

KENYA
WILDLIFE
SERVICE



PORINI

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2012 | ISSUE NO. 8

Wildlife lovers to form lobby group



INSIDE

NEWS

ASK THE EXPERTS

ANIMAL OF THE
MONTH

KNOW YOUR PARK



Kenya Wildlife Service

0726 610 508/9/ 0726 610 533
+254 20 237940/8/9, 2379410/1/4/5/6
kws@kws.go.ke

KWS Editorial Committee Members

Paul Mbugua
John Ringera
Paul Muya
James Nyakundi
Nancy Kabete
Carol Kiage
Valentin Kanani
John Karenju
Sialo Maitoyo
Loise Mboob
Vincent Obanda
Linus Kariuki
Rogoi Wamba

Managing Editor:
Paul Udoto

Editor:
Carole Kimutai

Production Director:
Ngugi Gecaga

Production Assistant:
Amos Rono

Editorial Assistants:
Sammi Nderitu
Dennis Kibet

Contributing Writers:
Dr. Charles Chalo, Amos Rono, Denni Muritu, Laura Klappenbach and Peter Pueschel

Photography:
Sammi Nderitu and KWS

Design and layout:
Jessy Mundia

PORINI is published for KWS by:
KIM Publishing & Creative Services
Luther Plaza, 2nd floor
Nyerere Road/University Way roundabout
P. O. Box 43706 – 00100 Nairobi, Kenya
Tel: 020 2535277, 2445555
Email: msu@kim.ac.ke;
Website: www.kim.ac.ke

We welcome articles or any feedback from readers on conservation and tourism. Please include your name, address and telephone number. Letters/articles may be edited for clarity or space.
Email: porini@kws.go.ke

The views expressed in this newsletter are the author's and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Kenya Wildlife Service or the Kenya Institute of Management.

Reproduction of any articles or pictures without permission is prohibited.

Foreword

Leading change in wildlife industry

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) is spearheading the formation of the Kenya Association of Wildlife Conservation Support Organisation (KAWSCO) to bring order in the wider wildlife industry. The new body is expected to become a lobby group for wildlife industry players while providing a forum for members to exchange information, ideas and experiences.

Currently, there are different civil organisations concerned with wildlife conservation. In the absence of a well-defined national entity, communities and private landowners lack the leverage and bargaining power to pursue their interests with the government, private sector and the international community. As a result, this void has been filled up by different organisations with each addressing specific or partisan aspects of the issues and interests – more opportunistically than strategically.

There is the need for a streamlined co-ordination and a comprehensive representative body to promote increased involvement of communities, landowners and service providers in the conservation and affiliated industries.

KAWSCO also aims to ensure that communities and landowners have greater access to benefits from conservation by the creation of appropriate legal mechanisms and incentives. To promote public participation in the process, a series of workshops have been planned across the country to collect views as well as sensitise and mobilise people to ensure a structured, transparent and inclusive framework for the development of the national wildlife conservation association.

As part of the ongoing KWS policy review and through comprehensive stakeholder involvement, we have successfully completed formulating the 2012-2016

Conservation and Management Strategy for the Black Rhino in Kenya.

The strategy emphasizes protection and law enforcement, monitoring for management, biological management, population expansion, awareness and public support and coordination and capacity. These objectives will be coordinated by a steering committee whose main role will be to monitor implementation of the Strategic Plan. The strategy defines a revised overall goal of conserving at least 750 black rhinos by the end of 2016, achieving at least a five per-cent national growth rate with less than one per-cent man-induced and disease-related deaths.

Kenya has become a major player in Africa in rhino conservation with the third largest black rhino population after South Africa and Namibia. The country has intensified its anti-poaching efforts by increasing the rhino ranger force by more than 25 percent during 2011, converting rhino scouts on private lands into Kenya Police Reservists, offering formal training of community scouts in wildlife protection, using sniffer dogs for monitoring and relocating rhinos from areas of high risk to areas of low risk.

On another front, the Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute (KWSTI) received a major boost following its branding and the unveiling of a new business plan and curriculum. KWSTI now stands as one of the leading middle-level training colleges in Kenya to revolutionise its training curriculum aimed at addressing the ever-changing job market. In recognition of its high quality programmes, the Ministry of Higher Education, Science and Technology granted the Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute authority to continue awarding its own Certificates and Diplomas. This will ensure that its certificates are recognized world-wide. ■

The gospel according to wildlife conservation

By: DENNIS MURITU



Illegal wildlife trade is the greatest threat to many endangered species.

More than 50 African religious representatives drawn from different faiths and countries have spoken against the killing of endangered species caused by illegal wildlife trade. Through a partnership with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and The Alliance of Religious and Conservation (ARC), the religious representatives called for an end to illegal wildlife trade which is diminishing Africa's wildlife populations. They spoke in a forum that was held recently in Nairobi.

Dekila Chungyalpa, the program director at WWF Sacred Earth, says that halting wildlife trade is a moral issue and therefore, faith leaders are the backbone of local communities who provide lessons and guidance that shape how people live.

"Having religious leaders from all major faiths come together to call for the protection of wildlife on religious grounds and urge their congregation to view the slaughter of elephants and rhinos in Africa as a serious crime that or may turn the tide of the disaster we face today," says Chungyalpa.

Illegal wildlife trade is the greatest threat to many endangered species, jeopardising decades of conservation work and threatening their survival. The year 2011 saw the highest recorded rates of killings on the continent in more than two decades and the largest scale illegal ivory seizures than any time in recorded history (equalling the tusks from more than 4,000 dead elephants). ■

Ivory smugglers get clever

Sixty two pieces of elephant ivory sprayed with pepper and tobacco to avoid detection by sniffer dogs were recently intercepted at the Jomo Kenyatta International Airport. The ivory weighing 255 kilogrammes was packed in two metallic boxes and declared as 'avocadoes'.

However, they were detected and seized by a joint security team comprising the Kenya Airports Police Unit, the Kenya Revenue Authority (Customs Department) and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). ■

Events Calendar



Pass out parade for community rangers Law Enforcement Academy - Manyani
October 12, 2012



UNESCO - IUCN Mission to Mt. Kenya - Lewa
October 22 - 27, 2012



Boat Race, Kisumu Impala
November 24, 2012



Thanksgiving service for Uniformed Disciplined Officers
November 29, 2012, Homa Bay



Conservation Heroes Day
December 2012, KWS Headquarters

2nd Meeting of Signatory States to the Dugong MoU
December 4 - 5, 2012
Manila, Philippines



Caption

Value, not price will bring real change

Story by: **PETER PUESCHEL**

Photo by: **SAMMI NDERITU**

It just came from the Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). They say it, “is the world’s oldest and largest global environmental network - a democratic membership union with more than 1,200 government and NGO member organisations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries.”

There is certainly an enormous amount of knowledge and expertise on the state of nature, the loss of individual species, general biodiversity and their

conservation. The projection for the future, if we continue on our current path is grim. Climate Change is just one example, aside of over-consumption and habitat deterioration. But if we manage to limit the average global temperature increase to “only” 2°C, which unfortunately seems more a hopeful objective than a realistic one, we may still lose 20 per cent of the world’s biodiversity.

Imagine: 20 per cent just gone forever! And still I don’t see governments jointly acting to ensure that we are not

exceeding 2°C. But not all is lost. We can still overcome much of the damage if we treat this as an emergency.

My feeling at the IUCN Congress is that more and more delegates are coming to the same conclusion. Nevertheless, it worries me very much that so many IUCN members are focusing only on the economic value of wildlife to combat poverty, but still ignoring all its great non-economic values.

And what about all these ecosystem services like clean water, medicinal plants and food which nature, when it is allowed to flourish, supplies us for free? Not to mention the ecosystem services that is so essential for non-human species which we and IUCN are trying to protect.

I take it as a good sign that we have been able to convince proponents to withdraw their ill-minded proposal to condemn the EU import ban for seal products.

Instead of recognising the unacceptable cruelty involved in commercial sealing, they argued that seals are a pest just because the market value dropped! Unbelievably, the seals are still made a scapegoat for overfishing. Anyone with a sober mind knows that it is humans destroying our planet’s biodiversity. Again and again, I had to remind conference participants that in the past the UN and IUCN have recognised and welcomed the intrinsic, cultural, ethical, spiritual ecological, and other non-economic values of wildlife.

Conservation can only be successful if we protect nature based on all values – not just economic ones. To bring the animal welfare dimension into IUCN’s conservation approach is therefore essential to success. I am pleased that we made some good progress at the congress in this regard and more delegates will focus conservation efforts on values, not price, to bring about real change. ■

Peter Pueschel is the Programme Director for the Wildlife Trade Programme, IFAW and CITES Co-ordinator, European Union, IFAW.