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Dear Friends,

As some of you may have been reading, the drought in Kenya is in its third year and once again the crops of the subsistence farmers have failed. The pastoral tribes in the northern part of the country are desperate for grazing land and circumstances have forced them to seek pastures in areas where the altitude is higher and the temperature colder. Neither man nor cattle could acclimate as rapidly as was required, and in their weakened state enormous numbers of animals died. There have even been reports of suicide among some of the northern Masai who have lost everything. Naturally, with such pressure on them, rural people find it difficult if not impossible to afford to feed their families and pay school fees for their children. In many cases if they can pay the school fees the children arrive with empty stomachs and doze off in class. Susan Bruckner's 7th Grade Class from Vernon Center Middle School has engaged in a pen-pal relationship with Nyariginu School for the past few years. Susan and her class have just raised a great portion of the \$1800 that will pay the school fees for 200 students for one year. With this financial burden relieved from their parents the children can afford to be fed. We at WHWF salute all the members of Susan's class—whose hard work and generosity have made this possible. What an extraordinary accomplishment for 7th Graders. Rarely in our lives do we ever have an opportunity to do something that can change someone else's life. This unselfish act is one of those rare opportunities and its impact is enormous. It may well be that those who benefit from this extra year of schooling will become even more dedicated to absorbing their lessons of conservation and preservation than they have before. Clearly they will learn from the disasters around them that they desperately need to look at the natural world and all it contains in a completely different way if only for their survival. And the impact on wild animals from better use of the habitat will be extremely important. Thank you, Susan, and thank you—the students of her 7th Grade Class. I will be spending all of August in Kenya and will have more news when I return.

Warmest regards,

Stefanie Powers

News From Kenya:

- As you will read in the article on page three regarding the Saganaw Fish Farm, otters also got into our Education Center's trout pond as well and had many good dinners!
- Our education coordinator, Francis Maina, recently attended a seminar organized by the Forest Action Network which Francis reports was very well organized, and from which he gained a lot of useful information. A report will follow that we may share in upcoming newsletters.
- The German Ambassador to Kenya, Mr. Jurgen Weerth and his wife were accompanied on a tour of our Education Center by Dr. Lawi. The Ambassador praised the 'beautiful' set-up' of our facility as well as the educational programs offered. He promised to come back and introduce us to a new variety of banana that has been developed in Kenya with the help of GTZ, the Germany Development Agency.
- In honor of World Water Day, our past intern, Miss Jo Lane, sent us beautiful posters from Australia in celebration of the World Water Day.



Vernon Center Middle School

We recently received a check in the amount of \$450.00 from Susan Bruckner's Class at the Vernon Center Middle School, which also included a donation from the St. John's Episcopal Church's Discretionary Fund. The students worked hard to raise these funds to assist their pen-pal friends in Kenya with scholarship funding.



*Miss Bruckner's Class / Vernon Center Middle School
Students with their fundraising graph -
a little 'extra' goes a long way!*

A REPORT ON THE TRIP TO SAGANA FISH FARM

By Peter Maina

Recently I had the opportunity to take the students of Magadi Secondary School for a trip to the Sagana Fish Farm. This form-four class at Magadi School had previously visited our educational center for our four-day program. This time we toured the Kahurura Forest, the Mount Kenya Game Ranch and the Animal Orphanage. We also had research sessions in our library, which concluded with a presentation of their research findings. On the last day of this program, I took the students for a field trip to the Sagana Fish Farm.

The Saginaw Fish Culture farm is a multi-purpose entity, dealing in aquaculture, agro-forestry and animal husbandry. They call this kind of farming—where they keep sheep, dairy cows, chicken, fish and also run an agro-forestry plot—integrated farming.

Situated off the Karatina-Nairobi Road, the farm is a scientific center run by Mr. Ngatunyi under the operations of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources.

Started in 1948 by the colonial government, the farm stands on 128 acres of land. In the vicinity nearby is the Sagana River as well as the Sagana Town, which is a typical example of a Kenyan urban center where the manufacturing industry meets farming.

The farm is both a commercial and scientific research center. They use fish as a resource to expand science on fisheries and in economy to line the pocket with a shilling. They have 58 fishponds of which 28 are set aside for research and the remaining 24 are used in commercial fish production.

The objectives of the center are: a) a place to introduce fish farming to the people of Central Kenya, b) to be a source of fingerlings for warm-water fish, and c) a research and education center.

The species of fish reared in the center

are catfish, goldfish, carp, black bass and angelfish. However, the main work is on tilapia and catfish. They also run a meteorological station (met.) where they take parameters on several aspects of weather like rainfall, atmospheric temperature and sunshine levels.

Their fish crop stays in the pond for varying periods of time depending on the species involved and the intended use of the fish to be harvested. Tilapia, for example, will be harvested at seven to eight months and by then they will weigh between 250 and 350 grams per fish on average. During harvesting, fishing is done using a net. The fish are then gutted to remove the internal organs. After gutting, the scales are removed before the fish are washed thoroughly and packed in polythene bags for eventual marketing. Sometimes the markets are not local, for example, in Nairobi, so the fish have to be preserved. Preservation methods include deep-freezing, smoking, salting and drying in the sun. The fish are also sold to the local population, as well as the nearby town of Keruguya. They sell the ornamental fish, like the goldfish and angelfish, to the National Museums, Sarit Center and other shops in the city. Farming goldfish is a profitable business for the farmers of Central Kenya, and at the same time reduces the depletion of the goldfish in their natural habitats.

Rearing tilapia provides a viable source of proteins that is affordable to a large number of families in the area. This fish is cheaper than beef.

