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Community Development



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Programme News 2012

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

Project Kenya Sister Schools Sends a Big Cheer from Canada to Paul Leringato and Patrick Waigwa

By Neil Bryson, Project Kenya Sister Schools, President

Nearly eight years ago, when we were just entertaining the idea of creating a network of sister schools in partnership with the OI Pejeta Conservancy, we needed someone we could trust. Paul Leringato, OI Pejeta's Community Programme Manager, was the man and he would act as the liaison between Project Kenya Sister Schools (PKSS), the Conservancy and the local community.

Primatologist Dr. Gil, our initial inspiration, had known Paul for some time and joyously sang his praise. But still... venturing off into the unknown in Kenya was going to be a first for the rest of us. With so much at stake professionally, financially and emotionally we were a bit nervous. We were creating something new and exciting and Paul was to be our guide. We quickly found out that not only was Paul an efficient and amazing coordinator, but also a fantastically warm human-being that was eager to help our fledgling organization find its place. Working with community leaders, elders and teachers, Paul quickly established a terrific sense of trust within the community.

In 2009, the Conservancy sent Paul to our AGM in Vancouver and on a brief tour of schools to promote our organization. It was a great experience for all,



When first hired, Patrick jumped into the job head first and feet flying



Paul established a terrific sense of trust within the community

but particularly challenging for Paul since he had to experience a Canadian winter first hand!

Back in Kenya, Paul continued to oversee the building of school libraries, accepting the delivery and installation of 20,000 books, coordinating computer, lab/multiple classroom constructions and biogas projects. These are but a few examples of Paul's ever expanding job description.

When the work became too demanding for Paul, OI Pejeta hired Patrick Waigwa to step in and help. Patrick jumped into the job head first and feet flying. Working with our sister schools supplying videos, pictures, interviews, website updates, and multiple Skype exchanges; Patrick kept us moving forward.

In January 2013, both Paul and Patrick decided to run locally in the national elections. They had to quit their jobs to participate and we lost a fabulous team. Paul got us started, built the connections and Patrick helped him maintain and expand our presence.

We are forever grateful. We wish them the very best and send them both a heartfelt Canadian standing ovation for their dedicated contributions to Project Kenya Sister Schools.

education

Dairy Cows / Biogas Project Helps Local Schools Save Money and Trees

By Moses Geita, Assistant Manager - Education



Dairy cows provide schools with milk to supplement the children's diet

In June 2012, thanks to sponsorship worth Ksh 1,000,000 (US\$ 11,630) from our partners Project Kenya Sister Schools, we were able to purchase dairy cows and biogas equipment for four neighbouring secondary schools. This was one of the most rewarding projects I participated in last year. By providing nutritional support to students, OI Pejeta came one step closer to its goal of improving literacy levels in the community.

Endana Secondary School, Loise Girls Secondary School, Sweetwaters Secondary School and Thome Boys Secondary School each received two dairy cows. These cows provide the schools not only with milk to supplement the student's dietary needs, but also fertilizer for their kitchen gardens which grow cabbages, carrots, onions and kale. With all this fresh food readily available, school meals are no longer dreary starch-filled dishes but delicious nutritionally balanced meals.

The project also entailed setting up biogas stations in the four schools, where waste from the cows is converted into fuel. Previously these schools cooked their meals using firewood which cost around Ksh 120,000 (US\$ 1,395) a year. By using biogas fuel, the schools not only

save a lot of money, but also conserve the environment as they are not cutting down trees for firewood.

The dairy cows and biogas project ensures the schools save money on food and firewood and therefore have more funds available to purchase much needed books and school supplies. As the schools are now producing more food, the surplus is being sold to earn extra income. Loise Girls Secondary has so far been able to pay fees for one student from money earned selling extra milk. The other schools have also agreed to set aside some of the income earned from these projects to change the life of a disadvantaged child by paying their fees.

With just two dairy cows, our neighbouring schools are able to generate eco-friendly fuel and produce enough food to feed all their students. I'm encouraged by the success of this project in these four schools and can't wait to implement it in other schools.



