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Introducing the Llamas to A New Group of Students

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Dear Friends,

We are pleased to welcome to our Board Mr. Julian McKeand. Mr. McKeand has lived in Kenya for most of his life and was a close friend of William Holden and a founding director of the Mount Kenya Game Ranch. As a friend, he has been extremely supportive of our work, and since he has re-organized some of his personal commitments, he is now free to join us.

Have you seen our web site? Please 'log-on' and have a look; we would love to have your feedback, (address above).

As we all set off for our summer activities, I will be returning to Kenya and will have more photos to share with you.

The latest news from Kenya is that the long rains have been disappointing. This will have a negative result on agriculture and the wild population of animals. My trip will no doubt be an active one.

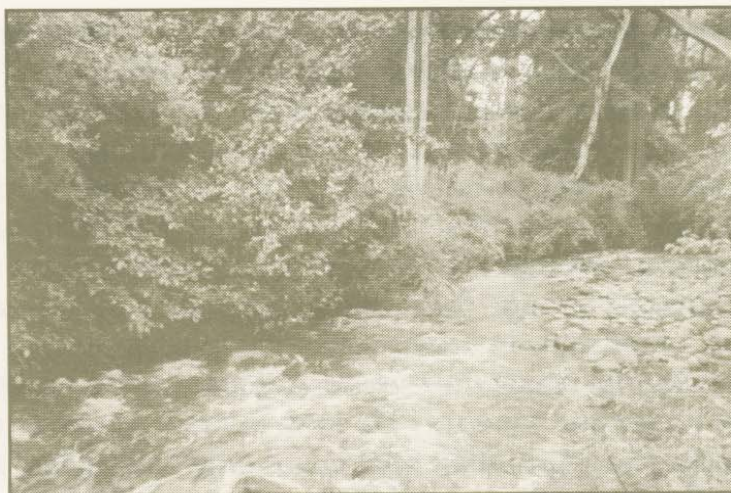
Warmest Regards,

Stefanie Powers

News From Kenya:

NANYUKI RIVER

The Nanyuki River is one of the permanent river courses that flow on the western side of Mt. Kenya. It's real name in Massai should be *Enkare Nanyuki*, which means red water. Thus, the river was correctly named after the reddish-brown water that flows in it during the rainy season.



This river, like many others, owes its origins to the volcanic mountain that casts a rain shadow on the Nanyuki area. The red volcanic soil that is washed up by the rain waters is actually responsible for the red coloration in the river.

In the dry season, most of the water that flows in the river is compounded by run-off resulting from the heavy rains on the slopes.

The river is actually a life-line to the people, animals and plants in Nanyuki. But, if water is life, then Nanyuki is dying because the river is succumbing to the unsustainable utilization by the local community. A recent phenomena of the river is very low water levels in the dry season and flooding in the rainy season. This aspect is aggravated by the inconsistent weather patterns. For instance, the El Nino winds that blew to Africa in 1997. At the William Holden Wildlife Foundation Education Center, we recorded the highest rise in water levels in more than 15 years.

We happen to be the first organization to utilize the water because we are located upstream next to the Mt. Kenya Forest. We utilize the available water for fish farming and domestic use but ensure that it is environmentally friendly. Downstream the policy is different and all sorts of use and abuse of the river are in place.



World Day for Water

On March 22, 1999 the education center joined the rest of the world in celebrating the 'World Water Day', whose theme was 'everyone lives down stream'. Forty-three students and five teachers from the Karatina Secondary School's Young Farmers Club were invited to this occasion.

While water covers 70% of the earth's surface, only about 4% of it is fresh and even then most of it is not available as it is held up in the polar ice caps. These figures indicated that the earth's population of six billion people is an

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extremely precarious position with regards to water for their every day use.

In Kenya, 83% of the land is arid and semi-arid, with only 17% which is considered arable land. This small portion of Kenya supports 80% of the population which in effect means that natural resources, especially water, are under severe threat.

The biggest threat seems to be the disruption of the very process that provides water, the water cycle. Deforestation in the forests that are the main water catchment areas of the country has drastically reduced the level of water in many rivers during most of the year, while causing severe damage through flash floods during the rainy season.

Water systems, especially in urban areas, have been turned into open sewers. Domestic, agricultural and industrial wastes are being dumped in the rivers and many rivers are now so polluted that they no longer have any life form in them, and can certainly not be used by man.

An exponentially growing human population only means that more people have to share on less water. Conflicts over the use of water are predicted all over the world in the coming millenium.

