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**MRS. BRINDA ANDREWS' VISIT  
to the Norris Foundation Library of the  
William Holden Wildlife Foundation at Wathituga**



## DIRECTORS

Stefanie Powers  
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Dear Friends:

Mrs. Brinda Andrews teaches first and second grade at the Spring View School in Huntington Beach. She and her family have been longtime supporters of the Foundation and have visited Kenya six times, giving them a wonderful opportunity to witness our growth. Mrs. Andrews' class also participates in our 'pen pal program', writing to Kenyan students, exchanging ideas on wildlife and ecology, as well as cementing the bonds of friendship. Mrs. Andrews visited Kenya recently and was able to take time to instruct the students at Wathituga. We hope Mrs. Andrews enjoyed the experience as much as the students did and we all thank her very much for being so generous with her time and talents.

Due to lack of space in our last newsletter, we were unable to publish the transcript of the speech by M.P. Minister for Education Hon. Peter Oloo Aringo E.G.H., which was read on his behalf at the occasion of the inauguration of the Norris Foundation Library at Wathituga. We have, therefore, included a summary of the speech in this newsletter.

I will be visiting Kenya next month and will have a great deal to report in future newsletters.

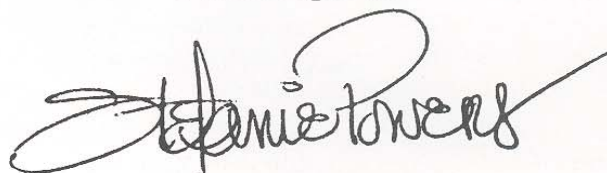
Earlier this year, James Lizar Vermey, our Senior Education Officer, participated in a training course at the Elsa Conservation Trust and delivered a wonderful lecture which brings into focus some of the important conservation issue that we currently face. I think you will find Mr. Vermey's lecture interesting reading.

Our ongoing fund-raising efforts in these difficult economic times are keeping us on our toes and constantly looking for new sources of revenue. We are happy to announce the receipt of a check in the amount of \$5,100.00 from Waterford Wedgwood as part of the royalty designated for us. Cartier has once again come to our aid and will sponsor a polo day in Palm Beach early next year for our benefit. We hope we will be able to report positive amounts from that event.

I hope you all appreciated our financial statement published in our last newsletter, since you may all be proud of our progress.

It is my sad duty to inform you of the passing of our director, Paul Ziffren. Paul was a guiding light in many people's lives, but to me personally, he was a source of comfort, encouragement and council. There is no way to reconcile his loss, we all join the Ziffren family in their grief.

Warm regards,



Stefanie Powers



# Inauguration Speech on the Occasion of the Opening of the Norris Foundation Library of the William Holden Wildlife Foundation

Speech read on behalf of the Hon. Peter Oloo Aringo, M.P. Minister for Education, on the occasion of the official opening of Wathituga Library—Nyeri

Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, parents, pupils, ladies and gentlemen, let me begin by saying how delighted I am to have been invited here today as the Guest of Honor for this function. I must admit that it is a great day because during this occasion, we shall have time to reflect on the work of Mr. William Holden, a departed friend who devoted so much of his life, time and energy to a worthy cause.

Today we are gathered here to witness the official opening of this library which has been made possible through the Norris Foundation and the William Holden Wildlife Foundation. Allow me at this junction to thank the Board of Directors for having thought of starting the project of the rural libraries and Mr. Kenneth Norris for his choice to back this library.

Many people, I am sure, would only think of a library in the middle of such big towns as Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu, etc. However, the insight and generosity of the Foundation has now enabled many rural Kenyans to have easy access to this vital facility.

Mr. Chairman, a World Conference on "Education for All" was held in Jamtien, Thailand by heads of states and governments last year. One of the objectives for the meeting was to explore ways and possibilities of achieving basic education to help solve problems of unemployment, population explosion and environmental degradation.

I am glad to note that your Foundation is already meeting this challenge of educating our youth on the need to maintain a balance of nature and on the importance of wildlife conservation as well motivating them to carry out specific conservation projects.

May I also commend you for the realization of the Education Center at Nanyuki. I am informed that parents and many students go to the Center from all over the Country to participate in your Wildlife Education Program which is carried out through lectures, field trips, botanical and ornithological walks, videos and other educational activities. This is in line with the 8:4:4 Education System which among other things exposes students to real life situations and makes them self-reliant. With the many activities outlined for the Center, the Education Center is indeed developing into a Cultural Center of exchange for which the government commends you highly.

Mr. Chairman, the purpose of today's function is to open the Wathituga Library which has been wisely constructed within

an existing primary school. This is really in the spirit of being mindful of other people's welfare as the pupils in this school can now make use of this rare opportunity. It is also my sincere hope that members of the public who would like to make use of this library will also have access to it.

You may be the only organization with relevant materials on environmental conservation which are otherwise unavailable to the majority of our people. I am sure you will agree with me that it is one thing to have a building called a library and another to have relevant books in such a library.

