

## MUTARA (DARWIN INITIATIVE)

This year OI Pejeta, in collaboration with Flora and Fauna International, launched the Darwin project; an ambitious and exciting four-year plan for conservation development on our neighbouring ranch, Mutara. It will necessitate the creation of a communication system that allows for the safe migration of wildlife between Mutara and OI Pejeta, as well as the expansion of conservation security personnel and training. Tanki Nyeusi, Exrok, Mutara and Suguroi communities are at the focus of this development.



There are five main goals for the project, which will aim to serve both communities and wildlife:

1. Rangeland rehabilitation and environmental management
2. Improved water availability for domestic use, livestock and wildlife
3. Livestock-to-market programmes and improved animal husbandry techniques for pastoralists
4. The development of a fodder production system – for livestock and small-scale farmers
5. The expansion of a conservation area for vulnerable and endangered species – with communities directly involved in their protection

## CHIEFS AND NEW COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES IN OUR FOCAL AREAS

|                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Chuma              | Julius Wang'ang'a       |
| Thome              | John Karuri             |
| Weruini            | James Gitonga           |
| Sweetwaters        | Charity Wamuyu          |
| Marura             | Lucy Njoki              |
| Exrok              | Daniel Wambugu          |
| Endana / Eleri     | Joakim Kuraru           |
| Njoguini           | James Kamiri            |
| Withare / Kahuruko | James Wamai             |
| Ngobit             | Lydia Waruguru          |
| Kijabe / Githira   | Samuel Wachira          |
| Debatas            | Salim Edung             |
| Tangi - Nyeusi     | Peter Lenamaita         |
| Mwakinya           | Daniel Wahome           |
| Kibubung'i         | David Gichuki           |
| Leashu             | Adan Jatan              |
| Tharua             | Isaac Maina             |
| Mirera             | Simon Macharia          |
| Lamuria            | Teresa Mukundi (Chief)  |
| Mwituria           | Wachira Wambugu (Chief) |
| Segera             | Peter Mwangi (Chief)    |
| Marura             | Patrick Mahinda (Chief) |
| Tigithi            | Wilson Thuo (Chief)     |
| Sirima             | Jane Wandeto (Chief)    |

OL PEJETA  
CONSERVANCY



COMMUNITY  
NEWSLETTER

JANUARY - JUNE 2018



## EDUCATION

After this first quarter of 2018, we are pleased to report that we now have an astounding 62 children with full, four-year scholarships, and an additional 60 children with one-year scholarships.

Our commitment to getting our schools connected has meant that yet more children are benefitting from the advantages of online learning, research and publishing. We have provided over 100 brand new computers and a projector, as well as a trainer to ensure all the teachers are comfortable with the equipment and IT integration practices. This support allows us to follow through on grants and also support the learning process so that our schools will eventually be running their ICT facilitation independently.

Education servers are now in each of the following schools:

1. Tharua Secondary School
2. Malek Girls Secondary School
3. Endana Secondary School
4. Withare Secondary School
5. Oltaffeta Secondary School
6. Mwituria Secondary School

We continue to seek funding for more scholarships and educational infrastructure within our communities.

## CONSERVATION EDUCATION

So far in 2018, we have been delighted to welcome over 30 different local schools and community groups onto OI Pejeta. Our conservation education programme offers engaging and informative experiences to increase awareness and create a sense of inclusivity that is vital for achieving our mission. This year we have planted 750 trees – with the help of many enthusiastic school children – as well as their teachers, and community members. The number is still growing and we truly believe reforestation and teaching environmental awareness are two of the most important things we can do.

Would you like to visit OI Pejeta for a game drive and be a part of our conservation education programme? If you are in a school or community group living around OI Pejeta, please call 0713 330 087. Entrance is free!



## AGRICULTURE

Promoting sustainable agricultural practices is a key component of OI Pejeta's community development efforts. In September 2017, our Agriculture Officer Josphat Kiama visited Inooro Secondary School, and counselled them on sustainable agricultural practices.

The school has since invested in a greenhouse and planted hybrid tomato seeds which are better at surviving in adverse conditions. They are now experiencing bumper crops; an average of 100kgs a week. This not only puts food on the school lunch table but provides surplus product for sale in the market; the proceeds of which are reinvested back into the school. Kiama makes bi-weekly trips to the school to check on progress and advise on proper crop husbandry practises to ensure that this impressive yield is sustained. Hopefully, this model can be replicated at other schools and we can claim further success towards food security and development.



## HEALTH

Thanks to a grant from Rotary Club of Langley Central, Canada, we have estimated that we are now able to help over 29,000 people from Laikipia East and Central. This is through the provision of health awareness campaigns, healthcare infrastructure and responsive support services. So far, specific achievements in a number of dispensaries include:

- New cabinets and shelving at Mwituria
- Laboratory refurbishment at Withare
- Improved access to quality and responsive support services
- Installation of electricity at Marura
- Upgrade of the solar panel at Mwituria
- Parking lights at Lamuria
- Provision of reliable potable water supply through plumbing, provision of water tanks and installation at Sweetwaters, Withare and Mwituria
- Provision of medical equipment valued at Ksh2.9m in the dispensaries

