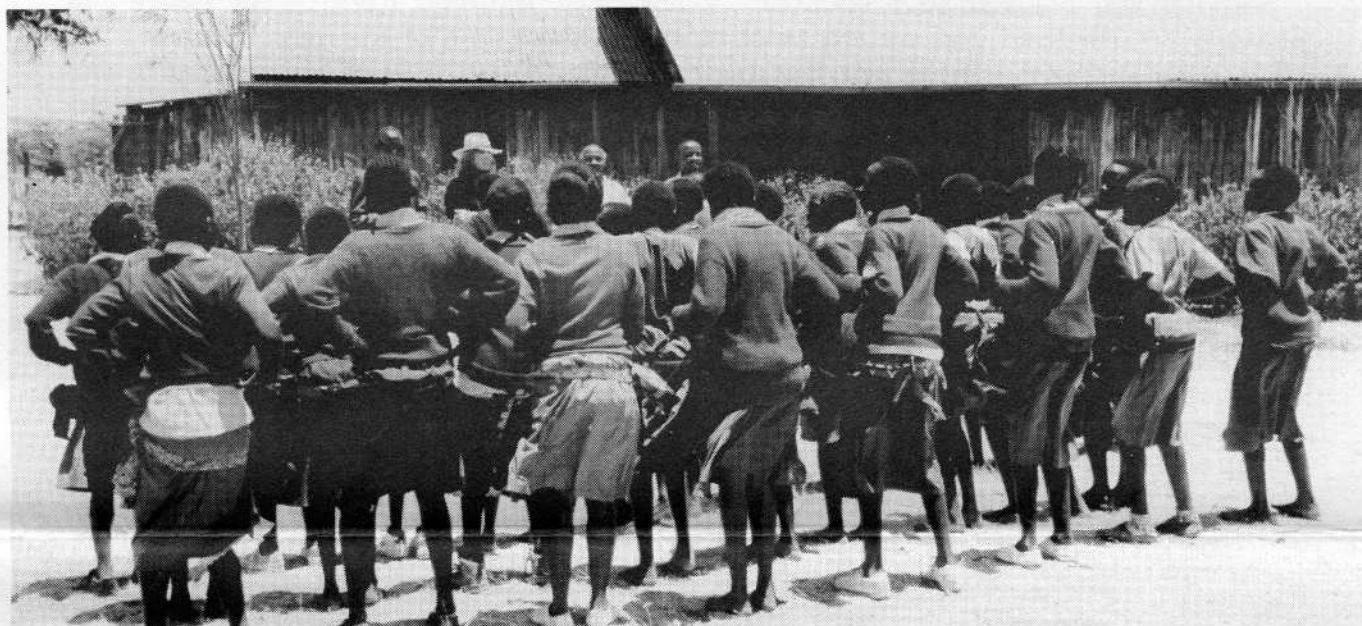


P.O. Box 67981, Los Angeles, CA 90067 Tel: (310) 274-3169



The chairman is greeted by the Upper Form 6 Class at Nyariginu School where the foundation established one of our rural libraries. Our Pen Pal Program with Susan Bruckner's 7th grade class at Vernon Center Middle School has greatly effected the education of these students by raising funds to pay a year's worth of tuition for them.

DIRECTORS

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Dear Friends,

I hope you enjoyed your summer. I have just returned from Kenya where the seasons are reversed and we are entering our coldest time of the year. Happily the rains were successful these last few months, replenishing most of the reservoirs and being of benefit to over one third of the country's agricultural enterprise. This helps the average citizen and puts less pressure on the natural world and the wildlife.

At the education center we are embarking upon several new and exciting projects that we hope to export to the rural libraries and communities. New ways to filter water through permaculture can provide a bio-pesticide that actually attracts the return of natural predators and thus the entire food chain. Our next newsletter will explain these projects in detail but I hope I have piqued your interest.

I very much enjoyed being a small part of the Bushmeat Crisis Conference. It gave me great hope to see 26 African countries represented by people who were clearly dedicated to making inroads toward solutions.

See you in the fall.

Warmest Regards,

Stefanie Powers

News From Kenya:



Peter Maina—Senior Lecturer WHWFEC, Dr. Roger Windsor, Dr. John March visit The Bongo Herd at the Mount Kenya Game Ranch. The Bongo Herd is the only captive breeding herd in Africa. This herd will be used to re-introduce Bongo in the wild on Mount Kenya.

Dr. Roger Windsor, one of the world's foremost veterinarians recently lectured at the William Holden Wildlife Foundation's Education Center in Nanyuki.

Dr. Windsor's lecture entitled: "MY LIFE AS A WILDLIFE VETERINARIAN" was enthusiastically received by the students and their teachers.

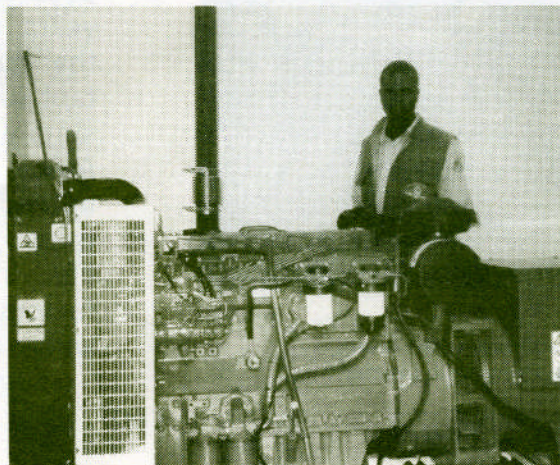
After completing his graduate studies at the Royal (Dick) School of Veterinary studies in Edinburgh, Scotland, he considered himself lucky to have had the opportunity to practice for 8 years in Kenya. After 6 more years in Cambridge, his interest in wildlife took him to work in Argentina, Botswana and Peru before he was offered the prestigious position of head of The Scottish Agricultural College's Laboratory in Dumfries, Scotland.

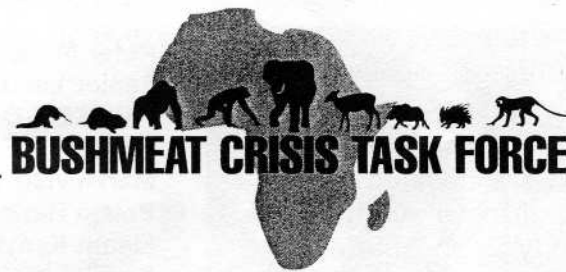
In the past few years, Dr. Windsor has been invited for consultation in Ghana, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Estonia and Peru. He returns to his favorite Kenya annually to visit the Mount Kenya Game ranch and is keenly interested in the progress of students at the William Holden Wildlife Education Center.

Dr. Windsor is also the author of the best-selling book "AFRICA, AFRICA" which speaks of his love for the continent.



Peter Maina stands behind our fabulous new generator donated by the JL Foundation. We now have sufficient power to run every part of the education center including the security fencing. We are extremely happy to have no energy worries.





The "Bushmeat Crisis" is probably unfamiliar to most people. In Africa, natural land is often referred to as "the bush," thus wildlife and the meat derived from it is referred to as "bush meat." This term applies to all wildlife species, including many of those that are threatened and endangered. These species that are used for meat, include elephants, gorillas, chimpanzees, lesser primates, forest antelope, bush pig, porcupine, monitor lizards and various other species. The illegal commercial hunting for the meat of wild species has become the most immediate threat to the future of wildlife populations in Africa.

Wildlife has been hunted for food ever since humans first evolved, and wildlife is still viewed as a resource for free food for

the taking. Today in Africa bushmeat continues to be an economically important food and a trade item for thousands of poor, rural and urban families. Animal parts are also important in their rituals, and bushmeat has become a status symbol for the urban elite trying to retain links to the village often commanding extremely high prices in city restaurants.

Africa, as many of you know, has one of the highest population rates in the world — some 30 million people live within the forested regions of Central Africa. Forty to 60 percent live in cities and towns, and most rely on the meat. Wildlife is a primary source of animal protein.

Forest antelope, pigs and primates are most often eaten, and as many as one million metric tons of wildlife is killed for food in that region every year. In West Africa human population densities are extremely high, 25 to 78 persons per square kilometer, compared to countries such as the Congo Basin where 5 to 20 persons live in a square kilometer. West African wildlife populations have been so depleted by years of unsustainable hunting for meat that bushmeat is no longer the most important source of protein in the family diets, it simply doesn't exist. In East and southern Africa, rodents have replaced the over-hunted and now scarce antelope and primates are the most commonly eaten wildlife. In East and southern Africa the same factors driving the bushmeat crisis elsewhere are evident.

Logging is an economically important



Ms. Powers addressing the crowd
at the National Press Club Luncheon

land usage throughout West and Central Africa, but it is also a major threat to wildlife throughout the world. Present selective logging practices not only result in increased consumption of bushmeat within concessions areas, but also it facilitates the supply of bushmeat to urban markets and enhances the profitability of the trade. Logging progresses like a wave over the landscape. As timber companies enter into un-logged areas in search of the few valuable trees that are scattered throughout the forest they cut enormous trails and roads into the forested areas. This road-building activity both heavily fragments the forest and it opens it up to hunters. A hunting trip for bushmeat that might have taken days to complete before the arrival of the loggers may be reduced to just a few hours.

In addition, with the help of the logging company drivers and their vehicles, hunters no longer have to carry dead animals for long distances, and can kill many more animals on each trip. There is documented evidence that logging companies not only directly increase demand for meat by hiring a large work force, they also greatly facilitate their workers entry into the commercial trade to supply bushmeat to urban markets.

So, what can be done, and what should be the next step to eliminating the illegal commercial bushmeat trade? The Bush Meat Crisis Task Force is a major step forward. The BCTF was formed just over two years ago as a result of meetings hosted by the American Zoological and Aquarium Association. The AZA called together a group of the world's leading experts on bushmeat in order to identify what actions could be taken to address the bushmeat crisis. At the conclusion of that meeting the Bush Meat Crisis Task Force was born. The BCTF, as a consortium of conservation organizations and scientists dedicated to the

conservation of wildlife populations threatened by commercial hunting of wildlife for sale as meat.



**Ms. Powers with Mr. Dick Ryan,
President of the National Press Club**

The BCFT has recently concluded its first international planning meeting to set forth a collaborative international effort to implement action groups that will address themselves to involving all the contributors to the illegal trade including the commercial sector who give increasing access to the wild areas.

The day after the conference closed our chairman, Stefanie Powers, addressed the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. alerting people to the crisis and to the work of the task force. The speech was carried live on C-Span, and the written transcript is available in full on our website.

WILDLIFE EDUCATION CENTRE'S STAFF SURVEY OF MT. KENYA FOREST **(Our Director, Mr. Julian McKeand, Joseph Maina and I** **had the opportunity to fly over Mt. Kenya forest on the 22nd of May, 2001)**

by Francis Maina
Education Coordinator



After belting up and making sure we knew where we could quickly and easily access the sick bags, we set off from the Mt. Kenya Game Ranch airstrip at exactly 0918hrs local time with lots of luck on our side, the sky was clear of its now usual rain clouds. The take-off seemed like a rush into the heavens and a steep bank towards the Education Centre had Joe and I clutching onto our seats. We then climbed gently up to about 3,200m (9,500 feet) above sea level and headed into the Gathuru area, which is on the south eastern slopes of Mt. Kenya and from where Naro Moru and Wathituga Rivers flow.

I have on many occasions walked our students into the Kahurura Forest of Mt. Kenya, pointing out and explaining the human activities that have led to the deforestation and degradation of the Mt. Kenya forest ecosystem. Indiscriminate logging of both indigenous and exotic tree species, charcoal burning, bark stripping, animal and tree poaching, soil erosion and encroachment by farmers are the biggest threat. I never had a clue to the extent of what had happened to the 'Mountain of God', at least not until the morning of 22nd of May.

This flight was, to me, an eye-opener to the destruction going on unabated on the

most vital water catchment forest regions in Kenya. Mt. Kenya forest is also an important site for biodiversity (it's been declared a world biosphere site), nutrient cycling and regulation of microclimate because forest cover decreased temperature fluctuations.

On this side of the mountain that we flew over, the afro-alpine forest was formerly found between 2,000 and 3,500 meters above sea level and was dominated by Podocarpus, African Pencil Cedar and Albizia species of trees. These forests have now been so severely encroached upon by farmland that there are in most areas more crops than trees. A strip of trees is all that remains before the bamboo zone and eventually the moorland. The few remaining pockets of indigenous forests have not got the axe (literally) because of the steep slopes on which they grow.

We then flew towards the drier (leeward) Timau area, more of a northern direction, from where the following rivers flow: Nanyuki, Likii, Ontululili, Sirimon and Kongoni. These are the main tributaries of the Ewaso Nyiro River, which is the lifeline for the pastoral communities of Samburu and Isiolo districts. It's no wonder that there is less water every year because the watershed on the Timau side of Mt. Kenya

seemed to have been long cleared of its trees without any effort in reforestation. Mr. McKeand pointed to us a fire alert post that was now in a state of disrepair and was obviously not manned. There was on every high point a fire alert post that was guarded and had radio communication.

