

Community Development

A publication of the Ol Pejeta Conservancy



Programme News 2013

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

Today, the OI Pejeta Conservancy's Community Development Programme has seven years of service to communities surrounding the Conservancy. With the unwavering support from our various donors and partners - Project Kenya Sister Schools-Canada, Rotary Club of Langley Central, Rotary Club of Nairobi and Fauna and Flora International (FFI) - we continue to make a world of difference in the life of the local communities living adjacent to the Conservancy.

As you read from reports from our field officers, the OI Pejeta Conservancy has remained committed in supporting neighbours' education, health, water, agriculture extension, roads and conservation-based enterprises. All our interventions are aimed at improving livelihoods thus making conservation meaningful to local communities. The numerous success stories from OI Pejeta education and agriculture extension programmes clearly demonstrate the link between conservation and local livelihoods.

Of the stories I am particularly proud of this year are the many bright children from unprivileged backgrounds that have been able to access quality education thus

making them future social and economic pillars not only locally but also nationally. I am also thrilled by the fact that communities from Withare no longer have to walk more than 10 kilometers for medical treatment following the completion of their medical facility.

To this end, I would like to thank all of you for continued support and collaboration that has enabled us to provide the much needed support to neighbouring communities. I look forward to many more years of collaboration and many more successes to report.



Paul Leringato
Community
Programme Manager

Financial Support for Communities in 2011

Direct Social Support in 2011	Amount (Ksh)
PKSS donations for education	3,234,075.60
Hugh Crossley	700,000.00
Other Donors (Howe Sound, Earthwatch group, Ellie Jones-Perrott & Tony Lisa)	821, 227.20
Total Donations for Education	6,721,642.00
Water Projects (FFI/Martin Laing Foundation)	294,700.16
Total Social Support	7,016,342.16
Direct Enterprise Support in 2011	
Livestock purchased from communities	625,915.00
Food supplies from communities for the chimpanzees and tame rhino	1,706, 245.00
Total Direct Enterprise Support	2,332,160.00
GRAND TOTAL	9,348,502.16

education

OI Pejeta's Education Programme Changing Lives for the Better!



By *Patrick Waigwa, Education Officer*

In my capacity as the Education Officer on the OI Pejeta Conservancy, I have been privileged to witness the transformative power of education. I have worked with many students over the years and watched them grow to realize their full potential. Because the OI Pejeta Conservancy is committed to improving the literacy levels in the community, we work with various donors to offer bursaries to students in need who then have an opportunity to break the cycle of poverty.

Winfred Wamuyu got married to an older man when she was just 15 years old because her parents could no longer afford to pay her school fees. Recognising her potential, her principal contacted the OI Pejeta Conservancy for assistance and through the Bursary Fund she was enrolled into boarding school to ensure she got a chance to complete her education. She was sponsored all through High School where she worked hard, attained high marks and secured a place in University. Last year, Winfred was a freshman at the Egerton University of Kenya where she is currently pursuing a degree in computer science.

Another beneficiary of the Bursary Fund is Anthony Gakuru, an orphan living with his grandmother who could barely afford to keep him in school. In 2011, Anthony was the highest ranked candidate from his school in the national examinations - he scored an A-. Since then, he has been offered a place at Moi University Kenya to pursue an engineering degree.



Sweetwaters Secondary School is one of the schools supported by OI Pejeta

These are just some of the success stories that keep me going. Last year the Bursary Fund programme, provided by the Project Kenya Sister Schools (PKSS), donated 12 new full-time bursaries and 223 part-time bursaries.

Majority of the bursary students performed well and all those who sat for their final secondary school examinations scored above university entry marks. My wish is to continue mentoring secondary school students and providing them with tools for change through OI Pejeta's Education Programme.

What a Difference a Bursary Can Make!

In 2011, Project Kenya Sister Schools (PKSS) continued to give education support to students in need from neighbouring communities through provision of bursaries totalling Ksh. 1,561,085 (US\$ 18,366). The Bursary Fund supported bright, disadvantaged children on full-time basis as follows:

- 19 students in secondary schools
- 2 in special primary schools
- 2 in public universities
- 2 in middle level college

To date over 700 students have benefited from OI Pejeta's Education Programme through partial and full bursaries.

community news

Water Tanks for Schools

The OI Pejeta Conservancy lies within the semi-arid Laikipia district on the leeward side of Mt. Kenya, a region that receives very low rainfall yearly. Majority of neighbouring schools do not have a reliable source of water for daily use and therefore rely on rainwater harvesting - the process of collecting and storing water from rain for future productive use. In 2011, OI Pejeta and partners decided to provide some local schools with water tanks to boost their water storage capacity.



