

# Laikipia Wildlife Forum

AGM 2005

Executive Director's Report

## Highlights of the Year 2004/2005

### 1. Community Conservation

- Community conservation programme and CLOs guided by Josephat Musyima, CCO.
- Over 40 community projects assisted by CLOs.
- Donor support secured for 8 projects.
- 21 community conservation barazas held.
- 10 training exchange visits arranged for community conservation groups.
- 4 groups hosted in visiting Laikipia community conservation initiatives.
- 10 separate presentations made on LWF programmes.
- Numerous projects covered by the USAID FORREMS programme.
- Fred Kihara, Programme Development Officer, providing technical leadership to:
  - The AWF supported Mukogodo Forest initiative and Naibunga Conservancy.
  - The EU BCP supported OI Gaboli project in II Motiok.
  - LWF support for the Aloe sector, including chairing the Kenya Aloe Working Group.
- Newly formed livestock and range committee, focusing on livestock marketing opportunities, held field day on OI Pejeta in March.
- Collaboration with new initiatives in community conservation, including OI Pejeta Conservancy and the Northern Rangelands Trust.
- Support for CLOs from Unit Members, Save the Rhino, the Laikipia Predator Project, and the Samburu Laikipia Wild Dog Project.

### 2. Wildlife Management

- Continuing invaluable support from the Mpala Research Centre, particularly Dr. Nick Georgiadis and Nasser Olwero.
- Annual high resolution aerial sample census conducted in February by DRSRS with AWF support. Complex wildlife population dynamics under analysis by MRC.
- Continued contribution towards the wildlife policy review debate, through the East African Wildlife Society and Kenya Wildlife Working Group.
- Independent submissions on policy to the Parliamentary Committee on Finance, Trade, Tourism and Planning, the Ministry of Environment's Taskforce on Conservation, the Minister of Lands, and the Kenya Land Policy Review Commission.
- Continuing progress in implementation of the joint MRC-KWS-LWF strategy for the alleviation of human wildlife conflict, including:
  - Further progress with the Laikipia strategic fencing plan with support from OI Pejeta Conservancy.
  - 22 honorary wardens gazetted for Laikipia by KWS.
  - Continuing development of the Ewaso Incident Reporting System by MRC.
  - Collaboration with Max Graham of Save the Elephant.
  - Further extension of WCS funded trials in community-based crop loss reduction methods.

### 3. Tourism

- Further two years support secured from EU Tourism Trust Fund, enabling continuing appointment of Phillipa Bengough as Tourism Development Officer.
- New tourism information centre at Nanyuki Airfield, developed in collaboration with Tropic Air, nearing completion.

- Continuing implementation of the Laikipia Tourism Development Plan, coordinated by the LWF tourism committee, chaired by Tom Silvester.
- Collective destination marketing on behalf of more than 50 tourism ventures, including:
  - Road shows to Nairobi - presentations at the offices of 18 leading agents and tour operators, and at KTB.
  - Distribution of Laikipia brochure to comprehensive database of suppliers.
  - Continued sales of Laikipia map and t-shirts.
  - Regular monthly column in Travel News and Lifestyle.
  - Quarterly tourism enews.
  - Development and distribution of electronic version of brochure.
  - Continued development of LWF website, including factsheets on each tourism operation.
  - Brochure distributed at WTM and Indaba Durban by committee members.
  - Adverts placed in support of trade shows.
  - Series of stands held at local events.
  - New membership flyer.
- Comprehensive database on licences and legal requirements for tourism operations distributed to members.
- LWF's responsible tourism policy developed - "10 Points of Commitment" – posted on LWF website
- Tourism contributions received from Borana, Lewa, Loisaba, Lolldaiga Hills, Offbeat Safaris, Mutamaiyu House, Wilderness Trails, Thompson's Falls, Northern Frontier Ventures, Sweetwaters, Mt. Kenya Safari Club, Nanyuki River Camel Camp, Sangare, Bobong, Segera, Wild Frontiers, and El Karama.

#### **4. Education**

- Environmental Education Officer, Ephantus Mugo, continuing programme of school visits in LWF education bus to participating wildlife sanctuaries, including Mugie, the Laikipia Nature Conservancy, Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Ol Jogi, Lewa, and Borana.
- Total of 108 school trips in 2004 (over 3000 students) and more than 75 school trips so far in 2005. Several community groups also hosted.
- Lecture programme, with videos, on-going.
- Essay competition for both primary and secondary schools, judged by Anne Powys.
- Student's field handbook, for use with the bus, printed with support from Nando Peretti Foundation through Save the Rhino.
- Save the Rhino primary supporters of the LWF education programme.

#### **5. Security**

- LWF security radio network maintained with support by Ol Jogi as operators.
- Certain users suspended in light of failure to pay CCK licence dues and District Security Committee's requirement that users be restricted to one radio per call sign.

#### **Administration & Finance**

- Rosemary Oyugi continues to serve as invaluable Administration and Finance Officer.
- Save the Rhino and Chester Zoo supported purchase of additional office at the airstrip.
- Twice yearly newsletter edited and produced by Nicky Dyer.
- Monthly enews produced by Phillipa Bengough.
- Finance committee, chaired by Giles Davies, succeeded in securing Ford Foundation grant to cover operational expenses for 12 months.

Dr. Jonathan Moss  
Executive Director, LWF