in donkey trade may end up buying their way to have the ban lifted.

This is a re-published feature from The Ubuntu Times. The article, The Untold Suffering of East Africa’s Donkey Community Owners! was originally published on June 18, 2020. Sebastian Mwanza is the Senior Communications Officer at The Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW). Dr. Dennis Bahati is the Programs Manager (Animal Care) at the Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW)



**Donkey owners in an Open Forum Meeting to discuss the impact of cross border movement of donkeys along the Kenya-Tanzania border, at Ololaimutia, Narok County, Kenya.**

# KIDS AND PETS



**D**ogs are very popular pets among growing boys. Bravin Lumbasi, a student at Green View Academy, is such a young boy. Like many other boys, he is fond of his two home dogs, Tesi and Kulu. It is well known in Africa that home dogs are associated with young boys. “Kulu is very sweet and calm when we are at home, but when anyone comes to the door or if she is outside where there are other people or dogs, she gets very hyper”, He shares. “Tesi is not aggressive” he continues, “but she gets very playful and wants to jump at everyone, even total strangers who are just walking by”.

When Bravin is not in school his pets accompany him while looking after his grandfather’s cows. During that time his dogs run around in the bush and can hunt rodents and small animals on their own. They will hunt any mammal that they can catch and kill including hares, squirrels and even birds. “When they run they are very fast I can’t keep up with them sometimes.” Bravin’s pets accompany him everywhere in the village even to the shops. “I only leave them when I am going to school or on a long journey,” he says. “Everyone knows my dogs here” he adds.

Apart from building great memories, having a pet at home serves some incredible purposes when it comes to the emotional development and even physical health for Bravin. A child’s physical, social, emotional and cognitive development can all be encouraged by interaction with the family pet. For children especially, pets can be a wonderful catalyst for socializing. Children are more prone to approach and interact with another child who is playing with an animal, so a pet can be the bridge between a less socially outgoing child and other potential playmates.

“Tesi is Kulu’s son. I shared the other of Kulu’s kids with my friends. Grandma didn’t want us to have many because they will become a nuisance”, he said. “Tesi always starts a fight but then run away from it as first as he started it.

Play time is fun for Bravin and his pets “I’m not really sure how to handle his Tesi’s hyper activeness sometimes, he likes to nip and tug at my clothes and he barks around the home especially when he gets overly excited. Whenever I’m tapping or touching him to

make him stop barking or nipping he seems to get more excited and jumps around and tries to playbite at my hand.

Bravin’s pets are rarely on a leash. We only leash them when we are going for vaccination”, he explains, His dogs are used to walking with him at home and following simple instructions even though they have never been trained. He doesn’t know about Tesi’s father. Other tasks for Bravin include cleaning his pet’s house. The house is also sprayed with acaricides whenever his grandfather’s cows are sprayed.

Bravin is not without some cause for concern about his pets. It has not been smooth sailing with their neighbors periodically harassing his dogs. Some older boys think that it is fun to tease his dogs. Some even



throw stones at his dogs for no reason then complain when they dog barks. “It’s awful” He laments, “They can be laid out enjoying the sun and quiet or taking a walk on the fences and then the neighbor will deliberately make a sound like calling them out to make them bark and then complain that our dogs are not friendly”.

Bravin cannot imagine a life without animals. “I think animals are very important”, he shares, apart from my dogs, we milk our cow and we use its cow dung to smear the floor of our house and also as manure. That is useful”, he concludes thoughtfully.

When asked about accommodating more pets Bravin seems not to be sure of that. “I am happy with Kulu and Tesi”, He responds. “Although I know that Kulu will give birth to other puppies. Bravin does not know about spaying and neutering of dogs. “We always take them to the veterinarian for vaccination only and they give us medicine. When we are spraying our cows we also spray our dogs to protect them from fleas and other parasites.”.

## Practising What They Learn- Animal Welfare Club’s Members Rescues Birds In Their Area

Staying away from school during the pandemic has not made the animal welfare club members halt practicing humane attitude towards animal. Daniel Mwangi and Ibrahim Maina the Animal Welfare Club (AWC) members of Naromoru primary school have been monitoring and educating their peers about how to be kind to animals in their neighborhood.

During one of their visits to Kiserian dam, they noticed something that concerned them, a bird that was struggling to fly on the banks of the dam. This was a time for them to practice what they learn in AWC in school, showing kindness. With nothing else in their hands, they rushed to rescue the birds with their bare hands. Trapping of birds is a hobby for many boys of their age. The snares are usually set on the banks of the dam where birds love. Most birds need freshwater to survive. They take advantage of many natural water sources like the Kiserian dam for preening and bathing, and on hot days, standing in cool water or taking a quick splash that helps them to keep cool.

As they held the birds in their hands, it loved it and couldn’t wait to fly back to freedom. During the animal welfare club learners are educated on the five freedoms. These Five Freedoms are globally recognized as the standard in animal welfare, encompassing both the mental and physical well-being of animals. They include: freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from discomfort; freedom from pain, injury, and disease; natural freedom from fear and distress and freedom to express normal.

The learners are also encouraged to practice what they learn as well as share the knowledge with the communities. They are powerful advocate of animal welfare.

## PROFILE

# Dr. Kelly Shares Kindness with Animals in Rural Kenya

By Eunice Robai

**G**rowing up in Tennessee, Dr. Julie Buchanan Kelly was not sure about becoming a veterinarian. Her first interest was in medicine. She paid more attention to in science, medicine, biology, epidemiology. Veterinary medicine was a later realization. Her joy was always to be outside and take delight in animals and the environment.

Julie started off her journey to achieving her dreams by studying biomedical engineering at The University of Tennessee and was on a journey to be an engineer. It was until she moved from Tennessee to Vale, Colorado when she realized that she had a desire to practice veterinary medicine. The short study at University of Tennessee as an engineer has always had an impact on Julie's life. 'It has always been an added advantage' She says "It helps me out a lot with of engineering stuff and problem-solving issues which I encounter from time to time. She is an alumna of Colorado State University.

### Sojourns in South and East Africa

Dr. Kelly first visited Kenya in 2014 to offer veterinary support. "I was moved by the beauty of the country during my first trip to Kenya and Tanzania, back packing on the slopes of Mt. Kenya", She narrates, "That is when I first fell in love with Kenya, the mountains the grasslands and I have loved how the Kenyan air does feel and I knew I will always come back".

Julie never imagined she would be back in Kenya as a veterinarian. "I never knew it will be in the position of a veterinarian. I went back home and started having my children and it was a time that I didn't get to travel" She said. Throughout that season the dream of travelling again never left her mind.

"One day my husband found this advertisement about a trip to South Africa, it was really designed for students but I wanted to go" she said. The trip was introducing veterinary students to veterinary medicine to South Africa. This gave her a chance to embark on wildlife medicine, which she seldom practices in the US. The professor in Pretoria introduced her to the Capture and Mobilization Veterinary Unit in South Africa. They would capture and move wildlife from one reserve to another to bring ecological balance. "That experience really molded a lot of what I wanted to change".

With the South African experience in, her heart now yearned to head back to East Africa. "When I went back to the US, I wanted to come back to Kenya. I met another veterinarian

called Lisa McCarthy who reached out to me about the trip they were putting together" She conveys. This was a vaccination and ecology trip that was organized through a Kenyan non-governmental organization. "With a brief description I just said yes, Just tell me when!" She modulates. Although they vaccinated a small number of animals, Julie's love for the Kenyan animals had

been aroused. "On that trip it was a very small fraction, it was a small number but I knew I wanted to come back and do more," She confesses, "That was the part that I felt like now I have found something that feels right, something that I really wanted to do".

### The First Veterinary Trips to Kenya

Back in the United States Julie embarked on a plan to travel back to Kenya. She started by putting together a team and a trip which was something new to her. In spite of this being new to her, she managed to work it out with the help of other people. "Through the help of others, I have gotten better, I have many people involved to make these trips a success, I have incredible people who have supported me", She said.

Dr. Kelly who is the veterinary director at VCA Aspenwood Animal Hospital compares her work in Kenya with that of VCA Aspenwood in Denver Colorado, "In the US, veterinarians have access to extensive medical resources" She says. She has vast and varied experience in surgeries, preventive measures, management of chronic disease, orthopedic surgery, physical therapy, advanced oncology and



***“That is when I first fell in love with Kenya; the mountains, the grasslands, and I just loved how the Kenyan environment feels and I knew I will always come back.”***



**“ We had the chance to visit communities where none of the community members have ever received any veterinary care at all ,”**



even cutting treatments such as stem cell therapy. “Surgery can be a real quick fix in the US”, things that require a lot of attention and a lot of effort, a lot of tweaking of medication and follow up”, She adds. These are advanced practices that she does not do while here in Kenya

“There is always something about Kenya that makes you come back, the people are always smiling” She says as her face lights up. To Julie, the trips are the really authentically Kenyan. They get to see wildlife where you observe their natural behavior in their natural environment. “The guides are very knowledgeable about wildlife, and the story behind them.”

### **Spreading the Joys of Kindness to Animals**

She is enamored with her vaccination trips to Africa. “The goal of the trips is to expose the participants to the real Kenya and the real issues so that we can share with others,” said Julie. According to Julie the biggest huddle is that people are not aware of the ongoing animal welfare issues. She is always fascinated to see how much people want to give when they believe in the cause and when they believe that the donations are really going to help.

The trips consist of a diverse group of different backgrounds. Although the team is largely made up of veterinarians and veterinary technicians, they occasionally have teachers, animal rescue workers and human medicine doctors looking at distinct social aspects. The whole approach is to reach out to many people at home and understand how best to support prevent rabies infection. Some of her schoolmates from Colorado University have joined her on the trips. Apart from administering the rabies vaccination, they also give dewormers, treatment for flea and tick diseases as well as distemper medicine. “More importantly, every animal experiences kindness by petting and grooming. It is not only helpful to the animal but rewarding to the people doing it they receive something back too”, advised Dr. Kelly “Kindness to animals is very important”.

During the last trip Dr. Kelly’s delight was meeting some of the community members whose pets she once vaccinated. “It was so lovely to see them proudly pull out their previous years’ vaccination card for us to

see that they are taking good care of their animals.” World Health Organization (WHO) recommends dog vaccination as the most cost-effective strategy for preventing rabies in people. It requires sustained effort to improve disease awareness, community engagements, responsible dog ownership, sustained mass dog vaccination and a cross sectorial collaboration.

“We had the chance to visit communities where none of the community members have ever received any veterinary care at all” narrated Dr. Kelly, “Many community members were fascinated to watch how we were petting animals and that we can trim the nails and put collars. It was a kindness and a gesture [towards animals] that they have never seen before”. With that, they are able to achieve their objectives of demonstrating kindness to animals and how this kindness can hopefully bloom over time and provide community members with happy and healthy animals. This simple step helps reduce the spread of the disease in the homes by reducing dog bite incidences and in the presence of cats in a good environment, reducing rodents around the homes. Dr. Kelly was happy to see more and more people who she attended to last year bring back their dogs with the leashes. “The animals that came back looked so good and I was so happy. And they were happy to show me the cards and I was like, ‘Now we are getting some momentum’. Every year she expands her geographical areas reaching out to more people.

### **An Expedition of Personal Growth**

Dr. Kelly draws her strength from her family that she talks fondly of. She is a mother of three girls - Jenna, Laurel and Rowan, a wife and a veterinary doctor. “My heart and soul is the three girls” She said. Dr. Kelly met her husband Brian Kelly while studying in veterinary school. “He wanted to go to veterinary school too but ended up taking Microbiology and Animal Science”, She narrates affectionately. “Though he is also a certified UEFA Coach, our meeting point is that Brian also [loves and] enjoys animals”, She reveals with a glow on her face.

Her reflection on her family is felt during the trips “The children are very dear to me. As a mother of three children, I look at what

they [the community] have and see that they do not have many privileges like what we have in the US”, She said, “They are so well spoken and the smiles are huge. In one of the schools that we visited, we listened to poetry written by a student which was outstanding and very meaningful. It showed that the children are so happy to have an education’.

Dr. Kelly is always fast and able to detect an ailing animal from a distance. It was not so when she treated her first animal. “I felt very scared to death. I was not confident and totally unsure. I think I may have left the exam room three or four times to go and consult my book” Said Dr. Kelly with a laughter. What took her three hours to do at the beginning of the practice is now completely second nature to her. “I can do in fifteen minutes!” She exclaims, “Before I used to go back and read and reread everything”.

In the US, Dr. Kelly lives and works in the same area. “My patients and my clients are my neighbors and people I know that work where I live. Some are parents at my children’s school in the community where I live”, she explains.

For Dr. Kelly, the most interesting part of veterinary medicine is meeting people. “I like the stories that come with people. I enjoy the kids that come with the animals. A lot of what I do is creating relationships” she said. According to her you need to create a relationship with the people to treat their animals. “Building the relationship is core.”

Her work revolves around small animals, but that does not mean that they are her preferred animals. “I love to play with puppies and kittens. A lot of things that happen to you when you pet a dog and sniff at a cat.” she stated.

“I am also always fascinated with wildlife!”. Dr. Kelly loves to watch different species of wildlife, observing their behavior. “I like to watch the different things that they do, why they do and how they do it, their beauty and the differences between them”.

So, how does Julie balance between a mother, a wife and a veterinary doctor? “Generally, not very well”, She responds with a giggle. “I think I am very fortunate to have a husband that is very patient and kind and knows how this is important to me. We have supported each other. We both have strength and weaknesses. That is what builds a marriage - knowing that your partner has



your back, It is helpful that I have him look after the girls when I am not able to.”

### Career Hurdles and Meaningful Sacrifices

Her journey in veterinary medicine has never been without challenges. In the US, veterinarians have had some of the highest rates of suicide as compared with other careers. To Dr. Kelly, veterinarians have a high sense of compassion for the animals they treat and they want to save them all. They end up working long hours and often suffer fatigue. “We want save them all but we are not able to. Most of what we can do is driven by finances but not everyone can pay for it” she said.

Her motivation for the clinics in Africa is driven by people’s kindness and sacrifices. “I do not worry about the money because I just want to give”. She is always excited to give to the animal shelters and offers volunteering services when she is not working. After her clinics in Kenya, Julie constantly donates to the Kenya Society for the Protection and Care for the Animals (KSPCA), the only animal shelter in Nairobi. “I get excited about donating medication to KSPCA because I feel like that can be very impactful. They can save an animal’s life, cater to its health and find a home for it. It can go on to survive”, she said “That is a big one for me” she adds.

Whenever she is planning for her trips, the time difference and poor connectivity in communication is a major challenge. Dr. Kelly is now on a journey to try and find a balance in her trips and her work in the US and looks for ways to make them more impactful.

She immensely counts on the support of her staff at Aspenwood for the planning. “There is a big buy-in at my office as they prepare for that time., It has impacted my team at my work place. They get excited to help me with the leashes and the collars. They make fliers that reach out to people to get more donations.” She has managed to travel with Lindsey Marie, a veterinary technician supervisor as well as Dr. Yael Farah from her place of work in Aspenwood.

For Dr. Julie, every time she returns from a trip, she feels rejuvenated “I come back, and I am re-energized to be a veterinarian again, I live off these experiences to keep me going. I think about these patients and I wonder how they are doing”. New friends and new

relationships are also created during the trips. “I always come hoping to make new friends, we come not knowing each other but by the time we leave, we know more about each other than we could have imagined over a short period of time”. Her struggle is that she wishes to do more next time she travels.

### Sage Words on Adventurous Experiences

Her tip for those who wish to travel is that they have an open mind. “Sometimes things do not go as planned but when you open your eyes there is always something to learn, an adventure to see something that will stay with you for a lifetime. I always visit expecting to make friends.”

The most memorable moment for her is when her family is proud of her. “I come back and my daughters become so proud of me. I know I have been able to help many animals and I know I have improved the quality of lives of countless animals and their owners”, she said, “But it is that moment that my daughters are proud of me and they tell everyone that their mum is a veterinarian and she helps animals here and in Africa. She helped a giraffe, or she helped my friend’s dog and she makes a difference in the lives of many animals. “It touches my heart. To me, there is nothing that I am prouder than that.”

They have a lot of puppy issues in Denver. Her daughters are so proud that they have told many of the people that their mother is a successful veterinarian. They talk to people about how their mother can take care of their [the community’s] dogs. Funny enough, they have called and Dr. Kelly has been able help their animals too. “I have all this knowledge in veterinary science. I can do surgery, I can heal broken bones, I can take tumors off, I can treat infection I can vaccinate for disease but when your children are proud of you that is a big thing for me”



## What next for Dr. Julie?

“ My hope is to continue touching lives, healing animals and raising my children to be responsible kind loving adults. I want continue travelling and use my veterinary medicine skills to make the world a little bit better ”



## ANIMAL WELFARE

# The birth of a mobile clinic in Nairobi City

I kept seeing a brown dog that had puppies every six months, she was always starving and trying to feed the puppies that mostly seemed to not survive. It took six months to get a dog trap across town and 17 minutes to trap this particular dog! I called her Brown Eyes. She was vaccinated, treated for Nairobi Bleeding Disease and spayed. She was adopted out to a terrific family. The idea was born from watching her for so long as we had to catch her before we could treat her. If we had a mobile clinic, she could have come off the streets and not had three additional litters of puppies and several more years of suffering.

I started to research ideas of how to take vaccination and spay/neuter services to rural and low-income areas. A mobile clinic seemed the best way. I selected a few Kenyan animal loving friends and acquaintances and asked if they would consider being trustees for the project (little did they know what they were signing up for!) The next step was finding a lawyer to draw up the Trust documents for us, after several versions, we became a Kenyan registered trust. Thus, The TNR Trust was officially launched.

We had been rescuing dogs and cats during this time while we got ourselves organized with the founding Trust documents. We took in animals in need whenever we had a place or a foster home for them. Our veterinarian bills were mounting, although we had several good veterinarian clinics giving us significantly reduced rates. One of our trustees built six indoor/outdoor kennels and two quarantine kennels on her property, to help us cut our costs to allow us to meet our goals of building and running the mobile clinic. We have since had the kennels inspected and we have received an exemption on paying the dog license tax for our fosters, but we ensure that our adopters that live in Nairobi receive the information and are told they must apply.

During the next few years, we rescued dogs and cats and spayed/neutered and either returned them to their habitat or if that was not possible, we rehomed them. TNR Trust uses a contract and we follow up to ensure that the dog or cat is a good match for the family and we also follow up to ensure the dog or cat is spayed/neuter to prevent future litters!

During this time, we also started to fundraise heavily, everything from movie nights to art auctions, we sold raffle tickets and car seat covers, we even had a Tequila tasting! This covered our day to day expenses.

I started to research what a mobile clinic could consist of and how to lay one out. We met with a builder and determined we could have one made in Kenya. Then we sat down in the kitchen of one of our volunteers, a Canadian veterinary technician, she was fostering a rescued TNR dog with a broken and pinned leg for us. We used a sewing tape and piece of notebook paper and pencil to get started on a layout. We measured everything; cabinet heights and widths, overhead counters, how much space two people might need standing back to back (in case we arranged the surgical tables that way).

We also used info from designs we found online of other mobile clinics to see what might or might not suit us. When we were stuck on veterinary issues, such as size of surgical tables and where we needed space for certain equipment, we were able to ask practicing veterinarians from within Kenya and even other veterinarians outside of Kenya that had worked in similar mobile clinics for spay/neuter. We are very lucky that one of our trustees is a trained commercial designer, she was able to take our erased and rewritten notebook pages and turn them into real drawings!

In the meantime, we received amazing news that a very generous Kenyan-born donor had agreed to fund building the mobile clinic. So, the work was started! Unfortunately, work took much longer than anticipated and at one point several of the trustees went to the builder weekly to check on the work. We donned our required high vis safety vests and tried to hurry them along.

At the same time, we also had been

**“If we had a mobile clinic, she could have come off the streets and not had several more years of suffering.”**

researching solar, inverter and generator to make us completely self-contained. We planned a couple of bigger events - Art Auction, Dinner event at Tribe Hotel and a Posh Picnic in Kiambu to pay for the generator, solar inverter and also the surgical equipment and necessary high ticket items, such as autoclave, digital scale and microscope.

We met with the Kenya Veterinary Board (KVB) in October 2018 to show them the drawings and to start the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) process with them. We worked on this while the mobile clinic was being finished and fitted out with the power sources.

Out of the blue, TNR Trust received a very generous offer from within Kenya to pay for the salary of our Kenyan veterinarian, Dr. Desmond Tutu. In order for our mobile clinic to be licensed we had to have a KVB registered veterinarian and that salary and benefits was a fixed cost that must be catered for. The mobile clinic was finally finished up and we had hired our veterinarian, so the final inspection with Dr Paul Marigi of the KVB was completed and our permit was issued on January 10, 2019.

After our permit was issued, the race was on to order our consumables, do a test run on using the clinic to spay/neuter while parked minus the campaign part. We also recruited volunteers of all ages from veterinary students to seniors, we also did some training with volunteers on the already completed children's education component and volunteers to handle registration. (60)

On March 16 and 17, 2019, we launched in Kiambu County at Garissa Primary School, with Joseph M. Kamau, Minister of Agriculture, Livestock, Fisheries and Irrigation speaking about our new approach to tackling the rabies and pet overpopulation problem by bringing services to those in need. The Kenya Veterinary Board was also in attendance to see how the vaccination and spay/neuter could work in a field setting and to ensure all requirements were being met. We had a bang up first campaign! Our

volunteer veterinarians were led by our own veterinarian, Dr Desmond Tutu, with veterinarians from KESCAVA, University of Nairobi and the local county vets participating, too. A total of 514 dogs and cats were vaccinated in two days, thus keeping their families and neighborhoods safe from rabies.

The animals were dewormed, too. A total of 35 animals were sterilized in the mobile clinic in the two days there. 80 children went through the educational program designed to teach children how to prevent dog bites, what to do if bitten and how to be kind to animals and some basic care for their pets. All visitors to our events go home with an informational flyer in Kiswahili about rabies.

April 25 and 26, 2019 saw us in Kiambu County again at Witethie Presbyterian Church near the Administrative Police Camp. Together with the sub county veterinarians, we vaccinated 237 dogs and cats and 28 animals were sterilized. 70 children went through the educational program.

On May 25, 2019 a Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) program was held by two vets from Thika Sub County at Nyacaba Presbyterian Church. TNR provided the vaccines and assisted with the vaccinations, ensuring another 130 animals and their families were protected against rabies.

Our biggest yet was in Kibra! On, June 15 and 16, we set up our campaign on the soccer field near the Chief's Camp and got to work. In total, we did 858 rabies vaccinations of dogs and cats in Kibra and 123 sterilizations of dogs and cats! 250 children went through the education program during the two days. It was a great weekend.

We also use the mobile clinic one day per week. Potential clients are screened, and then came to us for free or reduced cost service. We have sterilized and vaccinated against rabies more than 60 animals in the clinic with the fees set on a sliding scale to help those that need the service but can't afford the total fee.

We are currently gearing up for August 10 and 11, 2019 at Mwioko Chief's Camp, Kiambu County. On World Animal Day, TNR Trust will partner with KSPCA Kenya to tackle another hotspot where there have been reports of dog bites and rabies. This will be in Kamukunji on August 24 and 25, 2019. This method of vaccinating and humanely reducing the population is recommended by World Health Organization (WHO) as culling by poison and shooting is only a short-term fix that can lead to more unvaccinated and unsterilized animals taking over the area.

So far, we have vaccinated 2,168 dogs and cats and sterilized 279 animals and done children's education for 570 children. The numbers will just continue to climb!

In a reference to an old 1980's movie, The TNR Trust Mobile Clinic is the Field of Dreams Mobile Clinic, if you build, they will come. We have literally talked the mobile clinic into existence.

## PROFILE

# A Maasai Warrior Avenges the Unpredictable Black Death

By Luke Maamai

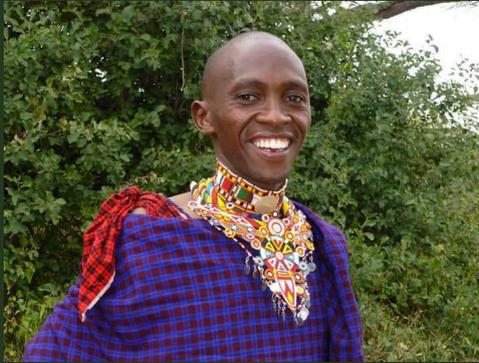
**M**y name is Luke Keloi Maamai. I was born on June 24, 1984. Back in 1982, my father who had three wives moved my mother, the youngest wife, to a place called Isinet, about 60 km away from my father's home to be in charge of farming our family food and taking care of the youngest children.

Two years after I was born, a terrible war broke out between two different Maasai clans- the Kisongo and the Kaputei. Unfortunately, our family home was just on the border of where the two Maasai clans meet so our community was hit very hard with the ongoing battle. All of our friends and neighbors went south to be closer to other Kisongo Maasai. But my father, who at the time was a very old man and who was highly respected as a leader made a decision: He told everyone in the community to leave and he would stay and make peace with the Kaputei.

He and another wise old man remained. They waited patiently in his home for two days and to our disbelief, when the Kaputei arrived, they speared my father - he did not even have a chance to speak a word. The other man who was with him sustained serious injuries, but he survived to tell the tale. It becomes a very difficult time for my whole family, more so for my mother who had four small boys who needed care and education. In addition, there was a very bad drought after the war, and we lost most of our livestock. To this day, I owe everything to my mother who found a way to educate all four children without a job or a husband. This is almost unheard of for a Maasai woman, especially in the 1980's.

In 1989, I was enrolled in Isinet Primary School and I was one of the highest ranked students after eight years in primary school. In 1997, after passing my final exam I joined Kimana High School. I was fortunate that my mother was able to sell enough crop products to pay for my secondary school fees. To make matters more complicated, my older brother was at the same school a few years ahead of me. My mother had to borrow money from friends and family to pay both our schools fees. To her, education was a priority.

During my junior year mid-term holiday in 1999, I was faced with yet another catastrophe. Normally when I am home during a school break, I help out with herding our livestock. One Sunday, I took our cows towards the nearby swamps so they could get water and was shocked to find that they were burning because of toxins that were dumped into the water up stream.



As I was trying to chase the cows away from the burning swamps, all of sudden, I saw a massive black figure in my peripheral vision. It was a lone adult male buffalo and he was coming toward me. There was absolutely nowhere for me to go. My choices were to either I jump into the burning swamp or let the buffalo maul me. I quickly lay down on my stomach and closed my eyes. The buffalo

**“ I dreamed to have a job so that I can buy a weapon ”**

ran on top of me and threw me in the air using his massive horns. Almost of all my ribs broke and my skull cracked open. The animal threw me to the burning swamp and followed to kick me. I screamed for help, but no one could hear me. Once the buffalo had lost interest after some time, he left. I had to drag myself down the path for two kilometers until someone could see me.

I was taken to a nearby hospital, but they were unable to help me since they lacked the appropriate equipment to drain the excess amount of blood in my body. I was then rushed to a hospital in nearby Tanzania for treatment. After four months in the hospital, I was released and had missed a full term of school. I had to redo the school term, albeit still recuperating from my accident. Finally, in 2000, I graduated from high school. This is an experience I will never forget. Every single moment I reflect about wildlife, I feel so bad and wonder why God brought them to this world. I did not know why they existed when they only tormented us. Our old parents kept telling us that they belong to women and because women did not care to bring them home, they went and became wild.

After joining college in Nairobi, I dreamed to have my first job to buy a weapon to finish any stray buffaloes around my community or even use what would be available to revenge the hostility attack. The year 2008 was a lucky year for me. As luck would have it, I got my first job.

I went to the base of Chyulu Hills to meet a lion conservation group called Lion Guardians. My mission was to look for a job but I was not sure what kind of a job I would get from this group. I first introduced myself and narrated my bad experience with wild animals and the director of the organization was deeply touched. She started telling me how dangerous wild animals are and how important they are to our communities and to the whole world. The feeling I got from buffaloes was not going to go away but one thing that came to my mind was that I was going to protect a species that kills buffaloes so I should feel and motivate myself. I would build a good relationship with lions to feed on buffaloes as a revenge for my attack.

The Lion Guardians give focus on training local community warriors to protect lions within their communities. As a Maasai, training on tracking different wildlife species start when we are young boys while herding so that when they grow to be warriors, it becomes an easy exercise for them in the field. The organization also build awareness in all other community members to love wildlife as part of a resource to milk. In addition, the collect lion data on movements, sightings, depredation, lion mortality and responding to stop any lion conflicts before it happened. e.g. when livestock are killed or when they are reported lost in the bush.

My relationship and love for wildlife started when I knew that even the domestic animals can be dangerous. As a pastoralist, I know that domestic animals can cause injuries and death and how it is important to treat them the well if I am to achieve my purpose in keeping them. My life completely changed from strongly disliking wild animals especially buffaloes to now being a community ambassador protecting wildlife and training others to build awareness and co-existence for the better future of wildlife and people.

I got so many training and travel opportunities outside Kenya to talk about wildlife, community conservation in US, UK and Tanzania. I believe and trust that wild animals are in our hands as communities and we should accept sharing land and peace with wildlife like it was in the past. Finally, let us protect wildlife for the better future and benefits for the current and future generations to see.



# Exploring

## the Nairobi wilderness

### Ebenya Pursues Africa: A Journey Within Spins into An Adventure in the Nairobi Wilderness

By Catherine Chumo

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Ebenya knocked at the gate of Hotel Troy for the watchman to open with an urgency that could have woken up the whole neighborhood. The rain was coming down hard and her white dress and her tweed fedora hat were drenched. She fervently hoped that the watchman was at his post a little beyond the gate...







**T**he quiet hotel located 10 kms from Nairobi city center, about 40 minutes from Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. Though situated along Magadi Road, the hotel was surrounded by nature with Vervet monkeys darting as bush babies watched from nearby trees. Ebenya had visited when Nairobi was experiencing the short rains.

She let out a breath of relief when she saw an umbrella open and a young man jog towards the wooden brown timbered gate with a jungle green metal. He opened and covered her head as he gave her the extra umbrella. She opened it and followed him. The receptionist offered a white fluffy towel when they got into the house and she took it as she thanked the watchman. Wiping her wet brows and hair, she made a bee line past the lounge to her room where she got into the bathroom. She let the rainwater dripped to the floor of the bathroom and stared at the mirror.