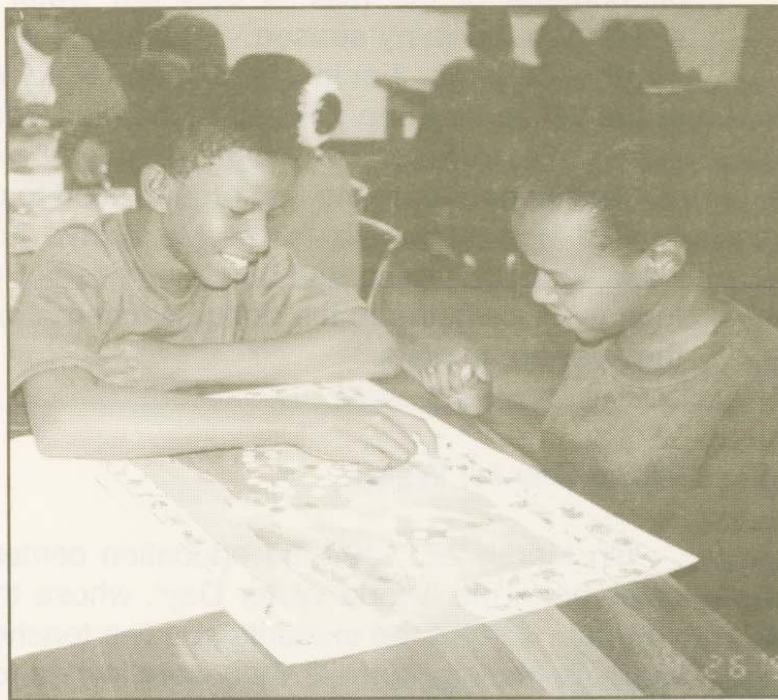
Individuals, schools and communities are expected to play a vital role in jealously guarding the water sources. This year's theme to 'World Water Day' asks us to realize our own responsibilities towards other water users - including wildlife - and to therefore take an active role in its conservation.

Endangered Wildlife Game Introduced to the William Holden Wildlife Foundation Education Center

Endangered Wildlife Game is a board game prepared by the United Nations Environmental Program and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). A hundred copies of the game were donated to the WHWFEC by the UNEP headquarters in Gigiri Nairobi in December and ever since this exercise has proven to be very popular with all the students at the education center.

The packaging of the game is captivating and draws a lot of attention to one even before you have seen what is inside the big brown envelope marked with bold letters. Inside, there is a board game carefully folded into two, a manual and two dices packed in a polythene paper.

The game fits a wide variety of students and is as popular with primary school pupils as it is with college students. It is very easy



**Two students playing the
Endangered Wildlife Game**

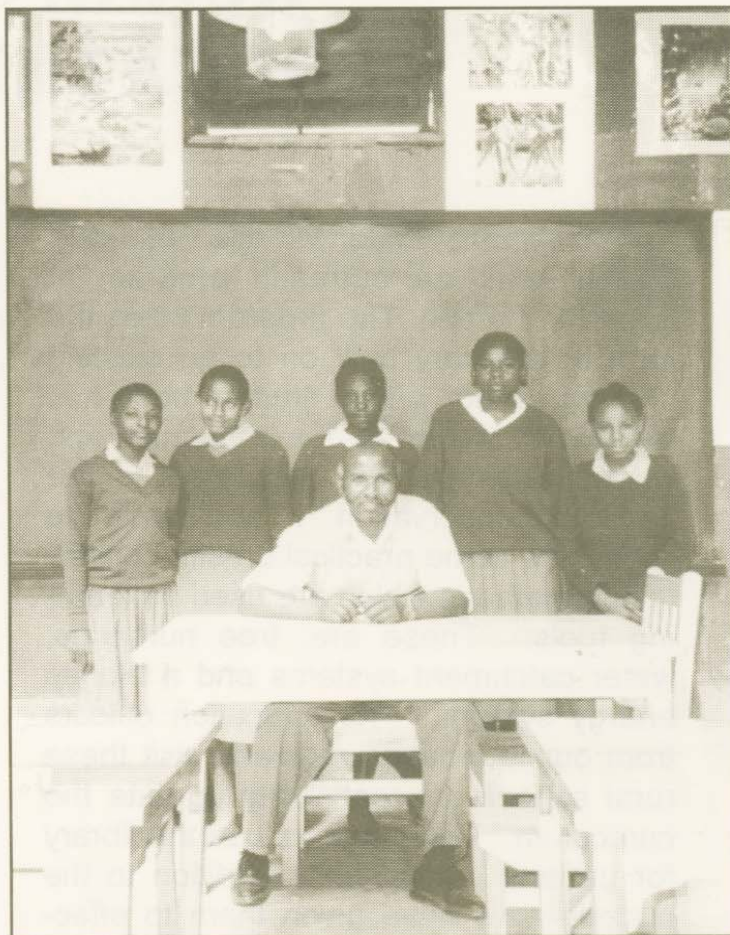
to play and can, to some extent, be compared to snakes and ladders. The players have to move through sixty five stations distributed all over the world and whoever completes the journey first wins the game. The first and last stations are in Nairobi since that is the headquarters of the UNEP. The number of steps one moves are determined by the score one gets from the dice.