Matanya Primary School received a 5,000-litre tank thanks to a donation from Aftretech AID Society worth Ksh. 64,210 (US\$ 755). A roof catchment system was also installed at the school to collect rainwater from roofs and direct it into water tanks for storage. The Project Kenya Sister Schools (PKSS) also purchased 2,500 litre water tanks all worth Ksh. 192,306 (US\$ 2,262) which were donated to 12 local schools.

School-Twinning and Cultural Exchange

School-twinning, the pairing up of local schools with Canadian schools, continues to thrive with more local schools joining and actively participating in the cultural exchange. Last year, eight new schools joined the school-twinning programme and are now part of a forum for students in different countries to connect and learn about each other's cultures.

The sister schools also embraced technology and started using Skype to communicate and connect with each other. Unlike the previous exchanges of letters and drawings, the face-to-face video chatting strengthened the cultural exchange programme and brought the students closer together. Loise Girls Secondary enjoyed a number of Skype calls with Acadia Junior, Burnaby South secondary and Vincent Massey secondary schools in Canada. Not to be left behind the technological adoption, Irura Primary students recorded a video of themselves for LFAS students to watch during their fundraising in December 2012.

In addition to the above exchanges 17 Kenyan and Canadian schools participated by sending letters and other cultural materials to their respective sister schools.

PKSS Donates Desks and Laboratory Tables to Schools



In some local schools overcrowding and lack of resources sometimes force students to share desks and chairs.

The Project Kenya Sister Schools works to improve the quality of education at the community level and in August 2011 made a donation of

Ksh. 197,800 (US\$ 2,327) to the OI Pejeta Conservancy towards school furniture.

The donation benefited three schools:

- Thome Boys Secondary School, an academic centre of excellence for boys from underprivileged background, received 20 desks and chairs
- Uasonyiro, one of the most populated schools on the northern side of the OI Pejeta Conservancy, received 20 desks and chairs
- Sweetwaters Secondary School received five tables for their laboratory

health

Mobile Clinics to Sugoroi Community

The OI Pejeta Conservancy is committed to improving the health status of neighbouring communities. We allow free treatment of locals at our Kamok Dispensary, contribute to building additional community dispensaries and also donate medical equipment for use in local hospitals. Even so, we realize that access to proper healthcare for rural communities is often limited or non-existent and therefore in collaboration with the Ministry of Health initiated a community health outreach programme in May 2011.

The community health outreach programme's main aim is to reduce preventable childhood illnesses through immunizations. The monthly outreach targets Sugoroi village, a community of nomads north of the Conservancy with no health facilities, where most children are not immunized at birth and are therefore susceptible to preventable illnesses such as pneumonia, measles and polio.

Having established mobile clinics, this programme also offers antenatal clinics to help reduce maternal and pre-natal mortality rates in the community. The outreach, which is funded by the community development programme and coordinated by Lucy Njogu and Angela Jamila the Conservancy's nurses, has since inception assisted over 200 people. In addition, the Conservancy is in talks with the Ministry of Health to provide more health workers to enhance the provision of quality healthcare through the mobile clinics.



The OI Pejeta Conservancy supports a number of community dispensaries

Donated Medical Equipment



The ultrasound machine donated by OI Pejeta in use at the Nanyuki District Hospital

On December 14th, 2011, the OI Pejeta Conservancy donated 131 boxes of assorted medical equipment to Nanyuki District Hospital thanks to the Burnaby Hospital in Canada. This donation included gloves, disposable thermometers, oxygen saturation machines, four hospital beds, two mattresses and an examination couch.

Thanks to such generous donations, the Nanyuki District Hospital, which is the main medical centre in Laikipia, is able to provide quality healthcare to local communities. Last year the hospital implemented a fee waiver system for those using the ultrasound machine that was donated by OI Pejeta. The waiver was

directly meant to benefit the poor and other vulnerable groups who, before the donation, would travel approximately 60km to Nyeri town. All medical equipment donated contributes to access and provision of excellent health care to all patients.

agriculture

Environmental Management Training for Community Farmers

By Josphat Kiama, Agricultural Extension Officer



I work with farmers from neighbouring communities guiding them on new agricultural technologies focusing on economically viable, conservation-based projects. Every year, my team and I train farmers on projects that generate income by using local resources, reclaiming land through conservation measures and securing alternative livelihoods.

In our region, and everywhere else in Kenya, the population is increasing at an alarming rate causing forests and bushes to be cleared for farming. What these farmers do not know is that the trees play a vital role in maintaining the water cycle by absorbing and storing water when it rains. When forests are cut down, the regulation of the water flow is disrupted, leading to alternating periods of flood and drought in the affected area. Farmers need to be sensitized on the consequences of their activities on the environment. Therefore in November 2011, I was instrumental in training 57 farmers on the principles of the Environment Management Conservation Act.

Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Nairobi, the training was facilitated by Acacia Consultants at St. Augustine's school. Farmers from Kijabe, Ngobit, Withare, Thome, Matanya, Wveruini, Marura, local women and school groups were instructed on water harvesting methods, clearing the river and restoring their surroundings.

After the discussions, I took the farmers through a practical demonstration on drip irrigation which enables them get maximum yields using very little water. In the end the training was a success and resulted in the farmers adopting sustainable practices of land use.



A drip irrigation kit

The Right Sheep for Livestock Farmers



Top Shoats men's group from Tigithi community have been rearing Dorper sheep as a way to combat the effects of climate change. Dorper sheep are extremely adaptable with a high ability to flourish, grow, produce and reproduce in irregular and low rainfall environments making them the best option for livestock farmers in semi-arid areas.

Through the Conservancy's livestock improvement programme, Top Shoats group were assured of a ready market and were last year able to sell eight quality rams to the OI Pejeta abattoir for slaughter. The group earned Ksh. 34,580 (US\$ 407) from the sale of the six-month old rams. The collective market-based project enhances the bargaining power and leadership

of the farmers who are now targeting sales of Ksh. 500,000 (US\$ 5,882) a year.

Last year Lengetia Farm, courtesy of Mr. and Mrs Sessions who are also the patron and matron of Top Shoats, donated a Dorper ram to improve the groups breed.

leader's open day

By Nancy Ingutia, Community Programme Assistant



The OI Pejeta Conservancy hosts an annual Leader's Open Day to give the management team a chance to interact with local leaders while also providing them the opportunity to highlight the Conservancy's operations and relevance in Laikipia and Kenya as a whole.

In 2011, the Leader's Open Day was held on 12th October at the Sweetwaters Tented Camp with 40 guests in attendance. The guests invited included the area member of parliament Hon. Mwangi Kiunjuri, His Worship the Mayor Isaac Mathenge, Laikipia district civil servants and all area councillors. The day started with a presentation



Paul Leringato giving a presentation on community development initiatives carried out by OI Pejeta

from OI Pejeta's CEO, Richard Vigne, outlining the conservation aspect of the Conservancy. This was followed by the Community Programme Manager, Paul Leringato's, presentation on the development initiatives in communities neighbouring the Conservancy.

The presentations included interactive sessions that gave everyone a chance to share their ideas and point of view. A matter of concern for most of the leaders was the OI Pejeta Bursary Fund. Due to limited resources, the fund only caters to disadvantaged students within the Conservancy's perimeter fence. The attendees were however assured that all bursaries provided are in consultation and consent of all local leaders.

Leaders were delighted to learn that OI Pejeta's Livestock Department markets the community's livestock at competitive prices, upgrades the community's breeding stocks through the Conservancy's good commercial cattle and also offers grazing grounds during drought.

The Leader's Open Day was a resounding success. Attendance was strong and all participants learned a lot more about OI Pejeta and left with a much better understanding of the Conservancy's activities and its mission to put back as much money into the communities as possible. The leader's involvement provides a setting for discussions on community initiatives and enables the Conservancy to contribute to the community through well-informed decisions.



Richard Vigne, OI Pejeta's CEO, explains the Conservancy's activities

Endana's new science laboratory

Endana Secondary school is the only school within a 30km radius on the northern side of the Conservancy giving students in that area a chance to strive academically. It is for this reason that Hugh Crossley, one of OI Pejeta's most faithful donors, began fundraising activities for the school. Last year, Hugh's fundraising contributed UK£30,000 (US\$47,400) towards the construction of a science laboratory.

OI Pejeta's partners Ian Craig, Kicheche Laikipia Camp and Porini Rhino Camp contributed to the fundraising by donating prizes for auction. They gave two nights stay at Rutundu Cabins on Mount Kenya, two nights stay at Kicheche Laikipia Camp and one night stay at Porini Rhino Camp respectively.

The science laboratory, now near completion, will make a huge difference to Endana Secondary students and enable them to compete on an equal footing with other secondary schools in the region.



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
Hugh Crossley
All individual Canadian Sister Schools
Afretech Aid Society
Education Beyond Borders – Canada
Rotary International
Rotary Club of Nairobi
FFI/Martin Laing Foundation
Burnaby Hospital
Kicheche Laikipia Camp
Porini Rhino Camp

PARTNERS:

Northern Rangelands Trust
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
Constituency Development Fund (CDF) Laikipia East
Laikipia Wildlife Forum
Water Resources Management Authority
Kenya Rural Roads Authority - Laikipia
Ministry of Education
Ministry of Health
Ministry of Agriculture
Lengetia Farm
Segeera 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.

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