Acres of bare land and at times maize fields was all we could see. Without water and adequate pasture, the pastoral communities will continue to invade Mt. Kenya forests whenever there is drought and consequently cause more degradation.

After the impressive looking horticultural farms owned by Homegrown Ltd, we flew into what is now referred to as the Meru Central District of the Eastern Province of Kenya.

Meru and its environs, which receive higher amounts of annual rainfall, was covered by large tracts of Camphor forests according to Mr. McKeand. I pointed out to Mr. McKeand that while previously traveling by road into Meru town, I had noticed what was an impressive forest lying on both sides. The reality is however quite different, although by now it was not surprising. There seemed to have been a deliberate effort to hoodwink the public that the forests are healthy and were being conserved for the common good. Past the strip of trees along the road, the picture was not as rosy as it appeared, perhaps with many more thorns than many of us will ever realize. Meru district is now a densely populated area with numerous small-scale farms.

From Meru, we were flown into what was known as the NFD or Northern Frontier District, and Mr. McKeand has fond memories of this harsh, semi-arid land, he worked here with the late George and Joy Adamson.

Dominated by camiphora and acacia scrubland, NFD is rich in wildlife species that have adapted over thousands of years to scarcity of vegetation and water. Here

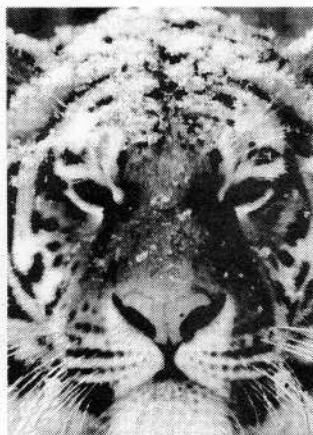
too are found the nomadic pastoralists of the Boran, Samburu, Somali and Masai communities. The Ewaso Nyiro River flows through this country and provides a vital source of water for these peoples and their herds of livestock. After flying over their source of water (Mt. Kenya) and duly noting whatever little is left of it, I can only imagine how much duress they will be in the future and the magnitude of conflict that might subsequently arise.

We landed at the Sarova Shaba Lodge where Mr. McKeand was scheduled to attend a meeting while Joe and I wandered off to investigate their beautiful springs (Mr. McKeand informed us later that the water too was from Mt. Kenya) and the crocodile infested Ewaso Nyiro. After having cola and meeting an old college mate we were ready for the trip back into Nanyuki but not before Mr. McKeand parted with a thousand shillings as a fee for landing on the dilapidated Isiolo County Council owned airstrip. He kindly asked that his money be put to good use.



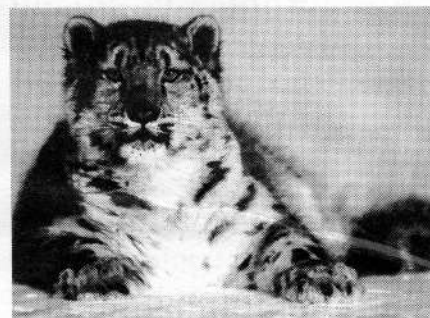
Joseph Maina and Francis Maina
with WHWF Director Julian McKeand

WHWF HOLIDAY GREETING CARD OFFER

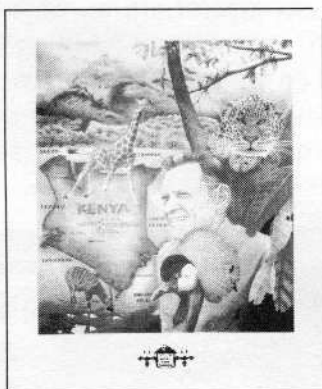


*Have A
Wildly Wonderful
Holiday
(0158G)*

Once again, the William Holden Wildlife Foundation is pleased to announce that we are making available directly to our members, our line of holiday greeting cards. Each pack contains 10 holiday cards and envelopes, and is available for \$12.00 per pack. Postage and handling for United States members is \$2.00 for the first pack and \$1.00 thereafter per pack. For all international members, postage and handling is \$4.00 for the first pack, and \$2.00 thereafter per pack. Holiday cards are available now from our Los Angeles office and will be throughout the coming holiday season.



*Wishing you the
best of the
holiday season
(0188G)*



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:

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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 _____

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