By providing nutritional support to students, OI Pejeta is one step closer to its goal of improving literacy levels in the community

community news

By Silvester Saibulu, Assistant Education Officer

Furthering Education Through Giving



In line with its mission to promote a reading culture in Nanyuki, Afrotech Aid Society last year donated computers and books to local schools. In December 2012, eight members of Afrotech visited different projects they have supported through OI Pejeta's community development programme over the years. On their visit, the group donated ten desktop computers and one laptop computer to Endana Secondary School, and 33 boxes of books and library shelving material to Matanya Primary School. Through its collaboration with OI Pejeta, Afrotech hopes to transform struggling schools into true institutions of learning.

Beyond Educational Support

Project Kenya Sister Schools (PKSS), one of OI Pejeta's main donors, is well known for providing educational support to local communities. Over the years, PKSS has built new classrooms, provided bursaries, bought new school uniforms and supported a lot of other projects. Last year PKSS went over and beyond educational support and improved the life of one local boy.

Joel Ndungu, a student at Sweetwaters Secondary School and one of the beneficiaries of OI Pejeta's bursary fund, approached his principal about the difficulty he was facing studying at home. He lived in a one-roomed mud house with his parents and seven siblings. There was no room in the house for him to study and getting enough sleep at night was near impossible as the thatched roof of his house had been destroyed by a fire.



Thanks to PKSS, Joel's family got a new three-roomed house and furniture. It will be so much easier for Joel to complete his education and pursue his dreams now that he has a place to study.

Sweetwaters Secondary School Upgraded

Over the years, the OI Pejeta Conservancy has made efforts to provide support and improve educational facilities at Sweetwaters Secondary School. Thanks to donations of computers, laboratory equipment and other developmental improvements, the school has been identified by the Kenyan Ministry of Education as a centre of excellence and it is to be upgraded to a county girl's boarding school.

Kenyan Secondary schools are categorized into national, county and district schools which receive support from the government. It is a great honor to have Sweetwaters Secondary School upgraded into a county girl's school as it will support marginalized girls from the community. It will also be the first county school on the eastern side of the Conservancy.

health

Withare Dispensary Officially Opened

Access to healthcare in rural Laikipia is usually a challenge: medical centres are often few and far between. To solve this problem, the OI Pejeta Conservancy works with the Kenyan Ministry of Health to improve current health facilities and develop new health related initiatives. In 2012, OI Pejeta officially opened Withare Dispensary to cater for communities on the southern side of the Conservancy providing them with access to quality and affordable healthcare. Prior to construction of the dispensary, communities had to travel approximately 25km to the nearest hospital in Sirima. Withare Dispensary is now run by the Ministry of Health and is a major achievement towards improving the health status of our neighbouring communities.



Community Healthcare Strategy



The OI Pejeta Conservancy aims to improve the quality of health care throughout its neighbouring communities

The OI Pejeta Conservancy aims to improve the quality of healthcare in the community through a competent and committed workforce. Therefore in February 2012, thanks to sponsorship from the Arcus Foundation, we initiated a training programme for medical personnel in the community. Nurses and clinical officers from eight neighbouring dispensaries came together to form a healthcare strategy that would enable local communities benefit from improved services.

The healthcare strategy set out to identify problems facing community dispensaries and also act as a guideline to enable OI Pejeta, through donors, to give essential support. By bringing all stakeholders together, it was easy to identify the areas that needed the most attention. Dispensaries realised that instead of asking for new equipment, they could benefit from sharing resources. For example instead of sending patients from the Sweetwaters dispensary for laboratory tests at the Nanyuki District Hospital, it is easier to send them to Matanya dispensary which is closer. By concentrating on vital needs, neighbouring dispensaries will be able to provide improved services.

The training programme was a chance for all the local nurses to share their experiences and learn from each other. Nurses talked about using community health workers to go round villages educating people which results in health messages reaching a wider audience. This is especially helpful during vaccine drives and for voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) services, making a meaningful difference in people's lives.