Ebenya had decided to take time off from work. She worked at a high-paying corporate organization in Botswana but now had the desire to work in the field of wildlife conservation, specifically, in animal welfare. She made a decision to travel to Kenya on impulse. It was a personal quest. She had come to attend an international conference, the 2nd Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC), so she could understand and question more about what she wanted

to do in her life. She also came to the country to explore varied landscapes and go on safari to see wildlife different from the ones in her homeland. Ebenya had come to understand that Kenya was one of the biggest safari capitals of the world.

She had always been aware that her country had one of the biggest, most beautiful wilderness areas in the world. She was immensely proud that she came from the home of the Kalahari Desert, Makgadikgadi Pans and the Okavango Delta, UNESCO's 1000th World Heritage Site. Botswana has been mentioned to be home to the largest elephant populations of African Elephants and endangered wild dogs globally.

Her exploration of the wild led her to sighing during sunset in mokoro canoe cruises along the Chobe River. She had watched buffaloes, crocodiles, hippos and several water birds, as the mokoro made its way through shallow reeds and papyrus. Viewing game during foot patrols drew her to learning a bit about what was involved in protecting the precious creatures. She struggled with herself for two years now on embarking on a conservation career. Can she do what she set out to do? Will she do right by quitting her current high paying career in corporate as a Public Relations Director?



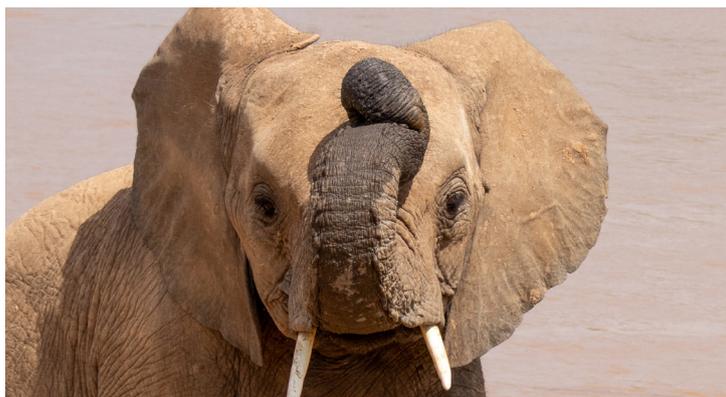
A light tap at the door brought her out of her reverie. When she opened, a housekeeper introduced herself and brought in a tray of hot chocolate. “Sorry about the rain, Madam. It was so sudden. We did not expect it”. She said as she set it on the bedside table.

“There’s no problem. It wasn’t any of your fault.” She responded. She had to admit that the place actually did her some good despite how she was feeling. She had had her doubts, but she was happy to be there. The gleam of the beautiful chandelier reminded her of home.

A hot shower and a sound nap put her to rights. She sat up and journaled her thoughts until it was time to have supper. The conference was scheduled to start two days later. She was happy to get advice from the receptionist on places she could go and visit in the town. In the next two days, her visits filled her heart with such excitement and swayed her thoughts on her next move in her career.

### **A Roll in The Mud!**

A gasp escaped when she watched small elephant calves running from the bushes, trunks raised as they received bottled milk from the keepers. She heard the head keeper explain who each elephant calf was, where and which circumstances they were rescued from. The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (DSWT) was only 30 minutes away from Hotel Troy. The Trust rescued calves that fell into pits, wells or deep-water trenches. DSWT also rescues ones that are abandoned or orphaned, mostly victims of poaching in protected and non-protected areas. Even though there were so many elephants at her home country, she excitedly adopted Saumu, an elephant calf, after the sessions with the elephant calves. She would be able to track the progress of how her calf was doing. She was proud to be a parent.



**“ She watched small elephant calves running from the bushes, trunks raised as they received bottled milk from the keepers. ”**

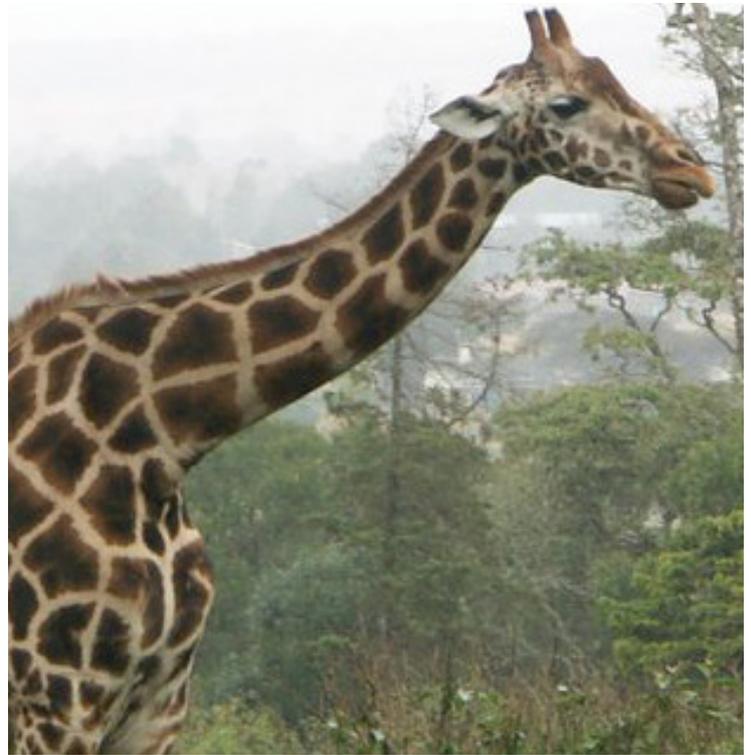
“ She jumped into the waiting landcruiser. ”

### Giraffe Kisses!

A short afternoon Uber ride from Hotel Troy led her to an unlikely find! From the entrance of the Giraffe Center, she could see long necks of the tallest mammal on earth. She wanted to pinch herself to make sure it was real as she hand-fed the giraffes, but she was afraid the nuggets in her palm would fall to the ground. She was frightened but she managed to feed the giraffe using her mouth as had been shown to her in what was known as the Giraffe Kiss.

Giraffe Center was created and run by African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW), a non-profit organization in Karen. This was one of the few sites in Kenya that breeds and protects the endangered Rothschild Giraffe, one of nine subspecies of giraffes across the world. In 2016, it was estimated that there are only 1,669 Rothschild giraffes remaining in the wild. Ebenya could see families of warthog snuffling in the mud around the property.

She took a deep breath as she looked out the window of her Uber as she made her way back to the hotel. After dinner that evening, she soaked in the bathtub and read a book before retiring for the night.



### Spotting Lions and Peering Eagles!

5.30 am found Ebenya at the gate of Nairobi National Park purchasing a ticket. The receptionist had advised her that game drives are best experienced in the early morning or late evening. She reluctantly chose to leave her warm cozy covers at 4.30 am. After grabbing a flask of coffee and a delicious mandazi prepared by the chef, she jumped into the waiting Landcruiser.

The ticket office only accepted payment by credit card or MPESA. Her card was swiped. In a few minutes, she was on the dirt road that opened up to the African wilderness, a direct contrast to the busy town and highway she had come from. She laughed as she saw the baboons walking along the road. She watched wildebeests running, zebras swishing their tails, antelopes jumping over bushes, a crocodile slinking off into the water and lions stalking a prey. The call of the African Fish Eagle startled her. The eagle perched majestically on a tall acacia tree. She took a moment to watch a family of rhinos grazing at sunrise as she brought out her flask of coffee. Nairobi National Park, she learnt, was a key habitat for buffalos, leopards, cheetahs, lions, wildebeests, baboons, zebras, antelopes, gazelles, dik-diks and giraffes among numerous other animals. It was home to 400 migratory and endemic bird species. Ebenya was able to spot most of these animals during the game drive.



## Into the Woods!

In the afternoon, Ebenya cycled through The Karura Forest Reserve just at the outskirts of Nairobi. She loved it as one could take in the fresh air as the walk or jog through the woods. Exploring Karura Forest revealed a waterfall, archeological sites, caves, bamboos, marshland and groves of indigenous trees.

Nobel Laureate Prof. Wangari Maathai fought tooth and nail for the preservation of Karura Forest. Estate developers had tried to grab massive areas of the north and central sections of the forest. The Professor's legacy is seen in the flourishing indigenous trees and thriving 200 bird species in the reserve. Ebenya was lucky to see a suni, a Harvey duiker, a Colobus and a Sykes monkey. She understood that the forest was also home to bush bucks, bush pigs, honey badgers, civets, bush babies, genets, porcupines and fruit bats.

As she retired to bed that night, Ebenya felt happy that she made the decision to visit the country, particularly Nairobi. Kenya was different from her country in many ways. Much like her home country, the people were warm, friendly and fun to interact with. The animals that lived in the savannah, forests, mountains and rivers were breathtaking. Even having lived and worked in different countries all her life, she marveled at the richness and diversity the continent had to offer. Her travels to different African countries unwrapped this marvelous gift and made her proud to be part of such a remarkable continent.

Ebenya had a chance to register and become an ANAW Network Member, a membership group run by Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) that engaged the public in animal welfare initiatives. Having this network would help her understand what animal welfare and wildlife conservation has to offer and connect with those of similar interest.

She was thrilled with her visit and attendance of the Africa Animal Welfare Conference. She did believe that animals need the freedoms; freedom from hunger and thirst, discomfort, pain, injury and disease, to express normal behavior and fear and distress. Despite this, she knew she had to make the right decision for herself. She made the life-changing decision that forged the future of her dreams.

What (and why?) do you think was her decision?

**Find out what happens next in the next Animal Welfare Magazine edition.**

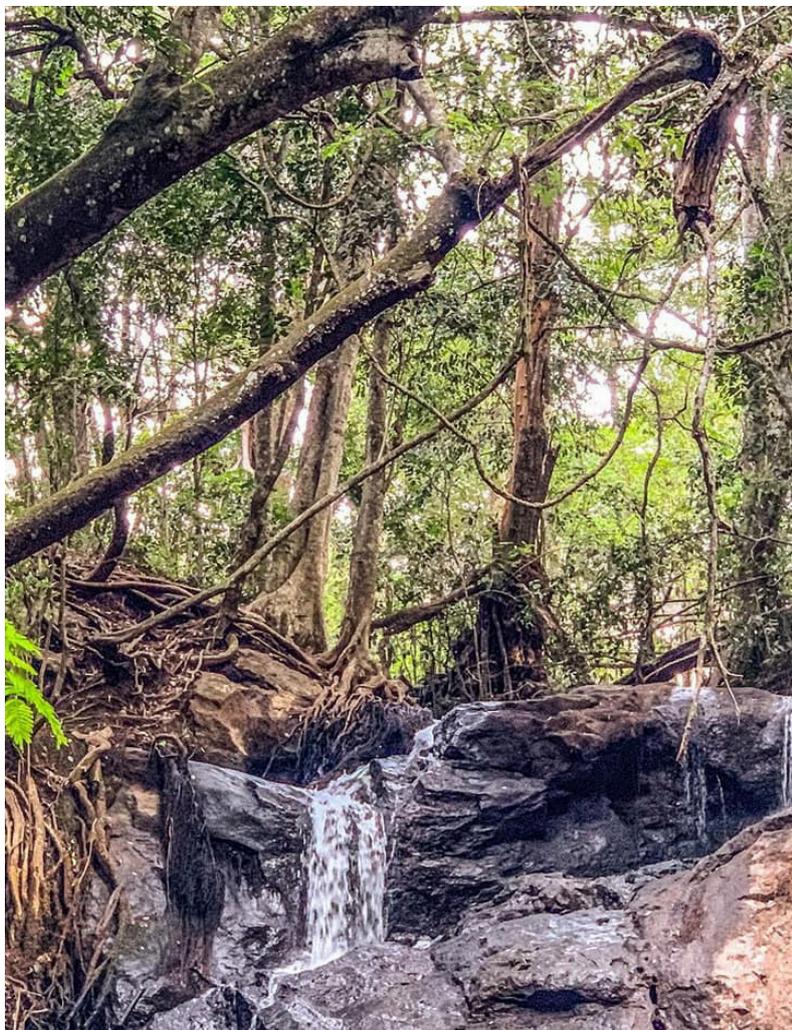
The Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC) is an annual conference hosted in any one of the 54 African countries. The conference's mission is to bring together animal welfare stakeholders to deliberate on critical issues affecting animals, their value and their contribution to socio-economic development in Africa.

To learn more, please visit [www.aawconference.org/](http://www.aawconference.org/)

To experience Kenya and take part in a meaningful way by being a volunteer or intern or simply have an animal welfare experiential learning experience in Kenya with ANAW, please visit [www.anaw.org](http://www.anaw.org)

If you desire to donate or give financial support to ANAW, please visit the "Get Involved" section on our website or contact [partners@anaw.org](mailto:partners@anaw.org)

Please contact [networks@anaw.org](mailto:networks@anaw.org) to become an ANAW Network Member to give an opinion or take part in an animal welfare campaign project... You do not have to quit your job.



## EDITORIAL

# Finding Earth's balance with the help of social workers

By Jennifer Tuuk

### Conservation Social Work

What is Conservation Social Work? What is One Health? What do you plan to do with that? These are a few of the common questions I am now asked regularly since enrolling in University of Denver's (DU) Graduate School of Social Work with the unique concentration called Sustainable Development and Global Practice (SDGP). However, none of these questions have an easy short answer, so I chose to dig deeper and attempt to simplify them in hopes to provide a better understanding because social workers and their expertise are needed in all fields, including in conservation.

First and foremost, the world is made up of a multitude of interconnections, similar to a spider web. In social work terms, these are called systems. For example, ecosystems are equally about humans, animals and the environment because our survival depends on the water, food, and oxygen that they provide. Humans are the only species who do not give anything back to the ecosystem in return. To break this down further, plants provide oxygen and food to humans and non-human animals (animals from here on for ease of reading). The plants rely on the animals, including birds, bees, and fruit bats, to spread their seeds and pollinate them. Animals, such as oysters, provide humans with food, and their role is to filtrate water and keep it clean for fish and other species, which humans also eat. In order to provide food, however, the needs of the animals must also be met. They rely on the environment, which plants provide, and they need water and other animals for food. These systems of reliance that the environment and animals provide for us are called ecosystem services. Therefore, we must respect and protect the environment and all species because the water, clean air, and food that Mother Nature provides are the exact resources that give humans life.

With that said, Conservation Social Work can be most simply defined as the work carried out by people trained with a social justice lens and ethical responsibility to improve the conditions globally of humans, non-human animals, and the environment. Much of the training in this field revolves around the One Health

concept, which is a global collaborative approach to achieve optimal health and well-being for humans, non-human animals, and the environment with recognition of their interconnections. As exhibited in the diagram below, if any one part of this triad is suffering, all suffer.

