

AGRICULTURE

Full Basket Initiative

This Initiative aims to enable schools to achieve self-sustaining food requirements, and is progressing at Mwituria Secondary School. A water pan has been constructed, as well as works on rehabilitating a rundown bore hole underway to supplement water needs for the school.

Artificial Insemination and Vaccination

This is a technology that is quickly transferring good genes to community livestock. This enables farmers to produce good quality milk or beef from hardier cattle - reducing feeding and health care costs. Breeds involved include Ayrshire, Friesian, Jersey, Boran and Guernsey. Artificial insemination has been conducted in six communities - a total of 214 cows have been served, producing 116 calves.

240 sheep have vaccinated against enterotoxaemia, and surveillance of the contagious caprine pleural pneumonia (ccpp) is ongoing in 22 farms.



HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

In line with efforts to mitigate human-wildlife conflict, 7.2 km of fence line along Marura area has been improved to prevent baboons from scaling over to raid farms. The section is being monitored to assess efficiency and once proven, the same will be replicated across the entire boundary.

EDUCATION

Infrastructure

The girls dormitory and installation of a solar system is ongoing in Ereri School. The dormitory will cater for 60 girls in residential accommodation. Endana Secondary School and Thome Boys School have benefited from installation of 15 computers to be used as learning tools.

Cultural Exchange

The pilot project to bring students over from North America has been successful. The first two groups of 12 students from the USA and Canada enjoyed their time with their Kenyan counterparts - and the students were able to make new friends, experience new culture, and learn together.

Conservation Education

OI Pejeta has been showing conservation education films in schools and holding discussions with students afterwards. This is aimed to inspire students to think about their environment. OI Pejeta also conducted an Environmental Compound Assessment in schools which looked at water harvesting, litter disposal and tree planting. 816 students and 300 community members have so far been involved with OI Pejeta's conservation education initiatives.



OI PEJETA CONSERVANCY



COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

July 2015



OPENING REMARKS

Year on year, OI Pejeta Conservancy spearheads community outreach programmes in line with its mission. This would not work without research to develop an enviable model that incorporates wildlife conservation, livestock production, eco-tourism and community development. In 2014, this was boosted by a new initiative; the Social Assessment of Protected Areas (SAPA) survey to inform levels of social impact on our communities. A remarkable two thirds (68%) acknowledged positive contribution by the Conservancy to their overall well-being with the significant inclusion of feedback to guiding our 2015-2020 development plans.



Despite the impacts of Ebola and terrorism on African business, our development programme dedicated over Kshs. 30m to community projects in 2014, portraying a strong growth going into 2015. A five-classroom block at Njoguini Primary School at a cost of Kshs. 4.5m, bursaries worth Kshs. 3.2m and medical supplies and equipment in excess of Kshs. 3.2 m to name a few. Increased collaboration with our development partners is leading to increased support to the 56,000 people that live around our borders. Key to our future plans will be to maintain a grassroots-driven development process that targets lasting sustainable solutions attained through stronger collaboration with our partners and communities.

Moses Muthoki - Community Development Manager

GENERAL COMMUNITY NEWS

Community Representative Elections

The need to define community representatives terms of reference and a collective review of the previous leadership had community members call for fresh elections. In 2014, OI Pejeta facilitated the process and 17 new representatives were democratically elected into office through vote for a three-year term. The role is voluntary but representatives get the opportunity to demonstrate their leadership skills and play a pivotal role in spearheading development initiatives within their areas.

SMS System

Earlier communication to communities had not been efficient because 18 community representatives were relied on to disburse information to the more than 56,000 community members. OI Pejeta installed a blast SMS system, sending text messages directly to community members' phones and therefore reaching larger audiences. Since inception, the system has been used to mobilize for community meetings, mobile clinics and bursary appraisal meetings with remarkable ease.

Survey Results

A Social Assessment of Protected Areas (SAPA) survey was conducted from mid-2014 across 18 communities supported by OPC. Two thirds of households (68%) reported that OPC makes an overall positive contribution to their well-being. This affirms the bottom-up, collaborative approach deployed in engaging with the communities. Feedback obtained from the survey will go a long way in guiding adoption of improved ways at solving challenges among the people in the communities and laying the framework for implementation of the 2015-2020 community development strategic plan.

HEALTH

Mobile Clinics

OI Pejeta's Community Development Team partnered with the Laikipia County Government to bring the first mobile clinic to remote communities. To get the word out, OI Pejeta pioneered an SMS blast; that sent the clinic arrival date, time and location to community representatives and respected elders. The mobile clinic aims to solve the challenges that remote communities face when trying to access medical care. Of particular focus are the areas of Tangi Nyeusi, Endana, Ereri, Ngare Nyiro and TuuTuu.

Bikes for Community Health Workers

Through the support of Rift Valley Adventures, seven bicycles fitted with carriers were donated to Marura Unit. These will ease with mobility of the Community Health Workers (CHW) who run an outreach door to door health care support programme. Each CHW offers support services to 50 households of approximately 250 persons.

ENERGY

The cooking stoves project has seen construction of 180 jikos in Weruini, Ngobit, Marura/Sweetwaters, Matanya and Thome. These energy saving jikos are now reinforced with ceramic liners to withstand heavier pounding. To meet growing demand, another seven stove builders have been trained and commissioned for work.

