

A publication of the Ol Pejeta Conservancy

Community Development



Programme News 2010

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.

OL PEJETA
CONSERVANCY

www.olpejetaconservancy.org

Community Development Programme

opening remarks

2009 was a challenging year for our surrounding communities. The prolonged drought, which affected not only northern Kenya, but the entire country, had devastating impacts on our neighbours.

Food scarcity and water shortages were highly felt. As such, resource-based conflicts could not be avoided; water use conflicts, grazing and human-wildlife conflicts amongst others.

The OI Pejeta Conservancy, in response to this crisis, and in collaboration with the government, local leaders and partners, worked with all neighbouring communities to help alleviate some of the suffering.

Our drought relief interventions included allowing communities regulated grazing on the Conservancy, emergency water supply using the OI Pejeta water bowser, responding to human-wildlife conflict situations as well as part-time payment of school fees for pupils whose parents could not keep them in school.

As directed by our Board we are in the process of developing and rolling out a Five Year (2009-2014) Strategic Plan to provide direction to the Community Development Programme. The plan process in-

involved wide consultations with local communities and leaders, relevant government ministries, development partners as well as the OI Pejeta Board and Management Team. With this plan, we look forward to redefined strategies to achieve conservation and sustainable community development.



To this end, I would like to thank all our donors and development partners for continued kind donations to communities through the OI Pejeta Conservancy Community Development Programme. Your support is making a world of difference in the life of the communities in and around the Conservancy.

Paul Leringato

Community Programme Manager

Financial Support for Communities

	Amount (Ksh)
Direct Social Support in 2009	
PKSS donations for education	3,088,654.67
TWB-Canada (workshop & donations)	700,000.00
OPC/Lengetia (education)	600,000.00
ICEP donations for Conservation Agriculture	2,912,249.03
Water Projects (OPC)	60,000.00
Rotary World Help Network (HIV/AIDS Awareness & medical support)	260,000.00
OPC donations to provincial administration	50,000.00
Total	7,670,903.70
Direct Enterprise Support in 2009	
Livestock purchased from communities	9,448,217
Food supplies from communities for the chimpanzees	1,504,220
Total	10,952,437
Total Direct Social Support since 2008	23,953,327
Total Enterprise Support since 2008	25,609,547

education

With continued generous support from donors, particularly the Project Kenya Sister Schools (Canada) and in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Ol Pejeta Conservancy continues to provide much needed support to the education of its neighbouring communities.

Endana Secondary School - A Success Story

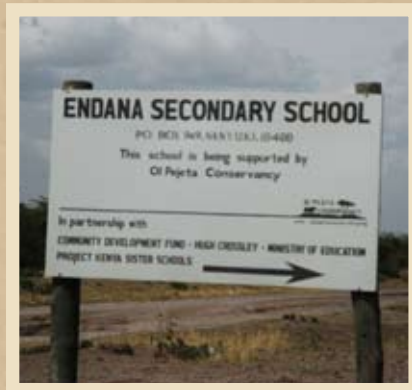
Endana Secondary School is located on Ol Pejeta's northern boundary and is one of the projects we are the most proud of. Two years ago, the school had approximately 12 students. As of January 2010, the enrollment in the school stood at 146 students.

Through Ol Pejeta's Community Programme, the school has received approximately USD 80,000 in funding. These funds allowed for the constructions of six classrooms, toilets, fencing area, tanks, desks for the students, books, office furniture and most importantly financial support to develop a Strategic Plan. The plan is meant to provide the school with a clear and defined strategic direction over the next five years. We believe this is the best way forward to make schools focus on how to address the various requirements aimed at improving proper education standards for the children.

And there is more good news. A temporary dormitory is currently being built, to allow the students

who live very far to stay at the school in the evening and not have to walk long distances to get home. Solar panels have been installed by the Ministry of Education and are powering computers for the teachers and students. The parents of the students contributed a total of USD 11,500 last year through school fees for the feeding programme, meaning that the children don't go hungry and can concentrate on their studies with a full stomach.

On a recent visit to Endana School, we were able to witness motivated students, motivated teachers, and a Principal who can proudly show the progress of his school. He mentioned that he now has to turn students away because the school has become so popular, so his hope is to be able to continue to grow to offer the best possible education to as many children as possible. We are committed to continue our support for Endana Secondary School and believe we can replicate this success story in other schools in the region.



Official Opening of Uaso Nyiro Primary School

The Uaso Nyiro Primary School, which neighbours the OI Pejeta Conservancy on the northern boundary, was officially opened in March 2009. After the completion of four classrooms, toilets and fence work, the school was handed over to the community.