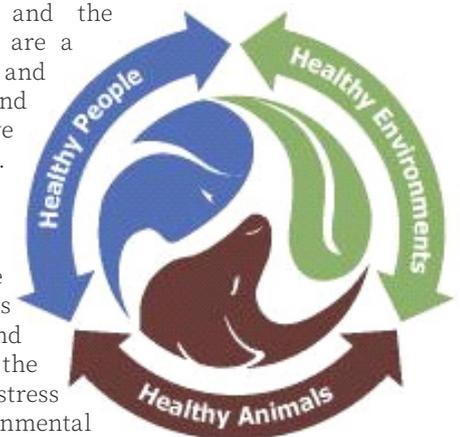
### My Personal Journey

So how did I end up in this field? Let me start by saying that it has been a windy road arriving at this point. Similar to most people, I had no idea prior to finding this program that there was a social science side to conservation work. From an early age, I was exposed to nature, wildlife, and different cultures. Ever since a high school trip to the Peruvian rainforest, I have dreamed of working outdoors on wildlife conservation projects. However, that dream was crushed temporarily during college when the biology track that I had chosen turned out to be

geared toward the medical students rather than ecology. I ended up with degrees in Anthropology and Spanish, but I still dreamed of working with wildlife and had no idea how to combine these interests into a career. Since then, I have had a wide variety of experiences around the globe with both people and animals, but I felt as if I were spinning in circles until I came across this master's program that combined my passions. Now reflecting back, what seemed like a long circular journey was actually shaping my entire career and setting me up for success as an interdisciplinary social scientist.

### Social Worker Involvement in Conservation

So why are social workers involved in conservation? This is another common question asked, even within the social work community. First off, we have a moral and ethical responsibility to protect and advocate for the equity of all three triads because of the intersections between them. Second, conservation work is as much about people as it is about other species and the environment. Humans are a part of the biological and ecological systems, and the land that we live upon is our community. However, we have been irresponsible with our behavior and have altered many of the ecosystems, which is impacting our health and well-being. Solastalgia, the physical and mental distress caused by environmental change, is rapidly increasing, and it is affecting the vulnerable, poor communities the most, even though



they are causing the least harm. This may include the grief and loss, stress, and depression caused by natural disasters, disease, droughts, flooding, fires, and more. Also, for the first time ever, more people are living in urban areas than in rural areas, which means illnesses and diseases spread faster, and many people have become disconnected with nature, thus contributing to more mental health issues.

### **Social Work Contributions**

In 2015, the SDGP concentration at DU emerged. However, the majority of students still come for the traditional mental health track, so that tends to be the focus of the required courses outside of my SDGP concentration classes. This forced me to think outside the box and break down the assignments in order to find the relevance to my career goals. All social workers are taught to think about person-in-environment when assessing clients, but the natural environment is often left out even though it is our entire community that we depend upon. The interconnections between humans, animals, and the environment have been known for centuries, yet science is just beginning to catch up. For too long, biologists, social workers, and many others have been stuck in their unique domains without recognizing the human dimensions intertwined in the environmental issues.

Conservation Social Workers, however, promote collaboration between disciplines with the understanding that effective conservation programs require community engagement and advocacy. If communities do not engage in the conservation programs, then the barriers that are keeping them from being involved, such as language and access, need to be addressed. Long-term protection of the natural environment and earth's biodiversity is not possible without educating others and empowering them to be fundamental leaders of change. DU also has an Animal-Assisted Social Work Certificate that I am completing, but I have adapted it to my interests on how communities globally view and treat domestic and wild animals. Through this, I have learned that humane education, which encourages compassion and respect for all living beings, is extremely important. Initiating it with children is key because they are our future leaders and policymakers.

Conservation Social Workers are also trained with a social justice lens on the global societal systems. This lens has caused me to proceed with caution because relationships could also be fractured if they are not built with the proper intentions and respected boundaries. When visiting new communities around the world, I am now thinking much more critically because I am more aware of my white privilege. What does it mean to work in a community that is not my own? Do I even have a place working in a culture foreign to me? I often find myself wondering whether or not my ideas and Western perspectives would be welcome, but I also know that being humble can go a long way in building trustworthy relationships. I have learned that active listening and learning from local people are both keys to helping and empowering a community. Otherwise, too many assumptions are made on what outsiders think a community needs, which typically results in ineffective quick fixes to problems without addressing the root causes.

As part of my social work graduate program, I have had opportunities to observe various One Health problems and solutions globally. I completed a summer internship in China at the Chengdu Panda Base observing panda and visitor behavior. A workshop was also held with local social work students, which involved careful listening and respectful discussions on various topics, and it was a learning experience for everyone to discover that many similar issues exist in both China and the United States. An international course later led me to Kenya, where my group was based at the Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) headquarters just outside of Nairobi. As soon as I arrived, their commitment to animals and the environment became obvious through their beautiful landscaping, domestic pets, and eco-lodge overlooking a natural area with several bird species and other wildlife. East Africa is a huge contributor to the world's biodiversity, and it was a trip of a lifetime for me to be able to work alongside scientists and local communities on human-animal conflicts. Both of my experiences in China and Kenya were centered around building relationships and sharing individual perspectives to help each other learn and grow.

### **Global One Health Violations**

Due to human behavior, One Health violations of all kinds are in abundance globally, but my focus has been on human-animal conflicts. Poaching and the bushmeat trade are common issues in many countries, including Kenya, but I have come to learn many of the systems embedded in the problem. Many conservationists see the problem and immediately try to ban the practices for the sake of protecting the animals, but this can sometimes intensify the problem. This is because the human dimensions are often overlooked. Poaching and bushmeat provide food and income to individuals and families who may be fighting for their own survival. The typical regions of the world where poaching is common are frequently areas with various indigenous tribes who have lived off the land for centuries. Conservationists may not realize the harm they are causing those people who likely don't have any alternative sources of food or income. Sometimes the bushmeat is also labeled as a different type of meat and sold at the market, which causes public health concerns because it has more potential to spread disease. Therefore, the problem is much more complex than it appears on the surface, and a Conservation Social Worker could help to find common ground.

Another example of a One Health violation is the bear bile industry in China and Vietnam. As a quick overview, Asiatic black bears are critically endangered, but they continue to be taken from the wild in order to be kept in cages for their stomach bile to be extracted for traditional Chinese medicine, cosmetics, and other household products. Despite having inexpensive herbal alternatives available with research proving similar medicinal properties, the bear bile farming continues to be a problem. Due to the poor conditions, many of the bears are sick, resulting in public health warnings for consuming any products containing the bile. Similar to poaching and the bushmeat trade, the people involved in the bear bile farming are also making an income to feed their families, so consequently, humans and the natural ecosystems are all affected to varying degrees.

This view of animals being only for human use is also a historical and cultural norm, so humane education is key to raising awareness and introducing alternative options to the current issues and the harm these practices are causing.

Modern development has also disrupted the One Health concept because, rather than coexisting, humans are infringing upon the habitats of other species. One example is the black-tailed prairie dog, native to Colorado, USA. Their population has nearly been wiped out due largely to expanding cities and farming. Myths about them spreading plague and other issues have also spread over the years, and their small size seems to cause people to overlook them. People tend to love iconic species including giant pandas, tigers, and elephants, so policies often focus on those while forgetting about others. However, prairie dogs are a keystone species, which means that several other species depend on them for food and shelter, including the black-footed ferret, the most endangered mammal of North America. Prairie dogs also aerate the soil through digging tunnels, and they eat the grasses, which keeps them short and fresh for other grazing animals to eat. Without the prairie dog, the entire short-grass prairie ecosystem will disappear.

Not only are we invading the territories of other species, but also that of other human beings. In the efforts to protect land and animals through establishing national park boundaries, a movement called 'conservation' has stemmed because indigenous people around the world are being forced off their land that they have forever called home. Their only alternatives for survival are to "modernize" and live by the Western standards, which sometimes leads to depression and suicide. Some conservationists are finally catching up with the realization that indigenous people are the true conservationists who have lived in harmony with the natural world since the beginning of human existence. Therefore, the modern ways to carry out conservation could be detrimental for all if we do not adapt and learn to coexist.

One final example in which harm is being done to humans, animals, and the environment is the flower farms along the shores of Lake Naivasha in Kenya. Local communities originally occupied the land until the Western demand for cut flowers emerged. In short, several large greenhouses were built to grow and ship flowers to Europe. It provides many jobs to local people, but the conditions are poor. In order to preserve and ship flowers, chemicals must be used, which seep into the employees' skin, the air they breathe, the soil that the community grows food in, and the water that humans and animals drink. Fishing is another important livelihood for the local residents, but the toxins in the water impact the fish that the fisherman catch, and the community then eats. Eventually, the lake and the fish could become too toxic to be used by the locals, which would then take away the income of the fisherman as well.

### **Global One Health Solutions**

Despite all these One Health violations, there are also several possible solutions to human-animal conflicts that are currently successful around the world. Many of them have been solved by the competent and resilient local community members themselves and involve adaptations to our behaviors and practices. For example, in Kenya, I had the privilege to visit the Elephants and Bees Project in a zone that has faced a great deal of human-elephant conflict. Thorough research and experiments have proven that elephants

fear bees and typically leave the area if they hear buzzing, so now local people have created beehive fences around their gardens to keep the elephants out. It is not a perfect solution because the queen bees are still being manipulated for human use, and there is still the occasional angry bull elephant who will break through the fence. However, it has been largely successful to the extent that the project has now been implemented in other African countries.

A solution to the prairie dog conflict has also been found, though it is not easy. Organizations, including the Prairie Dog Coalition (PDC) of the Humane Society of the United States, take great strides to relocate prairie dogs away from conflict zones, which are typically near suburban areas, construction sites, and farms. This past August as part of my current internship with the PDC, I was able to travel with the team to one of the relocation sites on a tribal reservation in South Dakota and partake in part of the process. Difficult conversations with stakeholders and long hours in the open prairie are part of the process. It also demands heavy manual labor with the digging for new tunnels, setting of hundreds of live traps, and weighing each individual prairie dog for data analysis, but it is all worth protecting the ecosystem and all species at stake.

Sea turtle hatcheries and eco-tourism have been found to be successful solutions to poaching in Costa Rica. Historically, the eggs, meat, skin, and shells have all had a human use, and sea turtle soup remains a cultural delicacy among some communities. It is also common for coatimundis, vultures, and stray dogs to frequently dig up the eggs on the beach to eat. However, protected hatcheries have been developed where the eggs are safely carried in buckets from the beach and looked after until the babies hatch. The hatcheries are typically run by a few local people employed through conservation agencies, and volunteers are then brought in from around the world to provide additional help. This raises some concerns because the volunteers often have no prior training on animal welfare or the culture, but it provides the help needed. The hatcheries attract tourists willing to pay for a visit, which helps to make the projects sustainable. This method also provides an alternative income source to poaching for the locals.

Lastly, a Kenyan organization called KENVO, the Kijabe Environment Volunteers, as well as the women basket weavers near Voi, Kenya offer two more possible solutions. I had the chance to spend part of a day learning from the KENVO leaders about deforestation issues and their current efforts to plant trees for forest re-growth in an area where elephants previously frequented. They promote sustainable farming and ecotourism, and they also hire local guides and park rangers as alternative income sources to poaching, and to cutting and selling wood. The basket weavers are also resourceful and have found another alternative income source that does not involve human-animal conflict. These local women make baskets using the fiber of a plant and natural dyes to add color, which they then sell for an income. However, there were issues raised during our visit because not every woman sold a basket, they had different skill sets and styles, and some were positioned with easier access to us than others. This meant that they were competing against each other, as well as for our attention at the end of the visit. Being social workers, we all tried to buy baskets from different women to support them all, but there were so many that I am sure a few were still missed.

## Roles of Conservation Social Workers in These Solutions

There is the potential for Conservation Social Workers to have a role in each of the situations listed above because they all include human dimensions to solving the land and animal conflicts. However, each individual community has strong and resilient people with the capabilities to problem solve without help from outsiders, so that must be taken into consideration. Often times, empowerment may be all that is needed. Some of the solutions mentioned have more community trust and support than others, and therefore, they are stronger and more likely to last. For instance, the Elephant and Bees Project has been so effective that the concept has been implemented in other communities across Africa, and there seems to be a great deal of community involvement and support in the projects to keep them going. On the other hand, the basket weavers have a great start toward developing a great income source, but our visit quickly became uncomfortable near the end as individual women fought for attention to sell more baskets, particularly the ones positioned in the middle and back rows. Their village is also quite remote, so they may not have many chances to sell their baskets. They could possibly make the sales experience more comfortable by positioning themselves to have more equal access to the buyers.

Through my program, I have learned that humane education is the key in helping people understand that animals are also intelligent, emotional beings who don't deserve to suffer. Some may in fact be smarter than humans. The knowledge of systems that social workers have also allows us to raise awareness on many of the ecosystem services that nature provides. However, all of these services are at risk due to irresponsible human behavior, and the loss of biodiversity will result in the loss of humans because we are entirely dependent on them. Social workers cannot solve the problems alone though, so it will take an interdisciplinary approach with the testing of many different strategies. We are professionally trained in building relationships and working together to problem solve, so it is our role to empower people to reconnect with the land and build respect for it, as well as to fight for social justice and listen to indigenous people, the true conservationists.

## Partnerships and Collaboration

Creating global partnerships and working together across disciplines are both absolutely essential going forward. We must take advantage of each other's expertise and exchange ideas because, we must admit, not one of us knows it all. An un-conference event was recently held in Westminster, Colorado that was a collaboration of people from public health, health care, social work, and parks and recreation. It consisted of a few scheduled speakers, as well as open discussions on topics chosen by the attendees, which provided really great perspectives and helped to open people's eyes to the possibilities of partnerships. Similar events need to occur more often to help each other consider alternative perspectives, and employers need to start by expanding their horizons and hiring across disciplines. For example, a large part of my past job search problem was that all jobs related to wildlife and the environment required a biology degree, and all social work jobs required a social work or sociology degree, rather than anthropology, even though these last three are all social sciences. Employers need to recognize that more will

be accomplished if environmental issues are studied and dealt with by people from several different disciplines. As a result of my wide variety of experiences, I now consider my own practice to be interdisciplinary with knowledge and skills useful in many different fields, but particularly in conservation. If we put our differences aside and work together as a team to find a One Health balance, the entire universe will thank us.

## Concluding Thoughts

Now I ask again, what is Conservation Social Work and why are social workers involved in conservation? My hope is that this article has provided insight to some commonly asked questions in a way that is simpler and easier to understand. I am also optimistic that it opened the eyes and hearts of others to the world's interconnections and the endless opportunities that may only be possible through working together globally across disciplines. It is crucial for our future that people in all fields recognize the interconnectedness between humans, animals, and the environment because every single decision made daily at home and in our work affects the environment in some way. More open dialogue between people with varying expertise needs to occur across the globe through on the ground meetings, projects, and events, as well as through email lists, conference calls, and social media groups. With acceptance, cooperation, community organizing, and empowerment, we can all work to build resilient communities with good policy governance, which is critical in today's rapidly changing world. Positive and lasting change starts from within each one of us and our local communities. It may feel overwhelming, so I am going to leave you with one last question: What would the global impact be if every individual made one small change?