The first health workers training was such a success that it was decided to have to have quarterly meetings. Through these trainings, OI Pejeta aims to strengthen the capacity and capability of health-related professionals in the community.

agricultural extension

By *Josphat Kiama, Agricultural Extension Officer*

Most communities neighbouring the Conservancy rely on subsistence farming for their livelihood. My job is to work with these farmers to improve their productivity while conserving the environment. My team and I train the farmers on techniques such as drip irrigation, water-harvesting and making pumps and shallow wells for irrigation.

Last year, thanks to training on sustainable farming practices, farmers were able to harvest a lot more produce. Beatrice Nyaruai lives in Weruini, a village on the eastern side of the Conservancy. She relies on farming to provide for her family of four and is one of the beneficiaries of the training we have been offering. By implementing strategies such as drip irrigation and growing a variety of crops instead of concentrating on only one, Beatrice was able to double her yield last year.

However, after visiting different farmers we realized that despite the increased yield most were still struggling. Access to ready market is not always possible leaving farmers to watch their produce rot in the farms or sell for a song to middlemen. To protect local farmers like Beatrice against exploitation and to provide them with fair prices, OI Pejeta started purchasing their vegetables.

Beatrice's life changed for the better; she was not only able to grow more food to sustain her family, but was

also selling excess produce to OI Pejeta at the market price. OI Pejeta sends a vehicle round to the community farms therefore farmers do not have to incur any expenses transporting their produce. Thanks to OI Pejeta, Beatrice was able to enrol one of her children at Sweetwaters Secondary School last year.

It is always rewarding seeing farmers empowered and I'm grateful to Gorta., one of our partners, for the training they offered me three years ago which I have over the years passed on to local farmers and youth groups who are benefitting immensely.



Livestock for Communities Training

By *Benard Mwangi, Assistant Agricultural Extension Officer*

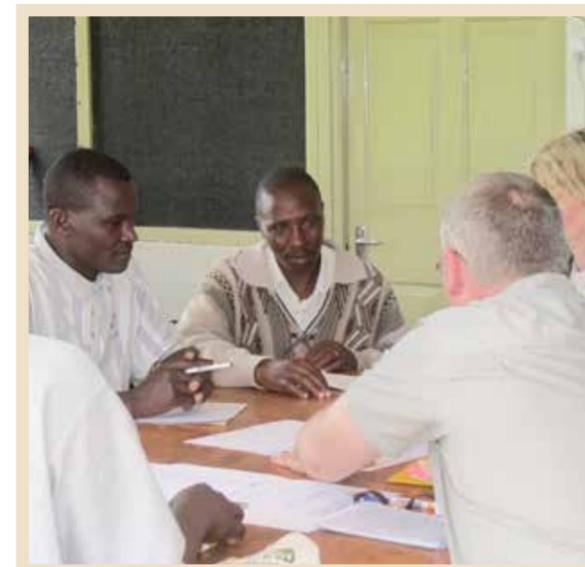
In 2012, through our iLivestock for Communities Programme the OI Pejeta Conservancy Livestock Department organised a training session for local farmers. OI Pejeta brought in a trainer from Al Safi Dairy Industries, which is a Guinness Book of World Record holder for being the largest single integrated dairy farm in the world, to guide Withare community farmers on general livestock production methods. OI Pejeta is also involved in supply of mineral salt, pesticides and energy saving stoves at subsidised prices to the Withare community.



leaders capacity building

By *Nancy Ingutia, Community Programme Assistant*

Last year, the community development programme focused a lot on capacity building. We realized that we needed to strengthen our community representatives' leadership as they are ambassadors of the Conservancy. Thanks to funds from the Arcus Foundation, we initiated a capacity building programme, training over 30 community leaders.