Project Kenya Sister Schools (Canada) provided USD 10,000 as a matching grant to this project that secured funds from a generous private donor, Laurent Hopman and from the OI Pejeta Conservancy. The parents of the children provided free labour as contribution, helping to dig the foundation for the buildings. This school, which caters for the children from the pastoralists communities occupying Northern Approaches and Depatas centre, is a great addition for the local community.



Loise Nanyuki Girls Secondary School



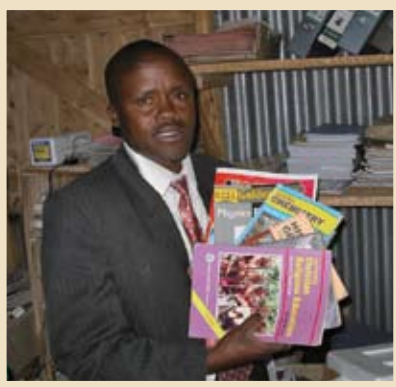
Loise Girls is based in Nanyuki and an academic centre of excellence for girls from disadvantaged backgrounds. It currently enrolls 132 girls, from all around the region. Because of its ongoing success, the school continues to attract attention from the local leaders and communities to address its many needs – new classrooms, science lab and equipments, books and furniture.

This year the school received additional donations of about USD 40,000 to continue building classrooms, to finish the science lab and to help subsidise tuitions.

Desks and Class Repairs for Irula Primary

Irula Primary School, Sister School to Langley Fine Arts School in Canada, remains central to our planning. More so given the fact that it is a stone's throw from our perimeter fence. In 2009, the school received desks and matching funds for class repair from PKSS, all valued at USD 4,700.

In addition, Silvia Knittle, during her visit alongside TWB-Canada, donated USD 1,150 that kindly allowed the school to undertake major repairs of Class One. The classroom before had no cement floors, walls were rough, no windows - the entire building was halfway built. There is no doubt this refurbishment has increased the learning morale amongst the children.



Classrooms Refurbishments & Book Donations for Tharua Schools

Started in 1969, Tharua Primary School is one of the oldest schools in the region. However, it is a big shame that infrastructure is still semi-permanent and extremely poor. Using funding from PKSS, we supported major repairs of two classrooms at the cost of USD 5,700.

Tharua Secondary School received support to purchased 133 books worth USD 1,700. The books will greatly boost learning at this new school established to cater for pupils from Tharua Primary and environs.

Sweetwaters Secondary School



The OI Pejeta Conservancy refurbished five classrooms, the admin block and the main gate at the Sweetwaters Secondary School this year. Repair works included internal plastering and painting of the classrooms, roof painting, decorations of windows and doors, classroom veranda extension and main gate improvement.

In addition, the school received soccer uniforms and sports facilities from the OI Pejeta Chimpanzee Department, donated by PASA, Brevard Zoo and the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Education Prize Giving Day

In Kenya, academic progression is regulated by national examinations (Grade 8 through 12 and University). This rationale behind these examinations is simple: if the students are rewarded, they will work harder for good grades.

It is for this reason that the OI Pejeta Conservancy has continued to participate in and support the Prize Giving events hosted annually by the Laikipia East District Education Office. This year's event was held in the month of June. We provided trophies and other prizes. This is meant to reward pupils who scored highly during last year's exams and teachers whose subjects performed well.

Bursary Programme



The OI Pejeta Conservancy Bursary Fund is a vital programme which continues to offer financial assistance to promising students from the local communities. Begun in 2005, our bursary programme has benefited more than 100 pupils on full-time and 200 on a part-time basis. Currently 35 students are being supported on a full-time basis and 6 students on a part-time basis.

Were it not for the kind donations and fundraising by the Canadian Sister Schools and a few private donors, many bright and talented children from underprivileged backgrounds could have been excluded from education.

School Twinning and Cultural Exchange

In partnership with the Project Kenya Sister Schools (Canada), the OI Pejeta Conservancy continues to support surrounding schools to undertake a twinning and cultural exchange programme. This programme allows our local children to be exposed to other culture and many global issues. To date, 12 local schools are twinned with Canadian Sister Schools and many more are in the process of joining the programme.

Through this arrangement, the Canadian schools under the umbrella of the Project Kenya Sister Schools (Canada) conduct fundraisings on an annual basis in support of the Kenyan schools. To date, more than USD 200,000 have been raised and channeled through the OI Pejeta Conservancy.



agricultural extension

Conservation Agriculture

In the region surrounding the OI Pejeta Conservancy, our local farmers have been growing crops and rearing animals continuously, resulting in increased soil nutrients mining. This has caused massive loss of soil fertility. The OI Pejeta Conservancy is helping its neighbours adopt new technologies to maintain soil biodiversity:

1) **Minimum soil disturbance.** With this technique soil moisture is retained deeper into the soil. The OI Pejeta Conservancy has six demo sites namely Mirera, Matanya, Kabanga, Male, Karai 1 and Karai 2

2) **Crop rotation.** Crop rotation takes advantage of the previous crop. For example, maize can utilize nitrogen fixed by legumes

3) **Permanent soil cover.** With this technology crop stubble is left on the ground to reduce direct sunlight on the soil, minimize evapotranspiration and nutrients like nitrogen to volatilize

4) **Drip irrigation.** Due to climate change time has come to adopt new water resource use technologies. The OI Pejeta Conservancy has five demo sites on drip irrigation. In one, water is from pan which harvests runoff. The

aim is to show the community that there are other sources of water than the surrounding rivers. In drip irrigation, water used for one acre can be used for six acres. It also reduces the use of fuel significantly.