**“ I have learned that humane education is the key in helping people understand that animals are also intelligent, emotional beings who don't deserve to suffer. ”**



## CONSERVATION

### Global Conservation Stuck in a Web as



### Demands of Urbanization Hover About

**A**nimal welfare in Africa is at its infancy, the concept is still viewed as foreign, a prerequisite for trade and not a characteristic of good husbandry. Sustained population growth, urbanization and development in the continent have put considerable pressure on natural resources. In 2015, Africa's population is reported to have increased by 30 million and by mid-century (2050), annual increases will exceed 42 million people per year, the total population then has been projected will be at 2.4 billion. This comes to 3.5 million more people per month, or 80 additional people per minute. Consequently, there has been an increase in demand for affordable services, unemployment and inadvertently a more intimate interaction between man and animal.

Overtly, animal welfare, environment and public health have been hugely compromised at the cost of urbanization. Increased demand for food and desire for food security has also led to increased demand for animal protein resulting in the adoption of cruel intensive care systems and over exploitation of the environment to sustain increased numbers of food animals and people. Working equines and non-food animals especially donkeys and dogs are believed to bear the 'short end of the stick' in the context of animal welfare in rapidly developing Africa.

It was deduced that very little effort has been put towards research, resource allocation and education on animal welfare and environmental conservation as compared to resources allocated towards urban development infrastructure growth and human livelihood. This is seen in the poor welfare of animals in farms, during transport and at slaughter. Massive degradation of the environment due to deforestation to open space for urbanization, human habitat encroachment and pollution in water ways due to increased effluent production associated with urbanization and industrialization inhibit the progress of ensuring good animal welfare practices in the continent.

Unfortunately, this harbors negative impact on the wildlife resulting in the threat of extinction due to diminishing natural animal habitat and increased human-wildlife conflict. There is therefore an urgent need for organizations, institutions and governments to work together to address these gaps. This could be tackled by addressing topical areas such as research, socio-cultural-economic values, policy and legislative frameworks, advocacy, awareness, training, education, partnership and networking.

It is worth noting that human welfare depends entirely on animal welfare and environmental welfare and all these three needs each other to work harmoniously if a noble life is to be sustained in this planet.



In conclusion, a short narrative captures the state of animal welfare in the world.

It goes as follows:

*“A folktale is told of a mythical creature that bellowed like thunder across the universe asking this question; “Animals tell me what you think of your adopted parents Mr. and Mrs. Human and their children and the home you live in with them?”*

*To that most animals feared to respond due to the possible repercussions, but a brave donkey stood up and said. “Mr. Mythical Voice, we were told our adopted parents are kind, loving, caring, civilized and the home we shall live with them in is like paradise. But alas! Our adopted parents and their children fight with each other all the time, they destroy the home we live in, they have little respect for other creatures’ space and they litter everywhere in the home and worst is they treat us cruelly and show little regard to our needs or welfare.”*

*The elephant gathered courage and added “I wish they could stop quarrelling and fighting each other all the time, I wish they could take better care of our home, I wish they could keep our home clean and stop littering, I wish they could respect everyone’s space and right to life, I wish they could love and care for us and each other”*



# Sea Life at the Kenyan Coast Reels from Widespread COVID – 19 Impact

By Felix Kioko

Kenya's coastline extends 600 km, from its border with Somalia in the north to Tanzania in the south. With the emergence of the global COVID-19 pandemic, Kenya's coastal and marine landscape has changed in ways that were unimaginable just a few months earlier. The coastline features a number of economic activities that support local communities and the Kenyan population at large. It hosts a unique network of interdependent marine ecosystems, including mangroves, seagrass and coral reefs, which act as critical habitats. They serve as nurseries as well as feeding and breeding grounds for diverse species, some of which are endemic and endangered. These ecosystems are intertwined and are critical in supporting hydrological cycles, carbon stocks, pollution filtration, climate change mitigation, and shoreline and coastal protection.

It is widely known that the economic value of coastal protection provided by coral reefs and mangroves in the Western Indian Ocean is estimated at \$1.2 billion annually.<sup>1</sup> Healthy and functioning coastal and marine ecosystems underpin the provision of the sustainable goods and services that are essential for the well-being of society. These ecosystems support food security and contribute to subsistence livelihoods, human health and other socioeconomic dimensions, including offering future opportunities such as in medical drugs and bioprospecting. The international community has aligned around the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which defines "the future we want", described by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Undoubtedly, these 17 goals identify key societal, economic and environmental aspirations for all countries to achieve sustainable development.





For the first time, the oceans and water bodies have been included through SDG 14, which deals with life below water. For countries like Kenya, this is a welcome focus and a call to the world to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. This also speaks to the sustainability aspects of our emerging blue economy dialogue. SDG 14, Kenya's Development Plan (Vision 2030) and our County Development Plans (CDPs) all acknowledge the oceans in supporting natural resources towards economic advancement.

The Kenyan Government's Big 4 Agenda of Vision 2030 focuses on food and nutrition security, affordable housing, manufacturing and affordable universal healthcare. In order to achieve the food and nutrition security target, fisheries have been prioritized among the sectors with a high potential for spurring national economic growth. The Blue Economy Initiative (BEI) has identified the contribution of the renewable resources within the aquatic environment and the potential contribution to Kenya's socio-economic well-being, food security and industrial development. The blue economy sectors comprise fisheries, maritime transport, travel and tourism, shipping and maritime transport, oil and gas, mining, aquatic sports and culture, the film industry and, of course, coastal agriculture, including mariculture.

Fisheries, maritime transport, travel and tourism have been heavily impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to restrictions on movement constituting curfews, lockdowns and stay-at-home policies. In addition to curtailing the movement of people, these restrictions have disrupted the supply and demand chain of seafood products and led to other broken economic chains. The fisheries sector has seen a reduction of fishers venturing out to sea, and the tourism sector has also been heavily impacted.

### **Fisheries and livelihoods**

Kenya's marine fishing area in the territorial waters and the Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), spans approximately 230,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The fishing capacity comprises about 3,000 small-scale fishing crafts and approximately 14,000 fishers that are critical to the provision of food and nutrition security, livelihoods and economic development for coastal communities. They support more than 70 per cent of households either directly or indirectly through artisanal fisheries and tourism activities. The economic importance of fisheries and tourism activities is demonstrated by the sizable populations that they support. Fisheries (capture and aquaculture) directly and indirectly support 1.2 million Kenyans with its annual production of 24,709 metric tons of seafood, worth 4.6 billion Kenya shillings.<sup>2</sup> This is in spite of the challenges of overfishing and declining catches, and the need to implement measures that could lead to the recovery of overfished stocks and degraded habitats.

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, coastal communities are hard hit since they rely on fishing. The fishers cannot work as they used to; fishing boats are kept anchored more often than not, thus disrupting the market supply of fish. In addition, boat owners are unwilling to fuel their fishing boats to catch fish that will not be bought immediately, given the perishable nature of fish products, in a time in which the hotels and eateries are closed, and the cold chain infrastructure is not very developed. Thus, along the coastline in the different fish landing sites, the catches have collapsed and the small-scale fishers as well as fishmongers, mostly women, have been severely hurt.

The export business of seafood and aquarium fisheries has been affected because the disruption of shipping logistics has made laborers and the workers in such chains redundant. On the same note, the traffic of cargo ships has tremendously declined, and the seafarers who have been deployed aboard cruise liners are either docked far from Kenya or are staying at home. In the field of ocean science, at the local, national and global levels, there has been a severe impact on scientific research, work and data gathering, since scientists have not recorded the information necessary to assess the status of marine and related ecosystems due to lockdowns and curfews.



### Tourism and Fisheries

The Kenyan coast has a vibrant tourism sector that has also been heavily affected by the pandemic. The latest statistics show that there were 2,048,834 foreign visitors to Kenya in 2019, compared with 2,025,206 in 2018.<sup>3</sup> While these numbers were expected to rise in 2020, the sector is in lockdown, which has heavily disrupted the supply of seafood to the hotel industry, especially much-loved commercial species like lobster, prawn and snapper. This observation has clearly demonstrated the tight link between the tourism and fisheries sectors during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, it is now evident that in Kenya, a great part of the fishery economy is strongly linked to the vibrant tourism sector. Furthermore, in many instances, the fishers also engage in ecotourism activities by taking tourists fishing, diving or sampling local cuisines in local villages; these commercial activities have also been severely impacted.



### Environmental Impact

It is projected that by 2050 there will be more plastics in the ocean than fish. UN estimates 13 million tons of plastics are dumped into the ocean each year. And the situation is likely to get worse during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the 2019 census results, Kenya has a population of 47.6 million. If we assume that 50 % of the population uses disposable masks every single day (taking into account category of professions (i.e. doctors, nurses, etc.) which may use more than one disposable mask in a day, and the population that uses reusable masks). This leads to 23.8 million disposable face masks used every single day. This translates to 714 million face masks in a month.

If we assume that only 1 % of face masks are not correctly disposed of. Then 7.14 million masks are likely to end up on land monthly with a bigger percentage ending up on rivers and the ocean, mainly during storm water runoff. If we equate one mask to weigh 4 grams according to the WWF report, this translates to 28.6 thousand kilograms of plastics introduced to nature monthly from face masks alone. This amount of plastics if ends up in our rivers and ultimately to our ocean it poses a big threat to aquatic organisms, and ultimately to the Blue economy.

Plastic pollution has adverse effects on the aquatic environment. They may accidentally be ingested leading to the death of aquatic organisms (figure 2). Plastic may also lead to entanglement of aquatic organisms' leading to death. This litter also leads to degradation of critical habitats such as mangroves, and coral reefs which act as a breeding ground for fish, hence affect the fisheries sector. Plastics may also lead to loss of aesthetic value in our beaches and water bodies hence less attractive to tourists. PPE, when littered on land, may end up clogging roadside drainage leading to flooding mainly during rainy season. Plastic also can get into ship propellers during navigation leading to ship damage, hence the need for constant repairs with great economic losses.



## Conclusions and Recommendations

Ocean science is expansive, just like the ocean itself. As clearly demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a need for cross-sectoral work between ocean scientists and the other sectors of the blue economy beyond fisheries, including tourism; other natural resources industries, such as oil, gas, mining, mariculture, sports and culture; and shipping and maritime affairs. The aim of such work should be to increase scientific knowledge, develop research capacity, transfer/share marine technology and interconnect all blue economy activities. There is also a need to invest in disseminating relevant science and raising its visibility to ensure that the benefits of investing in such collaborative efforts becomes part of our national dialogues.

It is important to recognize that cross-sectoral partnerships and collaborative efforts lag behind, severely limiting the generation, archiving and sharing of data, innovation and marine technology. Going forward, this situation requires attention at the local, national and global levels, particularly during the much-awaited 2020 United Nations Ocean Conference, now postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We all believe that at this global meeting, to be co-hosted by Kenya and Portugal, the aspirations of the United Nations Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development (2021-2030), to guide the development of the global ocean economy, will not only be adopted but also supported.

Without a doubt the COVID-19 pandemic is an unprecedented occurrence above global climate change, which has been added to the list of risk factors influencing sustainable development and the exploitation of ocean resources. Due to the pandemic, curfews, partial lockdowns, the suspension of international flights and shipping, and restricted movements of people have severely interrupted not only the fisheries supply and demand chain but also the tourism sector. The situation has resulted in the near total collapse of livelihoods centred around fisheries, tourism and related economic activities.

It is important to safeguard the environments that provide for the fisheries and tourism economy. The importance of science in understanding life under water can yield many positive results and lead to innovations in the coming days in the following areas:

- Finding new ways of conducting marine research remotely using mobile apps to collect data that can be analyzed by ocean scientists to provide information on the status of fisheries and the environment, as well as combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing, and increase security in the national marine space;
- Developing innovations in habitat restorations that allow for experiential tourism for both local and international visitors;
- Supporting communities to develop nature-based ecotourism and other ventures that could serve as sustainable destinations for tourists and related blue economy activities;
- Undertaking a Marine Spatial Plan (MSP) for protection of marine environment



What does **God** have to  
do with **eggs**?

**Where do the eggs we eat come from?  
How do the chickens that produce those eggs live?  
Is this in light with religious and ethical values?**

## The Source of our Food

Ask these questions in part because the US recalled and destroyed 206 million eggs, following a salmonella outbreak. Those eggs were laid by chickens in the 200 million population chicken facility of 'Rose Acre Farms.' These eggs were to be scrambled or poached, baked in cakes or muffins, or cooked in pancakes, waffles, or French toast. But some of them had become contaminated with salmonella bacteria, likely arising from faulty conditions in a facility with 200 million chickens crowded in massive sheds.

Until recently in human history, eggs were a delicacy, and they were eaten on special occasions. Domesticated chickens are not mentioned in the Bible, and eggs are only mentioned in relating to finding nests of wild birds. As Rabbi Gil Marks writes in his history of Jewish food, the Passover seder begins with an egg because Romans began their festive meals with goose eggs. This changed dramatically in 1956, when vaccines and antibiotics were introduced to chickens, which enabled the mass rearing, or 'factory farming,' of chickens. The chicken population then grew exponentially, and now stands at 24 billion. There are close to four chickens for every person on the planet. Chickens are the most populous animal or bird on planet earth, and the next closest bird is the pheasant (or pigeon), at 173 million. The vast majority of these 24 billion chickens live in industrial sheds in order to produce eggs or be slaughtered for meat. Global egg production doubled in just the past 25 years.

Rabbi David Rosen, a prominent Orthodox Director of Interreligious Affairs, and "the conditions under which the produced violate Jewish Law considered kosher." Rabbi Rosen religious leader. He is aware subject chickens to, and of the demanding compassion that there is something between Jewish values and consumption of eggs. And he statement: most eggs are not chickens that produce them

The Psalmist lauds as a key trait of the Divine: "God upon all His works." The Jewish compassion on birds, including tradition, "Just as God has compassion on birds (Deuteronomy Rabba

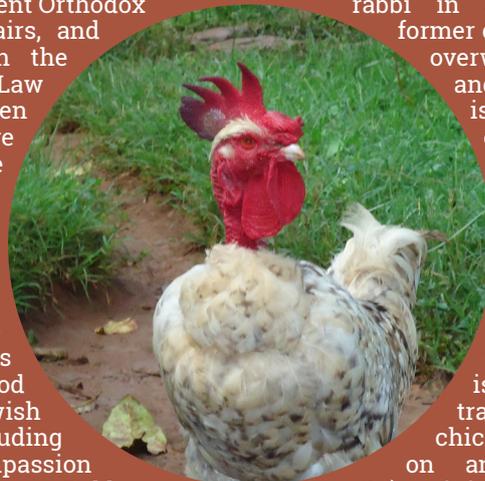
And just as God has compassion, so too we are supposed to have compassion. The Talmud teaches, "Be similar, as it were, to God, the Almighty: Just as He is compassionate and merciful, so too should you be compassionate and merciful." (Tractate Shabbat 133b) In manifesting the Divine spark within us, we are supposed to be compassionate to people and to all creatures.

So, my heart goes out to the tens of billions of chickens in the world living in sheds. Most chickens produced in factories will never touch the ground or see the light of day. The incredible, edible egg is incredible for the person who eats it and bound up in so much suffering for the chicken that produces it. They are produced in a factory similar to how we produce iPhones and refrigerators. But these are living beings. Genesis chapter 1 verse 30 says that God gave them souls. They are more than egg-laying machines.

How we treat the mother chicken (i.e. a hen) is part and parcel of how we're treating mother earth. The Jewish mystical tradition teaches that humans exile the feminine presence of God from the earth when humanity does not act righteously.

