

A publication of the Ol Pejeta Conservancy

Community Development



Programme News 2011

The Ol Pejeta Conservancy works to conserve wildlife, provide a sanctuary for great apes and to generate income through wildlife tourism and complementary enterprises for re-investment in conservation and community development.

opening remarks

The year 2010 was a reasonably good year for all of us on the OI Pejeta Conservancy, our surrounding communities and hopefully Kenya at large. Our neighbours had good harvests following wonderful rainy seasons while, the country's overall economy and politics were stable.

With continued generous support from our donors, particularly the Project Kenya Sister Schools-Canada, Afretech, Rotary Club of Langley Central and Rotary Club of Nairobi North in collaboration with the other local partners, the OI Pejeta Conservancy was able to undertake various community projects.

In this regard, I am happy to report that our community education component run in partnership with the Project Kenya Sister Schools (PKSS), continues to assist the local communities to improve access to quality education and by providing bursaries and learning facilities. We expect much to be achieved with Patrick Waigwa joining us to head this section (education).

The on-going support we provide to neighbouring communities in all areas of health, water, agriculture extension and livestock improvements continues to contribute into improved livelihoods.

In order to achieve meaningful and sustainable development as spelt out in our five year Community Develop-

ment Strategic Plan, we have maintained and encouraged communities to drive the process of their development. We empower and enable them to achieve, as well as remain focused on their goals. We work closely with concerned government ministries, the local leaders and partners, so harmonizing efforts and resources for local development. We have thus aimed at sharing information with all our stakeholders and in particular with the government and communities through the OI Pejeta Conservancy annual leaders open days; more than 60 heads of government departments and key local leaders attended this day held in the month of September.

I would therefore like to thank all of you for the continued support that enables us to provide much needed support to neighbouring communities. You are making a huge difference in a positive way to the lives of these rural communities.



Paul Leringato
Community
Programme Manager



Financial Support for Communities in 2010

DIRECT SOCIAL SUPPORT

	<i>Amount (Kshs.)</i>
PKSS donations for Education	3,337,238.78
Education Beyond Borders - Canada (for education workshop & donations)	500,000.00
Other Education donors (Frank & Simone, Betty Kiddel and Ellie Jones-Perrott)	359,578.37
Total Donations for Education	4,196,817.15
ICEP/NRT donations for Conservation Agriculture	500,000.00
Rotary Club of Nairobi North (water projects)	2,886,000.00
Total Social Support in 2010	7,582,817.15

DIRECT ENTERPRISE SUPPORT

Livestock purchased from communities	3,232,000.00
Food supplies from communities for the chimpanzees	1,805,539.00
Water supply/delivery (Endana School, etc...)	20,799.66
Repair of Withare borehole (labour donation)	8,823.21
Other financial/value of service provided	140,447.80
Total Direct Enterprise Support	5,207,609.67

GRAND TOTAL

12,790,426.82

water

Sustainable Water Harvesting



© Kevin Wabungo

40
2,500-litre
tanks for
water
harvesting

It is early morning in the Kingi's homestead at Irura, one of the neighbouring villages of the Ol Pejeta Conservancy. Muthoni Kingi prepares herself for her daily pilgrimage to the river. At hand are four 20-litre jerry cans which she uses to fetch water five times a day. She is not alone in this journey as Rose Wanjiku, a mother of two, joins her. Together they will cover about 25 kilometers each day in search of this precious commodity. The good news is that these trips are soon to be forgotten.

Through Ol Pejeta's Community Outreach Programme, two local women's groups, Irura and Mwi-cokaniria, each consisting of 125 members, were the first recipients of the sustainable water harvesting project. This project aims at harvesting rain water from the roof for domestic use in local households. In January 2011, thanks to donations from the Rotary Club of Langley Central Canada, the Rotary Club of Nairobi North and the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, the women's groups received 40 2,500-litre tanks. These communities already had about 100 tanks at their disposal, which they purchased themselves, but many households were lacking the funds to get their own tanks. This generous donation benefited about 40 households. In addition to the tanks, gutters were installed which assist in collecting water from the roof and directing it to the water tanks, allowing the tanks to fill up when it rains.

During the presentation ceremony, women in attendance were full of admiration as they received the tanks and gutters. Mrs. Mary Mukami, chairperson of Irura Women's Group, could not hide her excitement for the assistance offered in addressing their water problem. "We are very grateful to the Rotary clubs of Canada, Nairobi and to the Ol Pejeta Conservancy for the tanks and gutters. These will go a long way in helping us provide water tanks for all our members."

Mrs. Wanjiku was thankful for being one of the beneficiaries of the project. She said that it will help in reducing water-borne diseases like typhoid, and will also save her from walking long distances every day. "Thank you very much for the water tanks and gutters. I will also share water with my neighbours to reduce their trips to the river," she said. The initiative has had a significant impact on more than 700 lives in the neighbouring community.



education

Library Projects - Reading Made Easy

The Project Kenya Sister Schools (PKSS) and Afretech Aid Society, in partnership with the OI Pejeta Conservancy, set out to support their ambitious plan of promoting a reading culture in nearby schools and the community at large. PKSS contributed Ksh 360,000 (US\$ 4,500) as matching grant towards the completion of the Nanyuki District Library. Afretech Aid through Bonnie Sutherland donated 226 boxes of books and 15 desktop computers for the Laikipia Community Library.

The small library at Irura Primary School received 100 boxes of books and book shelving equipment while Sweet-

waters Secondary School small library obtained 100 boxes of books, 10 computers and five laptops to assist the set up of their computer laboratory. The Sweetwaters Secondary School also received five laptops and a camera from Walnut Groove Secondary School through Julia Bryant who visited in August 2010. Additional funds were used to facilitate the purchase and installation of shelving for books in the new libraries. There has been a noticeable increase of pupils visiting the libraries to work on their homework and catch up on revision. This PKSS partnership aims to establish small libraries in the six twinned Kenyan schools.



Uniforms for Schools

With a kind donation of Ksh 62,150 (US\$ 776.87) from Mary Anne – a donor from Canada - the OI Pejeta Conservancy donated 72 sets of uniforms to needy pupils at Endana primary school. Students from at the school can now concentrate in class and will no longer have to worry about how they look. Moreover, parents will also have a reduced burden in buying uniforms and will now be able to purchase books for their children. Pupils in Kenyan schools are required to wear school uniforms as a way of reflecting equality and to portray neatness.

Education Beyond Borders Teachers Workshops

Sixty Six local teachers attended the Education Beyond Borders (EBB) Teachers Workshop held at Loise Nanyuki Girls Secondary School in August. The workshop facilitation group consisting of seven Canadian teachers made a combined donation of US\$2,800. This came from Canadian schools and individuals and saw three of our local schools benefit. Wathituga Primary School received 22 sets of lockers and chairs, St. Augustine Siri-ma Secondary School received two 12-piece sets of volleyball uniforms and finally, Irura Primary School received two library tables and 15 chairs.

We are grateful for the support we have received from Education Beyond Borders (www.educationbeyondborders.org), a Canadian based non-governmental organization that is devoted to bridging the education gap through professional teacher development and community education. Their intention is to establish educational best practices and also create a professional learning community of teachers from Laikipia East and Laikipia Central Districts.



Loise Girls Secondary School

Loise Girls Secondary School in Nanyuki offers educational opportunities to girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. But unfortunately the school lacks some of the facilities and equipment required to help its students perform to the best of their abilities. This year PKSS contributed Kshs 250,000 (US\$ 3,125) towards completion of a classroom started the previous year. In addition, Loise Nanyuki Girls received sports uniforms for its soccer team (16 pieces), handball team (11 pieces) and volleyball team (10 pieces). The uniforms will go a long way in boosting the team's morale during competitions. We are all eager to see the various teams' improved performances in the district and provincial school games this year.