I am sure your Foundation will solicit books especially from your mother country and I look forward to coming back to this Center to see for myself how the project has expanded and how the local people are utilizing these facilities.

May I also appeal through you to any interested local and overseas donors to donate any relevant books, encyclopedias, magazines, video/audio tapes and cassettes, computers, projectors and slides that can enrich the education of the local people as well as any groups that may visit the library.

At this junction, I would now like to challenge the pupils and the public at large to make good use of the library. People should utilize their free time in the library trying to learn more so as to increase their knowledge in various fields and topics. This way we shall be in a better position to understand our environment and probably leave it better than we found it. I am pleased to note that the main focus of your Foundation is education. This also happens to be the central focus and responsibility of my ministry. In this convergence of interest, we are therefore partners in this vital task of increasing literacy and educating our people. Your collaboration also happens to coincide with the Kenya Government's policy of encouraging private and non-governmental organizations in participating in providing services to the people. The Foundation's contribution is therefore noted and greatly appreciated.

Last, but not least, let me take this opportunity to thank the Board of Directors for having invited me here to preside over this important occasion. I also want to thank the organizers of this foundation for making such elaborate arrangements. Finally, I wish to thank all for having found time to leave your normal busy schedules to witness this occasion this afternoon.

With these few remarks, ladies and gentlemen, I now declare this library officially open and wish you all a happy and prosperous 1991.

Thank you.



# Conservation Education at the William Holden Wildlife Foundation

Delivered on the occasion of the seminar held by the Elsa Conservation Trust

by Lizar Vermey



Founded by the late Joy Adamson

## THE ELSA CONSERVATION TRUST

*This is to certify that*

has successfully completed a course on  
"COMMUNICATING CONSERVATION"

20 February-7 March 1991

at the

Elsamere Conservation Education Centre

Naivasha, Kenya

Including: Environmental issues, communication skills, photography,  
audio-visual techniques and materials production.

*Henry Ndede*  
Educational Warden

*P. Shale*

Areas covered include the Mt. Kenya area and the Laikipia plains. Mt. Kenya is famous for being the highest mountain in Kenya, having glaciers on its peaks and yet lying more or less on the equator.

The Laikipia plains are much lower in altitude than the mountain and are quite dry. This is because of the rainshadow effect of the mountain.

Many streams and rivers have their sources in the glaciers and the mountain forest. Most flow all year round and many people depend on them for their water needs.

The main income-generating industries in this area are:

**Tourism:** Based on Mt. Kenya National Park and mountaineering, the Mt. Kenya Safari Club and lodges and tented camps on private game ranches, e.g. Ol-Pajeta, etc.

**Ranching:** Cattle ranching for beef production. Many ranches also maintain wild animals on their land at the same time.

**Plantation Farming:** The main crop grown on a large scale in the area is wheat.

**Logging Industry:** There are several timber mills around

Nanyuki town and they get their raw materials from plantations on the mountain slopes surrounding the Mt. Kenya National Park.

**Textile Industry:** Mt. Kenya Textiles Ltd. manufactures material from both synthetic and natural fibers and carries out dyeing and printing of the materials.

Apart from these major industries, you will find the usual shops and businesses that serve the local population.

Tourism has had a big socio-economic impact in this area, as it employs many people. We have the hotel staff, the wildlife tour guides, mountain climbing guides and all the people who make a living by supplying commodities to the hotels and industries. Curio shops are also a profitable enterprise. Nanyuki town not only provides most of the necessities for the hotel visitors but also for all the people who run the hotels and lodges.

The infra-structure has also improved tremendously and one very good example is the local road network. The road from Kiganjo up to Nanyuki is one of the best roads in the country. This road would not have been constructed if it was not for the number of tourists who visit the area or pass through on their way to Samburu and Meru National Parks, etc.



When it comes to environmental awareness at the grass-root level versus cultural practice, we have a big problem. This is mainly due to past policies which are now being reflected in current situations.

In the past, many things were taken for granted. People were moved out of areas they had lived in for generations. They were stopped from grazing their livestock in certain areas, and no explanations were given except that their land was needed for wildlife. Their cultural practice were shunned and considered barbaric and primitive and new ways were forced on to them. Researchers would come, do their research and go and nobody bothered to explain what was going on. These are just a few of the things that happened to create many of the problems that we see now.

Local people are usually hostile and suspicious of anybody who comes to try and tell them anything because they think that he/she is out to take advantage of them. Researchers now know that local people are a source of valuable first-hand information but nobody will tell them anything because they are afraid that they may be moved out of their areas or home as a result! A good example is the recent Laikipia Elephant Research Program that was carried out to investigate the population (census) and movements of the elephants around Laikipia. Not many people were willing to say much because they were afraid that the information they gave could lead to them being forced to move elsewhere to carry out their subsistence farming. This has also made it difficult for education officers and other people who want to help because the local people now think that they are up to something. It is difficult to deliver information as the local people think they will be used to the officer's advantage, etc.

An important lesson is never to take local people for granted and to always involve them in local projects and programs; to ask for their opinions and advice and explain to anybody who will listen what you are doing, why, etc. That way you may get their full co-operation and your work will be made simpler and more productive.