In a nutshell, the game is actually a passive way of passing knowledge on endangered species since it is both entertaining and educative. It has a lot on the threat of bio-diversity, international law for the conservation of biodiversity, and organizations involved in conservation.

The game is global in approach since endangered species are distributed in all parts of the world. The flora and fauna species featured are marched with their geographic distribution on the map and as a player moves from one region of the world on the board to another he is able to know what life forms occur where.

The Endangered Species Game is a representative sample of the plants and animals whose continued existence is not certain. The species of fauna featured include reptiles, mammals, insects, amphibians and birds. There are plants like cactus, pitcher plant, and some species of orchids. To crown all this diversity are clear color drawings of the plants and animals that make the game an eye opener to the many endangered species of the world. Just by looking at the drawing on the board a player will easily identify an animal that he knows and relate one he doesn't to a familiar one.

The manual provided gives the scientific names of all the plants and animals and this is a big aid to the students



of secondary schools and colleges who would be interested in classification.

The conventional agreement of listing different wildlife species in separate appendix in order to control how they are utilized is also marked against each species and this is a relative indication of how serious the threat is to the ultimate survival of that particular species.

We include this game with lessons, video shows and slide shows on endangered species and this helps to supplement the message of the game.

After the game we ask questions and sometimes give pamphlets to the students who answer such questions.

RURAL OUTREACH EDUCATION PROGRAM

The William Holden Wildlife Education Center runs an outreach program in three rural areas. The program takes the form of a library built on to an existing primary school whose student body has the largest impact on the population and whose teachers are dedicated to the cause of conservation. In addition to the library are some practical on-site conservation methods which are used as learning tools. These are; tree nurseries, water catchment systems and a biogas energy system. The education officers from our foundation regularly visit these rural schools to continually up-date the curriculum. The teachers use the library for general education in addition to the materials we have given them to effectively teach conservation by offering; alternatives to habitat destruction, soil conservation, the dangers of deforestation and the value of wildlife to the ecosystem. One of these schools is the Nyariginu Primary School.

Nyariginu Primary School is located outside of Nanyuki in an area overlooking the Oldalga Hills. The area is semi-arid and receives little rain which is not very well distributed. Most of the residents are small scale farmers relying on crop farming and animal husbandry. As can be expected in such climatic conditions their farming is not often successful and they have to tighten their belts to feed their families and send their children to school.

The WHWFEC education officers visit these schools to cover topics that overlap with their own science, agriculture and geography lessons in school. We tell them of soil conservation and deforestation, rabbit and poultry rearing, wildlife that occurs in their area and on wildlife human conflict. To evaluate what pupils are most curious about we set up a question forum earlier this year. The pupils sent questions through their teachers to our education coordinators who would address such questions during their periodic visits.

In addition, we also took ten copies of the Endangered Wildlife Game to their library. This game teaches the students, in a very simple way, the issues affecting wildlife in their area. We also took tree seedlings in the beginning of the long rainy season in April to be planted in the school compound. These seedlings come from a fast-growing indigenous tree that has many positive properties. The trees offer wind protection, wood and fodder for cattle, plus they naturally introduce nitrogen into the soil which avoids the use of chemical fertilizer.

As a wildlife education center we are offering viable alternatives to destruction of both environment and wildlife. This is essential if there is to be a future for Africa's human and animal population. Understanding the need for sustainable practices must be taught to the young so they grow-up having a value for what is around them. That is our aim.

GROUP RESEARCH WORK ON THE MOUNT KENYA FOREST

By Peter Maina
Chief Education Officer

GROUP ONE: Origin of the Forest

Find out the origin of both the mountain and its forest. Find out whether this is a fold mountain, volcanic or any other kind. Find out how its origin has affected the kind of forest growing on it.

Find out the area covered by the forest.

Find out the duration of time this forest, or part of it, has developed without interference by aspects like fire. What might be the age of the oldest tree?

GROUP TWO: Plant and Animal Communities in the Forest

What animals inhabit the forest? Outline them as follows: insects, reptiles, birds, antelopes, primates, and members of the dog and cat order.