Eggs are sold in boxes with pictures of free chickens, but that is not the case for most egg-producing chickens. Companies that sell eggs effectively lie to consumers, by misleading them to believe that the chickens that produced the eggs were free and in nature. Consuming mainstream eggs means keeping chickens in industrial sheds.

We try to be ethical, moral, and spiritually-aware. There are few foods as much bound up in suffering as eggs. There is a major gap between what is happening to tens of billions of chickens, and the practice of morality in modern life. The time has come to make a change. We can start by reducing or eliminating our personal consumption of eggs.



rabbi in Jerusalem, AJC International former chief rabbi of Ireland, stated that overwhelming majority of eggs are and therefore they cannot be is a compassionate, broad-minded of the incredible pain that we deep-seated Jewish teachings to animals. He recognizes fundamentally inconsistent industrial production and has made a bold Jewish legal kosher, because of how the are treated.

compassion toward all creatures is good to all, and God's mercy is tradition teaches that God has chickens. According to the Jewish on animals, God is filled with 6:1), as it is written in Deuteronomy 22:6 "If, along the road, you chance upon a bird's nest.... do not take the mother together with her young."

*Rabbi Yonatan Neril founded and directs The Interfaith Center for Sustainable Development ([www.interfaithsustain.com](http://www.interfaithsustain.com)). He speaks internationally on religion and ecology, and co-organized ten interfaith environmental conferences in Jerusalem and the U.S. He completed an M.A. and B.A. at Stanford. He lives with his wife, Shana and two children in Jerusalem.*





***Meet the Animals  
of Mt. Kasigau  
and Stakeholders'  
Quest to Protect  
the Habitat***

By Felix Kioko

**T**here is growing global recognition of the role of community and private protected areas in the conservation of wildlife and the natural environment. Conservancies are a type of protected area and are encompassed within the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) broad definition of a protected area as 'a clearly defined geographical space recognized, dedicated and managed, through legal or other effective means to achieve the long-term conservation of nature with associated ecosystem services and cultural value'. Specifically, conservancies fall under IUCN Protected Areas Category (VI) whose objective is: to promote sustainable use of natural resources for social and economic benefits to local communities, integrating cultural approaches while maintaining a balanced relationship between humans and nature.

The 52,000-acre ranch, Kasigau Ranch, is located between Tsavo East National parks making it an important and busy wildlife corridor for the biggest national park in Kenya. ANAW has so far contributed to designing an integrated range management plan to help in conservation of species, maintenance of the wildlife corridor, income generating activities for the community, education and reduction in Human wildlife conflicts.

The Tsavo ecosystem is well known for elephants which have suffered the most out of the big five in terms of decline in numbers. Their population dropped from about 1 million in the 1970's, to the current estimate of 300,000 individual elephants. Since the turn of the last decade Kenya has taken a huge stance on elephant poaching by burning its largest stockpile worth billions of dollars in April 30, 2016. Similar acts were carried out in 2011, 2015, 2016 by the sitting presidents/

However, the more immediate threat is to the endemic species of the whole Taita ecosystem which envelopes Tsavo and Kasigau ecosystem as well. Despite losing about 98% of forest cover in the last 200 years, the remaining Taita Hills forest fragments continue to support a high number of endemic species and unique flora and fauna, including Kenya's most threatened birds: the Critically Endangered Taita Apalis and Taita Thrush. Other endemics include: the Taita Hills Purple-glossed Snake, the Sagalla Caecilian, the Taita Warty Frog, the Taita Blade-horned Chameleon and three endemic butterflies. The flora is also rich and full of endemism in these small and extremely fragmented forests, where more than 13 plant species endemic to Taita Hills occur. The hills are also home to the Vulnerable Taita Falcon and Abbott's Starling, the Endangered Taita White-eye and the Near Threatened Southern Banded Snake-eagle.

**“ Despite losing about 98% of forest cover in the last 200 years, the remaining Taita Hills forest fragments continue to support a high number of endemic species and unique flora and fauna. ”**

## Taita Hills Purple-Glossed Snake

*Amblyodipsas teitana*, also known as the Taita Hills purple-glossed snake or Teitana purple-glossed snake, is a species of venomous rear-fanged snake. It is endemic to the Taita Hills in Kenya. It is a fairly average snake reaching a length of about 50 cm length. It is rarely seen and not much is known about these slippery serpents but judging by human encroachment on forest land. Their populations are most certainly declining.



## Taita Warty Frog

The Taita warty frog is endemic to Kenya, where it is found only in the severely fragmented montane forests in Taita Hills.

This is a very solitary species and movement is limited, justifying its survival in tiny forest patches. This species is part of the Brevicipitidae family, which have a highly characteristic appearance of a bulbous body and tiny head. This family started to diverge and evolve separately from all other modern amphibians about 65 million years ago, at a time where the dinosaur became abruptly extinct, making this species as different from all other amphibians as whales are to giraffes! The genus *Callulina* diverged 40 million years ago within the Brevicipitids and this intra-family split occurred 5 million years before the origin of monkeys. The population is considered to be severely fragmented, with over 50% of the population scattered between isolated forest patches, with little to no dispersal between patches. These forest patches are degrading due to increasing local human population utilizing forest products i.e. cutting sticks and collection of deadwood. Most of the main forest patches where this species is found are protected, but subject to fuel wood extraction by local smallholders.

The Taita hills have been designated as Key Biodiversity Area in which this species is flagship species. Many of the plantations around the area have been earmarked for conversion back to indigenous forest.

## Taita Blade-Horned Chameleon

Named from its blade like horn on its head the chameleon is only found within a few patches of Taita ecosystem. Also, not much research has been done about the chameleon and why it has such a weird shaped horn. However, its sightings have been rarer by the years.



## Taita Apalis

Taita Apalis *Apalis fuscigularis* is endemic to the Taita Hills, in south-eastern Kenya. It is one of the rarest birds in the world, surviving in only five small forest fragments at altitudes of between 1,500 and 2,200 m. Its known global range is less than 600 ha. In 2001, the population of this species was estimated to only be 300-650 individuals, thereby qualifying it for the highest threat category, Critically Endangered. Field work carried out in 2009 and 2010 with support from BirdLife International, RSPB, CEPA and Chester Zoo strongly suggests that a major population crash is underway. Compared with 2001, sighting rates in April to May 2009 had dropped by about 38%; repeated counts done in September to December 2009 and May to July 2010 showed even larger decreases, approaching 80%. This means that the global population of the apalis might now be reduced to only 60-130 individuals, almost all of which are located in a single forest, Ngangao, which is only about 120 ha.



## Taita Thrush

Just like the Taita Apalis, the Taita thrush only survive in a few forested areas within the taita ecosystem. Deforestation is the main cause for their decline and now there are an estimated 980 individuals with the population decreasing by the day.

# So what is the way forward?

Little or no illegal logging is now occurring in the Taita, and human disturbance has been significantly reduced thanks to the effort of the Kenya Forest Service and local conservation groups. The impacts of other possible factors, such as nest predation and climate change remain unknown. Nonetheless, it is clear that all the possible candidates driving this apparent crash need to be urgently studied in order to stop this species from sliding further towards the brink of extinction. Similarly, research is also urgently needed on the second critically endangered bird of the Taita Hills forests, Taita Thrush *Turdus helleri*, whose population has not been assessed in recent times and other endemic species that might be threatened by the same factors that are already affecting the Apalis. Taita Apalis and Taita Thrush are both receiving funding from the BirdLife Preventing Extinctions Programme. The programme is spearheading greater conservation action, awareness and funding support for all of the world's most threatened birds, starting with the 190 species classified as Critically Endangered, the highest level of threat. Still more needs to be done to protect all the species.

## Here is how the government, community, and civil society can do just that.

To protect the endemic species or whichever species it is important to have them in a protected space to first allow for research which will help assess the situation and come up with sustainable solutions. Such protected spaces are the one we begun with, conservancies.



**When most people think of conservancies, they think of wildlife conservation. Though this is certainly a key objective, conservancies are about much more than wildlife. They serve various economical, ecological and social roles in the community and the nation at large.**

**Wildlife Conservation efforts in Kenya is at a critical stage. Four decades of extreme wildlife declines may progressively come to an end if the current wildlife conservation effort in community and private lands were to succeed in the longer term. Already we are seeing some good results:**

More than 6 million hectares of land is secured outside of national parks and reserves by a network of 160 community and private conservancies.

Over 3,000 community rangers are working alongside Kenya Wildlife Service Rangers to protect wildlife habitats and minimize threats to wildlife species.

An estimated 700,000 households are participating in wildlife conservation and accessing a variety of social and economic benefits.

Populations of endangered species such as the Black rhino, Grevy's zebra, lion and elephant are on an upward trend while other species are returning to their historical ranges.



**Y**et, despite all these achievements, a majority of the conservancies are at a nascent stage, lacking in governance and management effectiveness as well as the ability to deliver social, economic and ecological benefits in the long term. Threats to wildlife including incompatible land use, habitat degradation, unsustainable resource use and other illegal activities may diminish the current conservation efforts.

Fortunately, the sector in Kenya is engaged and committed to a vibrant and sustainable wildlife conservancies network, as it recognizes that it is critical to maintain the momentum. Effective collaboration and long-term partnerships have been identified as key factors for success.

The government, community and civil society all have a major role to play to ensure community conservancies are functioning and in a sustainable manner.

National and county government are key actors and essential partners to the conservancy movement in Kenya but the county level, enabling policies are not in place. According to the Kenyan 2010 Constitution, wildlife conservation is a national function and the Wildlife Act 2013 devolves wildlife to owners and managers of the land where wildlife occurs. This dual approach however excludes the county governments whose policies and investments could hamper or support conservation in community lands. Several counties are however actively working on establishing systems or structures that will strengthen partnerships within the wildlife conservancy sector through supporting the conservancies in their areas of jurisdiction.

To be successful in creating the right kind of partnerships for the conservancies' movement, the following enabling factors were identified as building blocks.

- Ensure partnerships are built on transparency and accountability to ensure trust among stakeholders is cultivated.
- A shared common vision, goals, values and objectives are identified at the early stage of partnership building and to the extent possible should be clear and accepted by all through a negotiated process.
- Partnerships ought to be long term engagements, results focused and ensure participation by all; a successful conservancy takes time to build and the journey to a sustainable conservancy is full of pitfalls and challenges.
- Each partner brings in specific strengths and insights, which are regularly modified and leveraged upon to ensure each partner performs at its best.
- Collective prioritization of tasks, activities and allocation of resources and consistent communication between partners are vital in successful partnerships.
- The context in which the partnership is established should be well understood by both or all parties and, since context changes over time so must partners regularly define the current context and adjust the partnership to remain relevant.
- Create partnerships founded on mutual understanding and benefit and structure partnerships to empower instead of control.
- Develop a guiding framework for the partnership – assumptions that there is clarity on this should be avoided.
- Regular monitoring and evaluation of impact is critical for adaptive management

**Civil society and communities can work together to achieve the following roles. It is however important to note that the community should be the one benefiting from the civil society and not the other way round.**



## **Wildlife Management**

Human-wildlife conflict is one of the major threats to wildlife conservation. Conservancies help maintain a balanced ecosystem through the protection and management of both the human population and wildlife. Conservancies also help to maintain healthy wildlife populations and ensure there is increase in numbers and diversity of species.

## **Livestock Management**

Conservancies occupy expansive landscapes with ecosystems that support both herds of domesticated animals and wildlife as well. Conservancies through the community play a vital role in managing the livestock to minimize the impact on the environment while ensuring co-existence with wildlife. For this to happen, there is need to: implement grazing management to improve the condition of rangelands and avoid overgrazing; develop markets for livestock to maximize income from livestock; accumulate revenue from grazing fees on land owned by private conservancies; purchase of community livestock through the use of a revolving fund where profits from the sales generate revenue for the conservancy, slaughter and sale of livestock products.

## **Tourism**

Wildlife is the basis of Kenya's thriving safari tourism. Tourism in Kenya is one of the largest sources of foreign exchange revenue. Conservancies promote diverse forms of tourism which generate income to support conservancy operating costs and improve livelihoods of communities.

## **Peace and Security**

Conservancies seek to promote peace with neighboring communities as a foundation for economic development and effective planning and management of natural resources. Conservancy Scouts are responsible for providing security for residents and visitors to the conservancy.

In areas where inter-tribal conflict is prevalent, usually involving livestock theft, conservancy scouts are actively involved in following up and recovering stolen livestock in collaboration with the Kenya Police. It is the responsibility of the conservancy to ensure scouts also provide security for tourism facilities as well as the visitor's safety.

## **Enterprise Development**

Conservancies need to provide alternative income generating opportunities in order to be financially sustainable. This is where civil society groups come into play to identify investors. These initiatives work equally to leverage support for conservation from the communities that live around them to proactively take part in the county's wildlife conservation efforts. These enterprises eventually end up improving the community livelihoods and the conservancy itself.

## **Community Development**

Conservancies endorse community support for conservation and participation in decision making to ensure equitable sharing of benefits and improve community access to services such as health, water and education, while supplementing government services. It is imperative to leverage the support from the community so as to create tangible benefits from conservation and to change attitudes and behavior of communities towards wildlife.

## **Land and Natural Resources Management**

Conservancies serve to promote healthy ecosystems that support wildlife, livestock and human needs. They also improve the conditions of degraded areas and minimize invasive species; to ensure adequate supply of water for wildlife, people and livestock. Conservancies are tasked with the vital role of ensuring proper management of land and the resources upon which wildlife and people depend on.

## **Infrastructural Development**

Conservancies invest in infrastructure and equipment to facilitate effective conservancy operations, to support tourism as well as to improve access to transport for community members.

**It is understood that the need to promote sustainable development while ensuring that there is a balance between humans and animals is vital. In 2015, ANAW entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Kasigau Ranch Ltd to support the ranch development.**

# Animal Welfare; an Integral Component of the Sustainable Development of Africa

By Hiver Boussini and Mwenda Mbaka

## Fragile Animals in Fragile Ecosystems

Viewed from the fundamental perspective, animals, plants and micro-organisms are integral components of the ecosystem. Each of them contributes to the wellbeing of the other through an intricate system of life and death. In an attempt to “improve” his own wellbeing, man has increasingly manipulated the environment. Often, the manipulation gives rise to animals that are more susceptible to environmental threats to their survival than those produced by natural evolution. Man, therefore, has the responsibility to protect such animals from their natural vulnerabilities. The manipulation to increase the desired performance of the animals, and the art of manipulation of the environment to make it more utilizable by the domesticated animals, is agriculture.

The manipulation of animals and natural environments in order to exploit them has led to the type of excessive manipulation that has disrupted their wellbeing. This, by extension has caused the disruption of entire ecosystems. The tragedy of this disruption is becoming increasingly evident and worrisome, because by extension it threatens the wellbeing of society. In an effort to cope with the emerging threat, society has developed various strategies to rehabilitate



**ANAW Veterinary Officers  
treating a wounded zebra  
before release.**

## Donkeys helping residents in Kajiado County to transport water for domestic use



and/or protect the welfare of ecosystems, including animals. This article discusses Africa’s Strategy for the Animal Welfare, and discourses on the link between animal welfare and human welfare in the continent. It argues that for a successful agenda to safeguard human welfare in the continent, animal welfare must be integrated into the continent’s development initiatives.

For an animal to be in good welfare, it therefore must be free from injury - by trauma, toxins, poisons, excessive heat or cold, or damage by infections; it should be well nourished, and it should be free of any discomfort. With regard to comfort, this implies that the animals should be provided with an environment where it is not subjected to anxiety or injury. An animal in this state is in a good state of welfare, and it functions optimally.

## The Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa

Animals are often regarded from the food; commercial or cultural benefits human beings accrue from them. However, their welfare is a key challenge, due to the failure of most people to recognize the link between their welfare, productivity and general performance.

In recent years animal welfare, has become an issue of increasing concern in several countries worldwide, including countries in Africa. Compliance with animal welfare standards is now becoming increasingly included in trade agreements. However, at the political level, the promotion

of animal welfare as a key determinant of animal resource development and trade is yet to receive adequate attention. So far, little attention has been given to policies and legislation regarding animal welfare, in many countries in Africa, despite the support and interventions by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and other non-state actors (NSA), who’s focus; in any case, has often mainly been on companion and draught animals.

Animal-welfare issues are complex matters, which often include policy issues. They must take scientific, ethical, economic, development, religious, cultural, and trade and policy considerations into account. The African Union Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (AU-IBAR), established in 1951, has umpteen mostly focused on animal resources development, with regard to animal health and production. Although the interventions have contributed to animal welfare, a focused promotion of animal welfare principles as key determinants of animal resource development and trade, have been lacking in AU-IBAR’s strategies. However, that situation is changing.

Based on its long experience in coordination and leadership in animal resource development, AU-IBAR enjoys unique convening power of the stakeholders in the animal resources sector. It is therefore a critical instrument for advocacy and influencing key decision makers. It is well placed to translate global strategies and/or frameworks, including animal welfare,

into national, regional and continent-wide policy and practices. It has, therefore, in close collaboration with key stakeholders, spearheaded the development of an Animal Welfare Strategy for Africa [AWSA] in line with the standards of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), whilst taking the African context into account.

This was achieved through the creation of an African Platform for Animal Welfare [(APAW), comprising of veterinary, animal production, wildlife and livestock development authorities, donors, development and technical partners, relevant Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), research, and academia with a secretariat at AU-IBAR, to coordinate and guide the process of developing the strategy, enhance collaboration, cooperation, coordination and partnerships with specialized organizations. The AU-IBAR also helps to engage the member states during the formulation of a common African position on animal welfare and animal health during the OIE standard setting and approval processes.

The AWSA was formulated through a consultative and participatory approach that also included African member states, the Regional Economic Communities and key animal welfare organizations across the continent and worldwide. The stakeholders' consultations that attracted a wealth of contribution from the participants have been key for examining the animal welfare status in the continent and identifying key priorities and intervention areas to be considered. It is therefore envisioned that animal welfare will increasingly gain prominence in the continent, and that it will be widely considered and enforced towards the implementation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development.

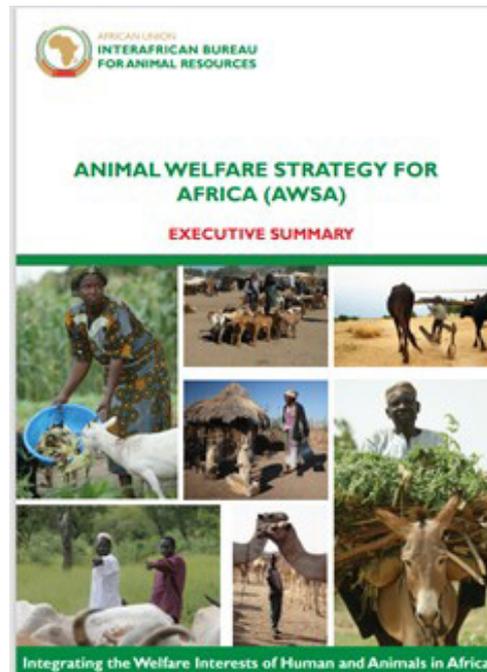
The AWSA's vision is to ensure an Africa where animals are treated as sentient beings, as a leading continent in implementation of good animal welfare practices for a

competitive and sustainable animal resource sector. Its mission is to invest in developing animal resources value chains through treating animals as sentient beings and supporting good animal welfare practices in the animal resources sectors to contribute to socio economic transformation.

### Animal Welfare and Trade

Driven by the intensification of animal production systems and its attendant animal welfare implications, poor animal welfare issues are increasingly becoming a barrier in international livestock trade. Therefore, those animal welfare issues need to be urgently addressed through policy, strategies, legislation, and legal frameworks; and supported by community education and participation in other dialogues around them. This ensures the integration of the welfare interests of humans and animals in the development agendas of the continent.

As the technical organization in the animal resources sector for the AU, AU-IBAR is promoting improvements in animal welfare as well as helping to change attitudes towards it. This will contribute to the enhancement of animal productivity, the improvement of the quality of livestock products, and their acceptability in the marketplace through growth in trade.



### Implementation of the AWSA

The delivery of improvements in animal welfare is not a task for just one institution or group. According to the planning in place before the COVID-19 pandemic, the AWSA was to be implemented over four years [2018-2021] and be fully integrated for monitoring, reporting and review into AU mechanisms. Governments, Regional Economic Communities, research institutions and academia, industry, enforcement agencies, private sector such as retailers, users of working animals and the consumers have a part to play. The necessary action for the implementation includes communication, increasing exchange on knowledge, strengthening the flow of information and championing for the adoption of good animal welfare practices, for sustainable livelihoods, poverty reduction and economic growth.

Various on-going animal welfare initiatives across the continent and worldwide, especially the recently adopted OIE global animal welfare strategy are offering opportunities for achievements in improving animal welfare in Africa. The African Welfare Strategy for Africa is intended to form an integral part of responsible development of animal resources. The strategy will help Africa to comply with international animal welfare standards, which are included in trade agreements, and therefore it will contribute to the development of the continent, for the welfare of its citizens.

### Coordinating the African Platform for Animal Welfare



Dear Dolly,

How is life under the sea? How's your pod doing? It's been a while since I've written. You know how it is; I've been busier than ever converting all this carbon dioxide to oxygen. It's amazing how much my workload has increased these last few years. I suppose I should just be grateful for the job security, right?

I don't know about you, but I've had one wild year. I had a family of especially noisy birds move into my branches, then I got some sort of nasty bug that made me lose all of my leaves. I looked like I was the one with a quarantine haircut! Which reminds me; have you heard of what's going on with the humans? They've been coughing and wheezing all over the place. At first, I thought maybe it was my fault; I've been shedding pollen all over the place. I don't know why; I haven't eaten anything weird lately. I think maybe I should go on another diet. Maybe limit myself to absorbing sunlight only in the mornings or something.

Anyway, back to the humans. They are really struggling. I'm thinking they could learn something from us majestic and wonderful trees and also maybe from you and your dolphin friends. For instance, I was chatting with the poplar trees, since they have all the latest gossip. They said humans have been instructed to give each other some space so the bug can't leap from person to person. Well, guess what? Trees already do that! I know you've never been on land Dolly, but trust me. Even in the densest forests, we always give each other a bit of space so we have room to branch out. I mean, we do it so our roots can grow and we can all get our fair amount of resources, but it's definitely helpful for other reasons. When I was infested with that tree beetle earlier this year, I'm proud to say I didn't pass it to any other trees. Sure, I lost all my leaves, but everyone else stayed healthy. Plus, my neighbor Spruce Springtwig said I could pull off the leafless look, so win-win.

That's all for now, Dolph. Let me know if you have any thoughts about what's going on with the humans in that big mammal brain of yours.

Sincerely,

Lief

Dear Lief,

It was such a pleasure to receive your letter. My pod and I have gotten into a little tiff with the local gang of bottlenoses, so it was a pleasant distraction. You wouldn't believe what these other cetaceans think is acceptable behavior. I mean, just because you're called a bottlenose dolphin it doesn't mean you need to be constantly intoxicated. It's untoward.

I have indeed heard about the latest human drama; I consider it my duty to keep informed about world affairs. I may be an ocean-dweller rather than a landlubber, but I understand the power of knowledge. Besides, it's easy for me to keep up with the news since so many copies of the paper manage to find their way into the ocean. I hope the humans are at least reading the paper before flushing them down the toilet or whatever it is they do that results in them floating about my house. There's a lot of good advice in there, like information about wearing masks. I personally think humans should always wear masks; it's absolutely unseemly how they breath through their MOUTHS. It's disgusting! Any mammal with even a bit of class should have the decency to breath through a strategically placed blowhole, but I suppose not all animals have my sense of propriety.

Also, in regard to your thoughts about going on a diet; remember the last time you tried one of those fad diets? Darling, all your branches started to droop and you looked like a Weeping Willow. Lastly, as your friend, I'm telling you you absolutely cannot pull off the leafless look. Have you thought about growing your leaves into a nice asymmetrical foliage instead?

Lots of love,

Dolly

# A Stumble on the Grapevine

By Clarice Ambler

letters by Dolly and Lief

Hello Dolly,

Sorry to hear about those bottlenose jerks. I doubt they are being annoying on porpoise. Maybe you just aren't clicking?

I can confirm that many humans are wearing masks, which is also great for that pollen problem I mentioned earlier. They all seem to wheeze a little less when they've got some sort of fabric on their faces. I saw one the other day that had a bunch of little palm trees on it and the words "Keep Palm and Carry on." I laughed so hard I nearly knocked that loud family of birds right out of my branches. They tweeted about the incident all day. Not to throw shade, as the kids say, but those birds are ungrateful.

I had another thought about humans. It may seem a little sappy, but I was thinking about how us trees like to share our resources. We let birds use us as a home, we let all sorts of creatures borrow our shade, and we never complain when a giraffe nibbles off a leaf or two. I'm not saying let someone wear you down to a stump, but sharing resources can strengthen a whole ecosystem. When I lost all my leaves and was struggling to photosynthesize, the other trees diverted some nutrients through my roots. Now that I'm doing better, I like to return the favor. Keeping the world healthy means keeping ourselves healthy so we can take care of others. At least, that's what the tree community has discovered.

And yes, I remember my last diet. You're right, I'll just stick to my routine. Thanks for photoSYMPATHising with me. Get it? Get it?? Oh, and you're totally wrong. I look great leafless. Though, I'm thinking I need to do something about my exposed roots.

Sincerely,  
Lief

My Dear Lief,

It's interesting that you should bring up this idea of altruism. Why, just the other day my dear friend Dolph Lundfin managed to sprang his dorsal fin in a game of Pin the Tail on the Manta Ray. The poor thing wasn't able to reach the surface to breath. Those bottlenose dolphins managed to put down the drinks long enough to push him to the top of the water for a breath of air.

You know, despite how often I speak ill of them, bottlenose dolphins are a lot more like me than I initially thought. They really are very kind, when you get to know them. They spent all that energy helping dear Dolph and didn't ask for a thing in return. It is such a comfort knowing I can rely on them in my time of need. I wonder if humans have that same comfort. If not, I dare say they really ought to work on that.

Oh, dearest Lief, what have I told you about puns? They are the lowest form of humor. One may say that they are... below sea level. Goodness, now you've got me doing it. I look forward to your next letter. Perhaps you could enclose a picture of your latest seedlings? And please do tell me how the humans are progressing. I imagine with a little love and a lot of personal space; they'll be just fine.

Lots of love,  
Dolly

## PLAY CORNER

# Animals

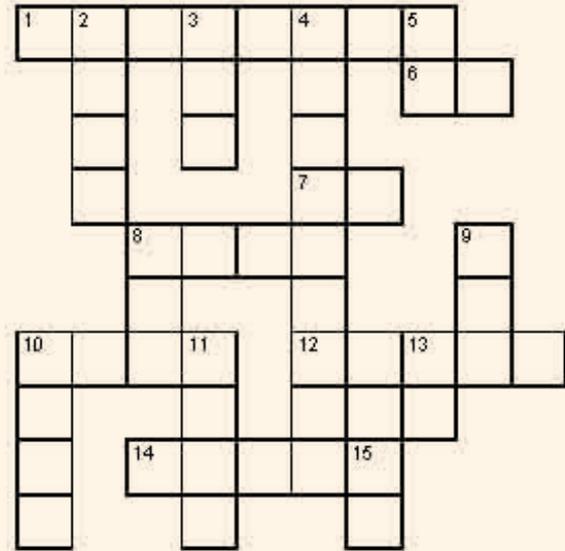
## Boggle's World

**Across**

1. An animal with a long nose.
6. My book is \_\_ the desk.
7. He \_\_ reading comic books.
8. An animal that jumps and catches flies.
10. An animal that flies.
12. An animal with black and orange stripes.
14. An animal with black and white stripes.

**Down**

2. The king of animals.
3. A short fat animal.
4. A green animal with a long mouth.
5. I like \_\_ play soccer.
8. I ate pizza \_\_ lunch.
9. What's one times one?
10. An animal that sleeps in winter.
11. A brown animal with horns.
13. \_\_ to bed
15. A cat. A dog. \_\_ elephant.

**POEM****My Farm Animals**

On a sunny day, I sat on my porch swing  
 And watched a cool fresh summer rain  
 Everything then seem to come so alive  
 Birds flew to birdbaths to take a dive  
 My horse started galloping with glee  
 Putting on a show to entertain me  
 The donkey, he was hee-hawing so loud  
 Trying to get the attention of a crowd  
 The cows and goats stepped up to see  
 What all the commotion seemed to be  
 Chickens were making clucking sounds  
 Even little bunnies were looking around  
 Simon, the cat, awoke, puzzled over this  
 Fell back to sleep for his daily rest  
 My farm animals so joyful and free  
 Well, no one to see, but only me!

**By Linda Harris**

**SHAIRI****Chatu**

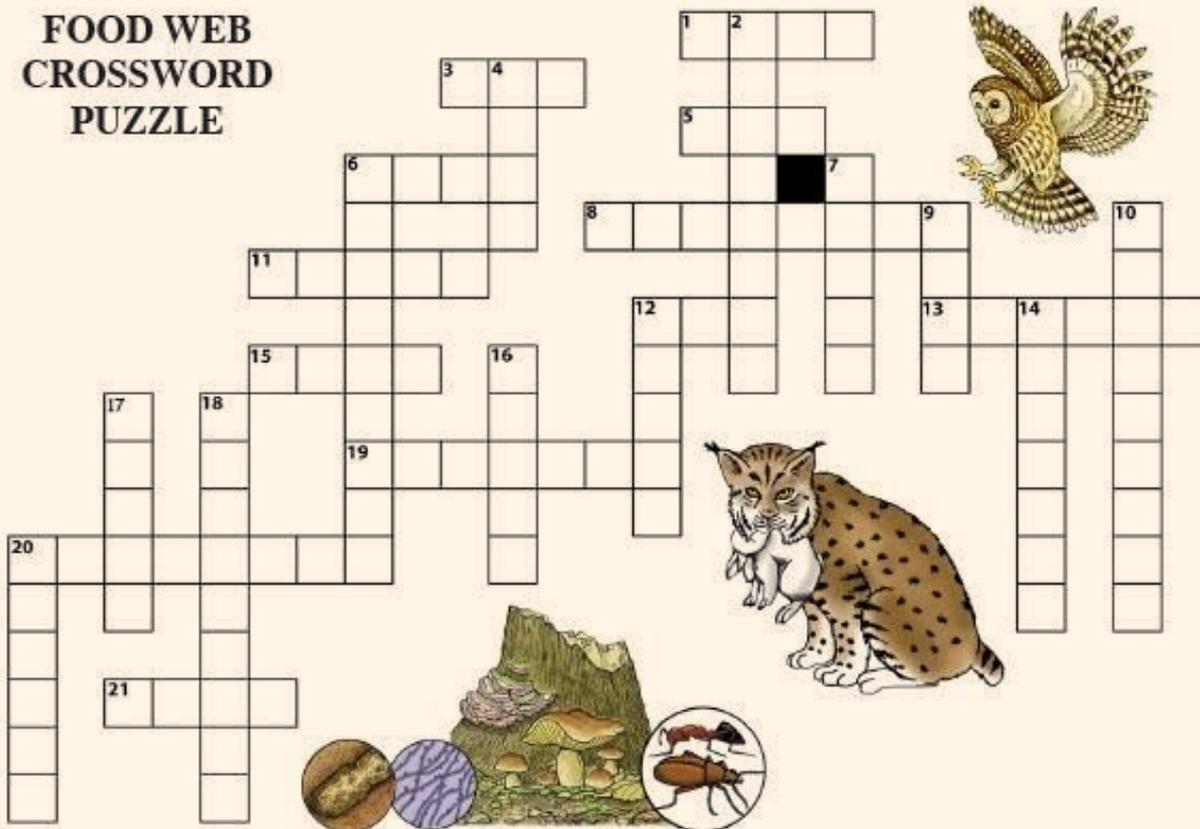
Mwana wa mfalme mwenye mikogo  
 Mkubwa miongoni mwa nyoka.  
 Wanasema chatu hana nyumba.  
 Nilisikia maneno haya zamani  
 Na nilicheka nikacheka na kucheka.

Kwani ni nani anamiliki ardhi chini ya nyasi za mlimao?  
 Nani anamiliki ardhi chini ya nyasi za tembo?  
 Nani anamiliki kinamasi - baba wa mito?  
 Nani anamiliki dimbwi lililosimama - baba wa maji?

Kwa sababu hawatembezi kwa kuongozana  
 Watu wanasema kuwa nyoka hutembea tu pekee pekee.  
 Lakini hebu fikiria  
 Chukulia kipiribao atembee mbele ya wote  
 Hongo afuatie  
 Na chatu atambae akinguruma nyuma yao  
 Nani atakuwa jasiri  
 Kuwasubiri?

# PLAY CORNER

## FOOD WEB CROSSWORD PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. A decomposer is an insect, fungus, or bacteria that breaks animals or plants that are \_\_\_\_\_.
3. A predator that hunts at night on silent wings.
5. A map of who eats whom in an ecosystem is called a food \_\_\_\_\_.
6. A smaller carnivore in the ocean with flippers and whiskers.
8. An example of a decomposer that is a fungus.
11. A producer which herbivores graze on.
12. Photosynthesis - plants make their own food using \_\_\_\_\_, water and carbon dioxide.
13. A consumer is an \_\_\_\_\_ that eats what is in its ecosystem.
15. A large hooved, herbivore.
19. The tallest herbivore on Earth.
20. An animal that chases down and eats another animal.
21. An animal that is chased and eaten by another animal.

### DOWN

2. The biggest herbivore on Earth.
4. A carnivore in the dog family (2 words).
6. An animal that eats whatever it can find.
7. A tiny herbivore in the rodent group.
9. A carnivore is an animal that eats only \_\_\_\_\_.
10. A omnivore in the bear family (2 words).
12. The smallest carnivore on Earth.
14. An insectivorous plant is a plant that eats \_\_\_\_\_.
16. A producer that makes its own food through photosynthesis.
17. A carnivore in the cat family (2 words).
18. A carnivore in the bear family (2 words).
20. A herbivore is an animal that eats only \_\_\_\_\_.

# Fun Facts

## Elephants

As massive as they are, elephants are irritated by the tiny creatures, the insects. They have delicate skin that can get sunburn and get irritated by insects. They use their trunks to throw sand over themselves to protect against the sun and the insects. To the elephants, dust and mud is like sunscreen.



## Vampire Bat

Vampire bats do more than just bite their prey—they also keep the other animal's blood from clotting. Once a vampire bat bites its sleeping prey it uses this remarkable saliva to keep the victim's blood flowing freely so that it can continue feeding for an indefinite period. Their saliva works as an anticoagulant, so that the blood can flow freely as they feed. Scientists have now turned this clot-busting protein in the bat's saliva into a drug to dissolve the blood clots that cause a stroke.

## Vulture

Vultures can eat just about anything that is dead and rotten, including animals that died from infections that, in turn, would kill most people who ate them. The stomach acid of a vulture is strong enough to destroy many dangerous diseases such as anthrax and cholera, which they may ingest when eating a carcass. Vultures are all but immune to botulism and that they can happily chow down on the flesh of an animal coated in *Bacillus anthracis* which is better known as the bacteria that causes anthrax! They also have no problem eating an animal infected with rabies, hog cholera and numerous other diseases that would ultimately be lethal to most other scavengers. Vultures are able to comfortably eat diseased carrion thanks in large part to their highly acidic gastric juices which are sufficiently strong enough to kill most bacteria before they ever become an issue. However, Vultures can be poisoned, for example, by lead, or by ibuprofen-like drugs.



## Adult Cats Only Meow At Humans

You probably know that cats love to talk to their humans. But did you know you're unlikely to see your feline friend interact the same way with another cat. Meowing is an interesting vocalization in that adult cats don't actually meow at each other, just at people. Kittens meow to let their mother know they're cold or hungry, but once they get a bit older, cats no longer meow to other cats. But they continue to meow to people throughout their lives, probably because meowing gets people to do what they want. They communicate through scent, body language, facial expression, and touch. The meow is human-directed communication. Cats know that they cannot communicate with people the way they do with other cats, which is why cats meow at humans to communicate. Cats also yowl—a sound similar to the meow but more drawn out and melodic. Unlike meowing, adult cats do yowl at one another, specifically during breeding season.



## Buffalo

An elephant may not forget, but a buffalo is known to never forgive. They have excellent memories of anyone who has come in contact with them. They ambush people who have previously hurt them many years after the event has taken place. They are known to kill more hunters in Africa than any other wildlife animal.

## A Plant Animal

Leaf sheep are one of the strangest kinds of animals on the planet. They look like a farm animal, act like a plant, and live in the sea. The little sea slugs are technically animals, but like plants, they get most of their energy from the sun. When leaf sheep eat algae, they suck out the chloroplasts and incorporate them into their own bodies in a process called kleptoplasty. The funny little creatures have the face of a cow or sheep, but a back that looks like a house plant.



# about interesting animals



## Penguins

The penguins have knees. It may not look like it but their legs are composed of a short femur, knee, tibia and fibula. The upper leg bones are not visible as they are covered in feathers giving penguins a very short legged appearance.

## African Wild Dog

African wild dog packs are led by one monogamous breeding pair. It's rare that another female in the pack will breed, but if she does, the head female will often take the puppies as her own or kill them to keep the pack at its optimum size.

## Koalas

Koalas may not have much in common with human beings, but they have hands that have fingerprints that look like humans. It is believed that their fingerprints can be able to taint a crime scene.

## Parrots

Parrots will selflessly help each other out. The birds voluntarily help each other to obtain food rewards and help perform selfless acts. They are motivated to help each other whether from their brood or not.



## Monkeys

Monkeys are well known to be cute. Well, capuchin monkeys' habits may not be so cute. They urinate on their hands and feet when they are feeling randy. The alpha males use the urine washing to convey their feelings to the females.

## Frogs Can Freeze Without Dying

Frogs can tolerate the cold and freeze to solid and not die. True enough, ice crystals form in such places as the body cavity and bladder and under the skin, but a high concentration of glucose in the frog's vital organs prevents freezing. A partially frozen frog will stop breathing, and its heart will stop beating. It will appear quite dead. But when the hibernaculum warms up above freezing, the frog's frozen portions will thaw, and its heart and lungs resume activity.

## Prairie Dogs

Prairie dogs show their affection with a kiss. They are giant rodents that dig massive interconnected underground homes. They kiss when they touch their front teeth in order to identify each other.



## Living on Poo

Africa dung beetles live on poop and can roll dung up to 50 times their body weight in a straight line, despite all obstacles. They spend their lives gathering the feces of other animals and rolling them into great balls that can exceed their own body weight. According to scientists they use the Milky Way as a compass. One African species can even navigate by moonlight alone - making these the only insects known to orientate themselves using the galaxy. Both male and female dung beetles have different roles when it comes to what to do with the dung they collect. They bury the dung and use it as a larder, or as a nutritional nest for their eggs.

## Puffins

Puffins use twigs to scratch their bodies. Puffins also known as sea parrots or 'clown of the sea' use small sticks to scratch their bodies. They also change the colour of their beak during the year. In winter, the beak has a dull grey colour, but in spring it blooms with an outrageous orange! It's thought that the bright colour helps puffins assess potential mates.

# Co-existence with Nature through Supporting Education in Tsavo Communities

by Brenda Okumu



**T**hough wildlife in Africa has declined in the recent decades, research continues to record higher biodiversity where indigenous communities are located. These communities are historically known to have a culture that revolves around nature. Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) recognizes the important role that indigenous communities play in the conservation of natural resources.

In September 2019, under the strategic area of human-animal coexistence, ANAW initiated a new program called Africa Conservation Education Fund (ACEF). The

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**Africa Conservation Education Fund (ACEF) is a program of Africa Network for Animal Welfare that was established to raise funds for the education of children living in wildlife areas.**

program was started to conserve wildlife by empowering local communities living in wildlife areas through educational support, provision of vocational training and development of entrepreneurial skills among the youth.

In Kenya, the first target group are the indigenous Watha community who border Tsavo East National Park. These are a southern Cushite people found in different parts of Kenya. Those who live in the Tsavo ecosystem are spread across the villages in Voi, Maungu, Makina, Shirango, Kisemenyi, Kilibasi, and Kajire.

### Why Indigenous Communities?

There is a strong interlinkage between socioeconomic and natural systems. For humankind to develop, there is a need for man to co-exist with nature. Communities that live in or near wildlife areas have largely been excluded from opportunities for socio-economic development and are marginalized partly because of their remote location and limited resources in their area. Baseline data on the indigenous Watha community indicates that they have been directly impacted by conservation through their removal from the forest to give way for the Tsavo National Park.

### The Place of Education

Education provides the political, economic and social building block in a society. Lack of it creates isolation and limits economic and career prospects. Without education, even the documentation of a community's heritage can be at risk. With an understanding that formal education is an important intervention for the enhancement of indigenous communities, an education fund was created to help children from communities in wildlife areas access quality education, complete the education cycle and hopefully gain employment for alternative livelihoods. If not, they might negatively impact wildlife through tree cutting and bushmeat hunting activities.

ACEF caters for the scholarship of needy children and youth from the Watha community. The education fund also supports educational infrastructure development in local under resourced schools and promotes vocational training for out-of-school youth.

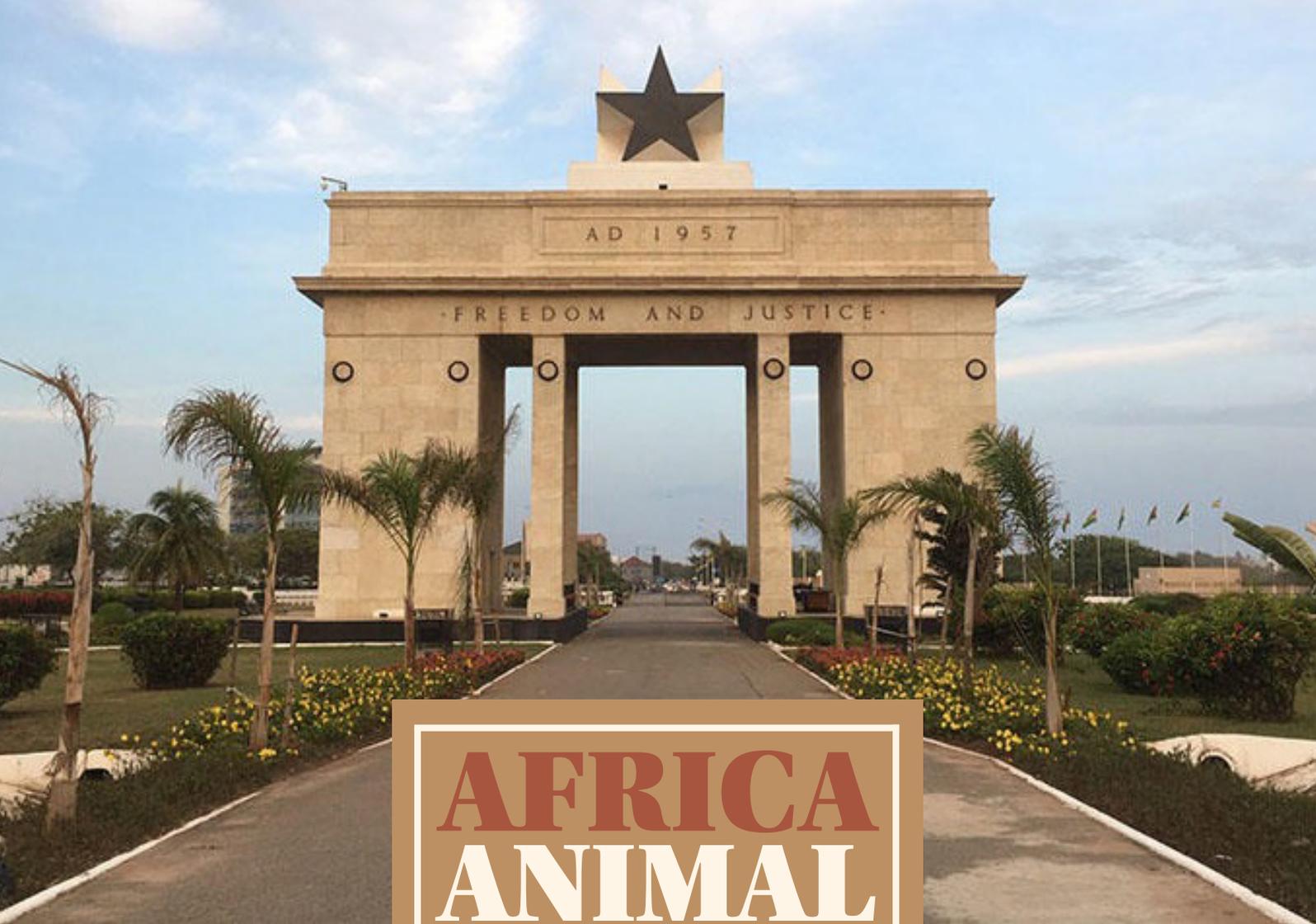
To find out how you can support the education of children from communities in wildlife areas, have a look at the conservation education fund on the ANAW website or write to [partners@anaw.org](mailto:partners@anaw.org).



*Pupils inside their classroom at Jira Primary*



*A young elephant in Tsavo East National Park*



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