This then brings us to conservation perspectives: past, present and future. The scope is too wide to give fully in this report. In the olden days there were many cultural and traditional benefits and ways which indirectly and directly helped to conserve the environment and wildlife. For example, certain plants and trees were not cut down due to medicinal uses or for spiritual reasons. Animals too were not just killed and eaten wantonly. There were certain times to kill particular animals or certain procedures to be carried out before hunting. Man was a natural predator with weapons that limited him to certain animals only. He did not hunt indiscriminately and the animals killed were certainly not the ones with big horns or in their prime. The local people practiced their agriculture in several small plots at different times and also rotated their crops. This ensured that the land had time to recover its fertility, etc. Population control

was practiced in the traditional way. For example, a woman was not supposed to have sexual intercourse with her husband until her child was weaned naturally. This meant that the woman had time to recover from childbirth and attend to her child's welfare without the burden of another pregnancy. A man was not allowed to get married or father children until he had passed certain tests and proved his manhood. This weeded out the weak from the strong and only those who proved to be strong and responsible towards the community could have wives and children.

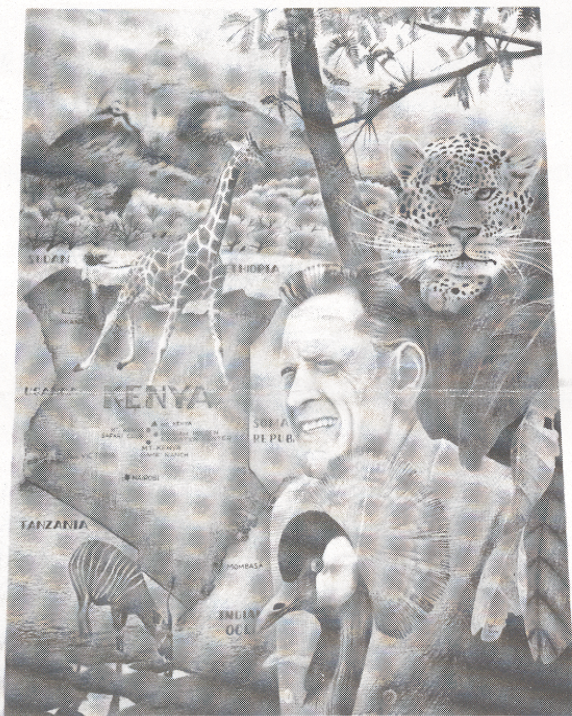
That was all in the past. Things are very different now. After the coming of the missionaries and colonialists, who without hesitation considered all the customs blasphemous, and who brought new ways of life, things have changed. New policies introduced to the government—to marry more than one wife was bad, etc. Naturally, after being thrown off their land, people were bitter and now nobody cares about the wildlife since they do not see what good it brings to them. The local people see only the vans and mini buses carrying lots of tourists but do not see any money. (However, this attitude may change with the formation of the Kenya Wildlife Service, a parastatal organization and the introduction of a policy directing 25% of park revenue into projects which provide direct benefit to local people.)

Many of the subsistence farmers who have been moved down onto the plains came from productive agricultural areas. Research has shown that they are treating the new land in exactly the same way that they have been treating their former land and expecting the same harvests without more input. Since the Laikipia plains are relatively dry, they can be considered marginal lands and are thus quite delicate. This brings us to the problem of land resource management. The local people may not have the knowledge or experience to look at their land and try to find out what it can offer them without serious damage to the environment. Although there are ways in which people could increase production from their shambas resources, they do not have access to the necessary information and assistance.

Although a lot of work needs to be done, the future looks hopeful. More studies are needed to find out more about the traditional methods and how the modern aspect could be introduced in communities amiably.

The communities should not be ignored and should be involved in discussions on development projects that will affect them. People should learn from others' mistakes and avoid repeating them. This means that organizations should work together, competition is healthy but working together will mean that more can be achieved. When it comes to education, follow up is quite important to find out how that education is being applied and what further help is needed, etc.





The William Holden Wildlife Foundation is pleased to make available to its members this beautiful 4-color poster.

This 16 x 20 fine-art quality print reproduction of an original watercolor is shipped flat and ready for framing and would make a lovely addition to any home or office.

Posters are \$18.00 each (\$15.00 plus \$3.00 postage). Please send check or money order to:

**WILLIAM HOLDEN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION**  
P.O. Box 67981, Los Angeles, CA 90067

Please send \_\_\_\_\_ poster(s) to:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

***Just a reminder that the Foundation has WHWF t-shirts!***

T-shirts are \$12.00 each (\$10.00 plus \$2.00 postage).  
Please send your check or money order to:

**WILLIAM HOLDEN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION**  
P.O. Box 67981, Los Angeles, CA 90067

Please indicate size/color & quantity below:

Small \_\_\_\_\_ Large \_\_\_\_\_ X-Lg. \_\_\_\_\_

Green \_\_\_\_\_ Black \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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