In the met. station are such equipment as a wind cap anemometer, an evaporation pan, a standard rain gauge and a sunshine recorder. The met. station stands on an open field with a good clearing to record weather trends more accurately. Since there are no direct obstructions for a rea-

sonsonable radius, the weather trends monitored in the station are reflective for the entire area as a whole.

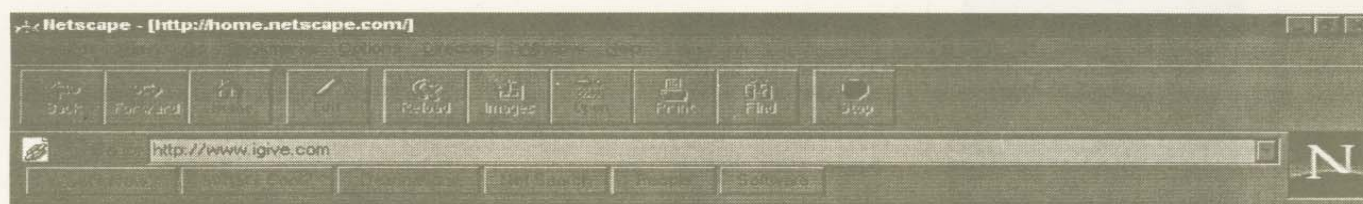
This fish farm stays afloat amidst many 'torrential storms'. The farm has succeeded through a careful mixture of skill and proficiency. They experience a myriad of problems such as fish diseases and fish predation, not to mention inadequate staffing and financial hardships to run all the intended research programs. What startled me most was the practical solutions the workers at the center have devised to solve these impediments.

Fish do suffer from diseases caused by bacteria, virus, fungus, protozoa, worms and also stress. There are also problems with predators, such as egrets, pelicans and most recently reptiles such as lizards and snakes. The only mammal predator is the otter, which is the easiest to keep

away by clearing the bushes in the vicinity of the ponds. Some of the ponds at the center are covered with a mesh, which protects them from all predators, but it is too expensive to cover all 58 ponds.

Like other managers in civil service, Mr. Ngatunyi has to work with a reduced workforce as retrenchment takes its toll on the government employees. At the time we visited, some casual laborers were on hand to give the few staff members extra assistance.

In a nutshell, the farm has worked extremely hard to run at a profit, notwithstanding the fact that some of its research roles have no direct monetary benefits. However, their ability to run research and commerce concurrently, has made the Saganu Fish Farm an icon of proper utilization of warm water fisheries in Kenya.



The William Holden Wildlife Foundation is listed as a non-profit organization on a unique new website called iGive.com. iGive.com (www.igive.com) provides online shoppers an e-commerce portal with a twist — visitors can make donations to their favorite charities while they're buying items over the Internet everyday.

The iGive.com website contributes \$10.00 to the selected charity on behalf of each new registered shopper. An additional percentage, up to 15%, will be given to those charities on all purchases by each registered shopper at affiliated merchants. Among the 80 merchants currently working with iGive.com to increase charitable contributions are Reel.com, CDNow, 800.com, eToys, J. Crew and J.C. Penny.

Shoppers also have the chance to expand the universe of causes that can benefit. Visitors are invited to list any non-profit organizations that aren't already benefiting from iGive.com donations, and they will receive a portion of the proceeds of purchases the consumer makes going forward.

In a statement issued by the company, iGive.com founder and CEO Robert Grosshandler said that he hopes members would add an additional 7,000 to 8,000 of their favorite charities to the 5,700 already listed on the site.

We invite all WHWF supporters to visit iGive.com, become registered shoppers and consider making your online purchases at this unique website.

Vest-A-Dog Protecting The Dogs Who Protect Us

Recently our president Miss Stefanie Powers was honored at the ASPCA Awards Banquet held in New York City. Among those also honored that day was Stephanie Ryan, an eleven-year-old girl who founded the Vest-A-Dog program.

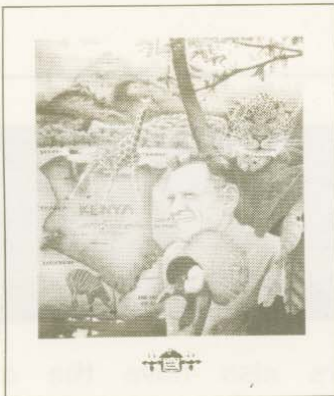
Stephanie is an animal lover from Oceanside, California. When she read an article in the Associated Humane Society Newsletter about a police dog shot in the line of duty in New Jersey, she decided to raise money to buy a bulletproof vest for 'Tiko' a police dog who works with Officer

Jim Wall of the Oceanside Police Dept. Stephanie created flyers which she distributed to local veterinarians and pet supply stores. The response was overwhelming. To date, she has not only 'vested' Tiko, but 50 other dogs were vested in the San Diego County.

Stephanie has now taken her quest to 'protect the dogs who protect us each day' nationally, and has formed the non-profit corporation Vest-A-Dog Foundation.

For more information, write Vest-A-Dog, 3529 Cannon Road, Suite 2B342, Oceanside, CA 92056, or visit her website at www.dogvest.com.

As you can guess, Stephanie hopes to become a veterinarian one day. We wish her only continued success.



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

WILLIAM HOLDEN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
Post Office Box 67981, Los Angeles, CA 90067

Please send _____ poster(s) to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Just a reminder ... 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
Post Office Box 67981, Los Angeles, CA 90067

Please circle color, and indicate size and quantity below:

White Powder Blue Safari Green Black
Small _____ Medium _____
Large _____ Extra Large _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone () _____