

OL PEJETA CONSERVANCY



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - JULY 2019



MORE ECO-STOVES FOR 1,000 FAMILIES

Through our Jiko project, we are aiming to build 1,000 stoves within our community households by the end of the year. The stoves, in addition to being smoke-free, are also eco-friendly - helping us, and you, to protect trees by reducing the need for firewood or charcoal burning.

7. Each beneficiary household is entitled to: one liner, one fire gate, two pottery bars, one outlet, two buckets of sand and 20kgs of cement.

The stoves (cement coated) take 21 days to dry and be ready for use. This new breed of stoves is stronger and has a longer life of over five years, thus giving the household more service. Many thanks to Die Ofenmacher for their support on this project.

Please feel free to contact the ICS on 0726263549 or email hirally.mutuma@olpejetaconservancy.org.

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN HAVING AN IMPROVED COOKING STOVE IN YOUR HOMESTEAD?

THESE ARE THE STEPS TO FOLLOW:

1. Put a request to your local community representative
2. The community representative will compile all the names of interested households with the help of the community stove builders
3. The list is submitted to the Improved Cooking Stoves Coordinator (ICS), who will create a budget for the required materials needed, according to the number of interested parties
4. Materials (liners, outlets, sand, cement, fire gates and pottery bars) are then delivered within a week's time, to a selected secure location, by the community representative
5. After delivery, the communities are able to follow through with their community representative and stove builders in the area for updates on the progress of their stoves
6. Inspection by the ICS on the quality of your stove



SCHOLARSHIP GIRLS MENTORSHIP PROGRAMME

Daraja Academy, an inspiring centre for girls' education, hosted all 28 of our female scholarship students for a week of mentorship during the April holiday. The girls got to meet and learn from professional trainers, peers and teachers, enjoying presentations and team activities designed to **improve confidence** and **self-discipline** in both their academic and social life. The programme was sponsored by OI Pejeta, PA-MOJA and Daraja and is expected to take place every April, August and December holidays.

The girls also got a chance to interact and share their different experiences in school and their life aspirations. Overall, it was a tremendous success and we were privileged to participate in Daraja Academy's programme. Beth, from Ngobit, said that after the event she felt *"challenged to use the chance I have been given to improve my life and that of my community"*. All the girls were excited to be involved and we hope their parents and community will soon notice their **improved self esteem and confidence**.

Female students from our communities enjoying workshops at Daraja Academy



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Every year we are pleased to welcome **thousands of community students** in the conservancy for free game drives and to learn about our conservation work.

Through our community Conservation Education programme, we hope to spread awareness and understanding that **we are all guardians of our planet, and all have a role to play; we believe every child is a potential conservationist.**

Community groups from our surrounding areas are also encouraged to come into the conservancy, free of charge. We hope that in future, **every single one of our neighbours will have had a chance to visit this cherished wilderness, and understand why we make such an effort to protect it.**

HOW COMMUNITY SCHOOLS AND MEMBERS CAN BOOK FREE ENTRY:

IT'S THIS EASY:

As a group, submit a request letter to your community representative

1. The Ol Pejeta community rep then ensures the letter of request is delivered to the community conservation educator
2. Once the letter is received and approved, the group's visit is booked and a date set
3. The group is notified and they are ready to check in
4. Please note individual trips from

the community are not permitted - we admit only groups for complimentary visits.

Schools can submit a request directly to the conservancy through their school heads.

You can also contact our Community Conservation Educator on **0713 330 087** or email **stephen.gachagua@gmail.com** to submit your booking.





OI Pejeta's medical health clinics reach thousands of people

HEALTH

Jiggers are a small but ruthless health risk: easy to prevent but highly damaging once they've settled in. In collaboration with the country government and local community health volunteers, we have been able to make steps in **fighting jigger infestations, especially among children**. The problem is particularly serious in our northern community. Luckily, we are able to arrange for community health volunteers (CHVs) to follow up on individual cases and to assist when necessary.

OI Pejeta subsidized a refresher training of the CHVs by the Laikipia Sub-County Health Promotion officer. A total of 15 CHVs were trained, all drawn from Serat, Endana, Debatas, Tangi-Nyeusi and Powys communities. They were taught how to improve skills in **clean-up procedures, prevention and maintenance**, to ensure this campaign is **sustainable** and our communities can be free of this devastating issue. Through partnering with the Powys Dispensary, these systems are now in place:

- Continued sensitisation and mobilization of communities on the significance of personal hygiene
- Identification of areas mostly affected in terms of vulnerability to jiggers
- Prevention and control through hygiene education and use of insecticidal sprays and dusts on infested households and schools

If you know of anyone in our communities who might be struggling with this problem, please share this information so they can seek help in the health facilities that have been empowered to assist.

ICT INTEGRATION EXPANSION

We know that ICT in schools gives children the tools to **learn more, to learn faster and to practice what they've learnt**. At the start of 2019 and with support received from Afrotech Aid Society and Rotary International, OI Pejeta Conservancy installed ICT equipment in eight schools. This additional batch brings the number to a fantastic **19** schools equipped with ICT infrastructure.

Each institution received an offline server with educational resources including e-books, video lessons, interactive quizzes, virtual labs and the Kenyan syllabus.

The servers, popularly referred to as a “Classroom in a Box”, are part of Africa Ruggedized Education Solution (ARES), a complete educational technology designed to operate in remote environments. **A total of 80 desktop computers, 80 Notebooks and audiovisual equipment** were also distributed.

In addition to setting up the new equipment, OI Pejeta's Community Development Programmes (CDP) team organized and conducted a two-day training for **36 teachers**, drawn from the eight main schools adopting ICT integration in teaching and learning.

With the implementation of new learning resources, OI Pejeta's ICT programmes continue to benefit and empower at least **4,000 students** in the region. The ICT project now supports **19 secondary and two primary schools**.



CONSERVATION AGRICULTURE

In our community, farmers use fertilizer alongside organic manure. However, without the right application, chemical fertilizer can be damaging for the environment and soil. Through the Guardian Project, we have worked with community farmers to train them on **making organic manure**. After the training the farmers who were involved from Chuma, Weruini, Sweewtaters, and Njoguni were provided with potato seed which they planted using the manure they had made.

After the process is completed, they will be welcome to sell some of their produce both to OI Pejeta and the other partners in the conservancy as well as the greater Laikipia community. Through these collaborations, we are confident that community farmers will **improve their skills in making and using organic manure as a part of their agricultural practice**.

Conservation Agriculture promotes healthier soil and sustained improved yields





In house training for members of staff



Results from conservation agriculture



Community members receiving dam liners



Discussing important community matters in a public forum



Tree seedlings protected from the sun



Ecological monitoring at Mutara

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