Loise Girls Secondary School volleyball and football teams in their new uniforms

School Twinning and Cultural Exchange



Project Kenya Sister Schools, in collaboration with the OI Pejeta's Community Development Department, has established a school twinning programme. This cultural exchange programme between schools in Canada and those neighbouring the OI Pejeta Conservancy, provides students with an opportunity to appreciate their differences in education, lifestyle and culture. Interaction is done through the exchange of letters, student-made books and emails. To date, 12 local schools have been twinned with Canadian schools, with five more are soon to follow. PKSS offers a chance for Canadian students to make a direct impact on the world through the twinning programme.

The Bursary Fund

In 2010, with the assistance from Project Kenya Sister Schools and a few private donors, bursary payments totaling to Ksh 1,058,698 (US\$13,233.73) were made to help needy students within the OI Pejeta community. The bursary fund has supported a number of students on a full-time basis as follows:

- 26 students in secondary schools
- 2 students in special primary schools
- 2 students in public universities
- 2 students in middle level colleges

In 2010, the beneficiaries performed exceptionally well with one student achieving an A- and six students attained B's. The OI Pejeta Bursary Fund has been able to sustain more than 300 pupils since its inception in 2005.

agricultural extension

Youth Employment through Agriculture



Ewaso Nyiro Youth Drip Irrigators - a youth group in the Matanya area neighbouring the OI Pejeta Conservancy – has embraced farming of cabbages through drip irrigation. The Northern Rangelands Trust and the OI Pejeta Conservancy have facilitated the provision of a 2,500 litre water tank for storage, drip irrigation pipes and agricultural extension services to assist the group in farming of the crop. The group of seven youth, who were once unemployed, are now actively involved in the daily cultivation of their quarter-acre plot. The project has seen over 500 neighbouring farmers visit the farm, eager to learn about how

to venture into drip irrigation as an improved crop-growing method. Andrew Githua, an active member of the group, urged other youth to embrace drip irrigation and form groups to take up the endeavour. He continued to say that the project has provided them with something to do and that their aim is to kit out each member with the drip irrigation equipment necessary to start their own vegetable cultivation.

Dorper Sheep Programme

In light of the growing concerns of climate change there has been a sudden decline in fodder for cattle. This has made it difficult for local herders to access feed for their animals. This challenge has been overcome through an initiative by the Top Shoats Self-Help Group, Timlata Self-Help Group and the OI Pejeta Conservancy's livestock improvement programme. The two groups of 34 herders, pooled resources and managed to purchase two pure breed dorper rams at a subsidized amount from Mr. Laurie Sessions, a local livestock farmer from Lengetia farm. The breed has been adopted by the two groups mainly because of its early maturing attributes, making it profitable for farmers. The dorper breed is largely reared for its lamb as one sheep may reach weights of upto 35 kilograms within four months. The groups are using these rams in a crossing programme with local breeds. Mrs. Margaret Wanjiku, a member of Top Shoats group has since sold 30 of the local herd and acquired 12 rams. "The improved breed grows faster as compared to the local breed. With these sheep we will be able to transform our herding into a business venture," she said. Upon maturity the sheep, Top Shoats and Timlata intend to sell their livestock produce to the OI Pejeta Conservancy through the livestock for communities programme.

This will in the long-term become a business venture for the sheep herders following a collective selling agreement with the OI Pejeta Conservancy. Mr. Kinyua Kanyagia, a local herder and member of Timlata, was optimistic that the new breed of sheep will make them realise more profits as compared to the local breed that they reared before.



Mrs. Margaret Wanjiku and a member of the Top Shoats group

Hugh Crossley - Education First

Throughout the years, the Ol Pejeta Conservancy has been fortunate enough to obtain the support of organisations and individuals who have gone above and beyond to raise funds for our programmes. We continue to be extremely grateful for their commitment and in this newsletter would like to highlight the exceptional dedication of one such individual. Over the last five years, Hugh Crossley has raised an astonishing amount of over £100,000 for the Ol Pejeta Conservancy Education Programme.

Hugh first came to Kenya in 2005, to climb Batian, one of the Mt. Kenya peaks. He was accompanied by two friends, Louis Tucker and Seba Calleri-Zavanelli. There was a tragic accident on the mountain and Seba was killed. The incredible help on the mountain that Louis and Hugh received but also the kindness afforded to them both and Seba's family from the community around Mt. Kenya inspired Louis and Hugh to keep coming back and also to give something back.