Linking Livestock Markets to Wildlife Conservation

In partnership with the African Wildlife Foundation and the Northern Rangelands Trust, the OI Pejeta Conservancy continues to provide livestock market to communities in northern Kenya. In 2009, a total of 728 cattle were purchased by the OI Pejeta Conservancy, earning Ksh 9,448,217 for the respective community conservancies. *It is important to emphasise that the drought put huge constraints this year on the purchase of additional cattle due to the lack of spare pasture. Normally, OI Pejeta would be looking at purchasing three or four times more cattle per year.*

The idea behind this programme is to help provide

conservation incentives to communities who allow wildlife on their areas and generally contribute into biodiversity conservation.

Further, the African Wildlife Foundation provided funding through OPC to purchase Eland Downs, a project aimed at restoring the ecological conditions of this vast property that was vandalized and heavily degraded.

The intended use of Eland Downs is to allow the neighbouring pastoralist communities to use it for grazing but in an organized manner (regulated use) for their benefit, without compromising environmental conservation.



water

Ol Pejeta Offers Drought Relief to Its Neighbours

Since 2007, the Ol Pejeta Conservancy, in collaboration with Laikipia Wildlife Forum, Safaricom Foundation and Water Resources Management Authority, has been supporting activities geared towards development and strengthening of Water Resources Users Associations for its neighbours.

2009 was a challenging year for Kenya due to a severe drought which lasted over a year. The mighty Ewaso Ngiro which has its source in the Aberdares dried up before it reached Ol Pejeta for the

first time in any known history. All the tributaries both from Mount Kenya and Aberdares also dried up apart from the Ngobit River.

This situation heavily affected OPC and communities living downstream. OPC offered various interventions to help its neighbours.



OPC use its water bowser to provide domestic water to pastoralist communities. Throughout the year, Ol Pejeta gave logistical support to both the provincial administration and WRMA office.

Other interventions include promotion of drip irrigation kits under the Conservation Agriculture project.

OPC continues to support the implementation of the developed Sub-Catchment Management Plans in order to restore the health of the river systems. More sensitization meet-

ings on going, planting of water friendly trees along the riparian land and catchment areas, promotion of new farming technologies and rain water harvesting activities are being undertaken in collaboration with other stakeholders.

Much Needed Funding for Water Projects

In partnership with the Rotary Club of Nairobi North and the support from a Canada-based Rotary Club, the Ol Pejeta Conservancy recently received USD 37,000 for a variety of water projects aimed to benefit communities surrounding the Ol Pejeta Conservancy.

Generally Laikipia district is an arid and semi arid area and as such water scarcity is widespread. The problem of water scarcity forces the communities surrounding the Ol Pejeta Conservancy to walk for many kilometres on daily basis to collect water from communal water points.

The beneficiaries of this project were identified by the communities based on guidance by the Ol Pejeta Conservancy Community Development Programme:

- Water supply for Withare Dispensary and resident villagers
- Safe Water Supply for the pupils of Endana Primary and Secondary Schools
- Provision of clean rain water for families of Marura and Matanya women's group
- Mitero Water supply from shallow well for students, villagers, livestock and Growing of Food Crops
- Drip irrigation technology for Thome and Tharua communities to discourage unsustainable use of rivers
- Training sessions for local communities on water management

The proposed water projects will be owned and managed by self-help groups or committees managing the local institutions like schools and health facilities. These community-based institutions will manage the water projects to ensure sustainability after completion. OPC community programme will keep track of these projects alongside other community owned projects being supported by the Conservancy.

Community Development Programme

cricket in the wild 2010

The OI Pejeta Conservancy will be hosting its fourth "10:10" *Cricket in the Wild* tournament on the **24th, 25th and 26th of September 2010**. This tournament is designed to raise funds to support the OI Pejeta Conservancy's Community Programmes. Since its inception, Cricket in the Wild has raised over Ksh 12 million.



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
Afrotech Aid Society
Teachers Without Borders – Canada
Westminster Rotary Club, Langley, Canada
ICEP
Burnaby Hospital
African Wildlife Foundation
PASA (Brevard ZOO, US Fish & Wildlife Service)

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

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.