What tree species are found on the mountain? Outline at least 10 and state whether they are indigenous or exotic, and whether they exist as natural forest, or have been deliberately planted by the foresters, or both.

Find out the variation in vegetation cover over different altitudes on Mt. Kenya. Why is there such a trend like you found out?

What is the difference between the plant and animal communities found in the Mt. Kenya Forest and those found in a grassland habitat like the Laikipia Plains, Kajiado Masai Mara or the Serengeti?

Is there any similarity between Mt. Kenya and the neighboring Aberdares in terms of the biodiversity they hold?

GROUP THREE: Water from Mt. Kenya and Effect on Climate

Which rivers flow from Mt. Kenya?

What is the role of Mt. Kenya in the water cycle of the region?

In what ways is the water from Mt. Kenya used in Kenya, not only around the mountain but further downstream?

What would happen if the current flow of rivers around Mt. Kenya was altered or blocked up all together?

Could Mt. Kenya be the biggest water catchment in the area? What other water catchments do Kenyans rely on?

What effect does the mountain have on the climate of the Nanyuki area?

GROUP FOUR: Human Activities in Mt. Kenya Forest

What human activities are in existence in the forest?

What are the negative and positive effects of these activities on the forest?

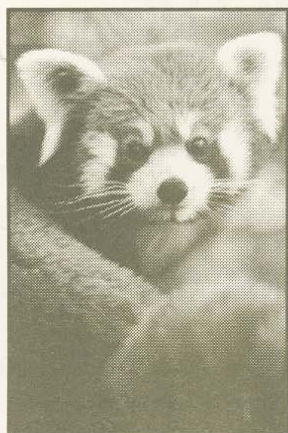
What is the biggest threat facing Mt. Kenya today? What optimism is there for its existence 50 years from now?

GROUP FIVE: Remedial Measures

Explore alternative sources of domestic fuel to reduce the outtake of forest resources for firewood?

Explore alternatives for furniture demand to ease the problem of logging for timber in the forest.

Explore alternatives for water use to ensure that all water available is put into the most viable land utilization pattern and that it is sustainable.



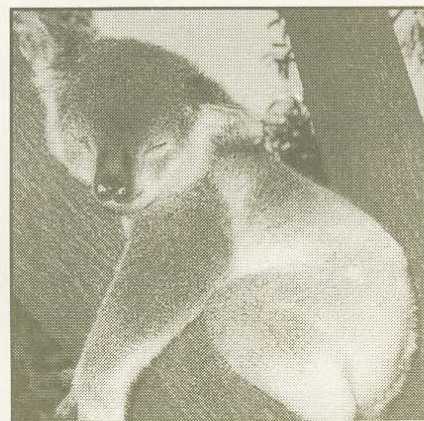
*Another year older and
you're still irresistible!
Happy Birthday!
(0025G)*

WHWF GREETING CARDS

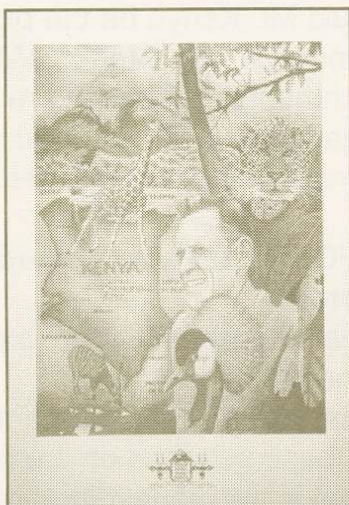
The William Holden Wildlife Foundation is pleased to offer to our members special packs of blank and greeted greeting cards. The two noted here on this page are not included in our catalogue.

Each card package costs \$18.00 and contains twelve cards and envelopes. Individual card size is 5x7. When ordering, please use the number below the card's picture. For United States orders, please include \$2.00 postage and handling for the first card pack, and \$1.00 thereafter. For all international orders, please include \$5.00 for the first card pack, and \$3.00 thereafter.

For a complete brochure of the entire line of everyday, birthday and special occasion WHWF greeting cards, please e-mail, write or call us to request one be mailed to you.



*I'm eagerly waiting
to hear from you.
Write soon!
(0024 G)*



Posters are \$18.00 each (\$15.00 plus \$3.00 postage.)
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Just a reminder that the Foundation has WHWF t-shirts!

T-shirts are \$12.00 each (\$10.00 plus \$2.00 postage).
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Post Office Box 67981, Los Angeles, CA 90067

Please indicate size/color and quantity below:

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

Name _____

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City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____

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