So when Hugh and Louis heard about an event that the Ol Pejeta Conservancy was holding called Cricket in the Wild in 2006, they thought it was the perfect way to get involved. Both avid cricket players and philanthropists, Hugh and Louis decided to participate. The event was solely dedicated at raising funds for Ol Pejeta's community programmes, and this is something that resonated right away with them. They enrolled the help of their friends and put a team together.

The following year, Hugh came out from England, his home, with a different team and raised the necessary funds to enter the event, and more. When he went back to England, he also held a corporate event with his company which raised more funds. The funds were channelled through Tusk Trust, a charity in the UK.

Education is key for Hugh. He strongly believes that it is the most important investment one can make in shaping the future of a country - improving the ability of children to make better decisions for themselves, for their family and also for the wildlife around them. By supporting education, Hugh knows he is supporting a much broader cause. He wanted to get involved in a school that was in its infancy stage, that needed the funds to be completed and that could benefit children that really needed it. He found Endana Secondary School, one of the Ol Pejeta neighbours

and beneficiaries. He visited the school, along with his teammates and never looked back.



Last Christmas, Hugh decided to enroll the help of his new company, Equitix, for another fundraising event. Equitix builds schools in the UK and have formed a link between Endana Secondary and the schools they are building in Cambridgeshire. Again, the funds raised went straight to Endana and in the last few years, Hugh, Louis and their friends have enabled to build Endana from the ground up. This includes six classrooms, two water tanks, solar power, two latrines and a perimeter fence. The latest funds raised will be used to build a science laboratory, an administrative block and staff room.

Hugh has been back to Kenya to see the progress of the school and to check on the children. He received a warm welcome during his visit and undoubtedly felt that his money was well spent and that he had chosen the right school and the right organisation with Ol Pejeta. Hugh has faith in the Ol Pejeta Conservancy and agrees with its model of incorporating conservation and community development. He believes the communities surrounding Ol Pejeta have been lifted by the investment that was made into the Conservancy and that the Ol Pejeta staff have a strong dedication to better the lives of the people around them.

health

Medical Equipment Donations

In May 2010, the Nanyuki District Hospital was a major beneficiary of vital medical equipment. Ultra sound machines, wheel-chairs, commode chairs, oxygen saturation and weighing machines were donated by the Burnaby Hospital of Canada and also included a microscope, a box of spectacles, disposable gowns, test tubes and over 70 walkers. Being the main medical centre in Laikipia, many people will now be able to have access to improved healthcare. Dr. David Njoroje - Nanyuki District Hospital Medical Superintendant, expressed his gratitude for the support saying that the donations made by Burnaby Hospital through the OI Pejeta Conservancy have assisted the medical staff carry out their duties in a clean environment and to cater for more patients. "The commodes have been very helpful. We can now better handle the physically challenged patients."



acknowledgements

In appreciation of the support given to its community development programmes, the OI Pejeta Conservancy Management would like to wholeheartedly thank the following

DONORS:

Project Kenya Sister Schools
All individual Canadian Sister Schools
Afretech Aid Society
Education Beyond Borders – Canada
Rotary International
Rotary Club of Nairobi North
Westminister Rotary Club, Langley, Canada
Mary-Anne
ICEP
Burnaby Hospital
Hugh Crossley

PARTNERS:

Northern Rangelands Trust
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
Constituency Development Fund (CDF), Laikipia East
Laikipia Wildlife Forum
Water Resources Management Authority
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Health (Nanyuki District Hospital)
Ministry of Agriculture
Lengetia Farm
Segera Ranch

want to help?

The OI Pejeta Community Development Programme is highly dependent on the generous support of individuals, foundations and organisations. If you would like to become a donor or if you simply want additional information, please visit www.olpejetaconservancy.org. You will be able to make a much needed online donation.

For other support or information, please contact:
OI Pejeta Conservancy, Private Bag, Nanyuki 10400
tel: +254 (0) 62 32408
email: info@olpejetaconservancy.org.