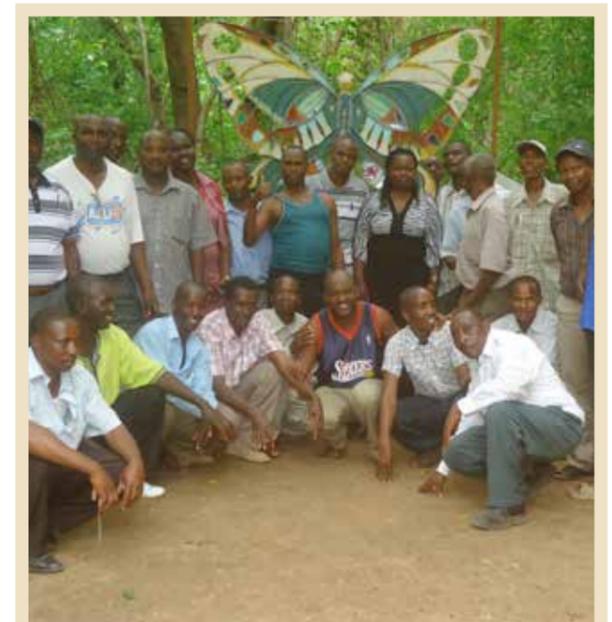
Laikipia Management Solutions organized a training session focusing on leadership, collaboration and engagement between the community and stakeholders

We had a number of training sessions during the year. The first one, facilitated by Acacia Consultants, brought together community representatives from all neighbouring divisions of the Conservancy to discuss improvement of services in the area. A few months later, 32 community leaders were taken on an exposure tour around the country to learn from other successful community projects among them the Kipepeo Butterfly Farm, Amboseli National Park and Ndovu health centre in Voi. The leaders learnt about using locally available resources to empower the community, mediating human-wildlife conflict cases and getting community assistance is conservation among other relevant topics. The tour was a resounding success with the leaders getting inspired to share what they had learnt with their community members.

Another training session, organized by Laikipia Management Solutions, took part on OI Pejeta bringing together delegates from Scotland, UK and Kenya to share their experiences and pass on their skills to local community representatives. The training focused on leadership, collaboration and engagement between the community and stakeholders.

Training sessions continued throughout the year and in December we organized a refresher course for the community representatives to get some feedback. "I never truly understood my role as a community representative. I now know that I have the power to positively influence members of my community and I'm a better leader thanks to OI Pejeta's training sessions", commented a visibly grateful Grace Murugi, a local representative from Ngobit community.

Local leaders play a vital role in ensuring cooperation from communities towards conservation efforts and I'm glad I was instrumental in equipping some representatives with information, tools and skills to effectively reach out to their communities.



32 local community leaders were taken on an exposure tour to learn from other successful projects in the country

financial support in 2012

Direct Social Support in 2012

| | Amount (Ksh) |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Hugh Crossley | 4,689,434 |
| PKSS donations for education | 4,199,535 |
| Other Donors (Zhou Yu, Kicheche, Max Plank Institute) | 273,210 |

Total Donations for Education

9,162,179

| | |
|----------------------------------------------|------------|
| Agricultural support (Gorta) | 2,436,227 |
| Community training (Arcus) | 1,839,382 |
| Roads | 370,994 |
| Water projects (FFI/Martin Laing Foundation) | 302,150 |
| Community Department operating cost | 10,222,546 |

Total Social Support

15,171,299

Direct Enterprise Support in 2012

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| Livestock purchased from communities | 450,000 |
| Food supplies from communities for the chimpanzees and tame rhino | 4,944,940 |

Total Direct Enterprise Support

5,394,940

GRAND TOTAL

29,728,417

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:

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 All individual Canadian Sister Schools
 Burnaby Hospital
 Education Beyond Borders – Canada
 FFI/Martin Laing Foundation
 Gorta
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 Project Kenya Sister Schools
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 Rotary International

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 Kenya Rural Roads Authority - Laikipia
 Laikipia Wildlife Forum
 Lengetia Farm
 Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
 Ministry of Agriculture
 Ministry of Education
 Ministry of Health
 Northern Rangelands Trust
 Segera Ranch
 Water Resources Management Authority

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, please visit www.olpejetaconservancy.org/support. You will be able to make a much needed online donation. You can also contact our Fundraising and Grants Administrator, Ambrose Njagi on ambrose.njagi@olpejetaconservancy.org

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