



Fall 2006

MLIMA KENYA SCHOOL

Some time ago, one of our staff was asked to visit a village community across the river and up a hill behind the education center called Mlima Kenya. We found a primary school with a headmaster and a parents association eager for our assistance and willing to cooperate in any way necessary to improve their circumstances. With a grant from the JLF Foundation, we were able to build a much needed classroom, and a water catchment and storage tanks to exploit the roof surfaces during the rains to both save vital water and prevent soil erosion. We provided the materials and the supervision and the parents helped with the work. Because the parents and the teachers proved to be so responsive, we proposed Mlima Kenya Primary School as the site of our fifth rural library.

With the permission of Mrs. Harlyne Norris we were able to divide the endowment she and her late husband, Ken Norris, generously donated for the Wathituga Library, and created the second Norris Library of the WHWF at the Mlima Kenya Primary School. The school has been transformed by our coaching and their hard work; soil erosion has been replaced by drought-resistant beds, rubbish is collected and sorted in composting pits, and the pride of a job well done can be seen in the smiles on the faces of the entire community. I am happy to report on this very good news!



OUR NEW ADMINISTRATOR

Earlier this year, we welcomed our new administrator, Mr. David McConnell. David was born in Kericho in Western Kenya, where he grew up farming and tinkering with automobiles. As a keen rally driver, that interest also provided a professional career in managing service workshops in a number of Kenya's most prominent automotive and trucking concerns, all the while maintaining his interest in wildlife conservation and protection of the environment. We are very happy to be able to take advantage of the practical skills David brings to the job and we look forward to a bright future with him at the helm of daily operations.

PETER MAINA NJOROGE

Everyone at the foundation mourns the death of Peter Maina Njoroge, who served WHWF for approximately four years as a senior lecturer. Fulfilling a life-long dream, he was forging a career as a freelance journalist when he was tragically shot and killed in his home by intruders a few weeks ago. He will be greatly missed.


Stefanie Powers



News from KENYA



Well-spent travel dollars can be a hand up from poverty!

WHWF receives numerous requests for information regarding volunteer opportunities at the Education Center. While we truly appreciate your desire to assist our efforts in a more hands-on way, Kenyan law prohibits us from having any volunteer staff at the center, as well as at the Mt. Kenya Game Ranch where the bongo breeding program is conducted and the animal orphanage housed.

The national employment laws require all positions at the center be filled by Kenyans, thus securing all possible jobs for its indigenous people. The US Central Intelligence Agency's *Fact Book*, (<https://www.cia.gov/ciapublications/factbook/geos/ke.html#Econ>), 40% of the 11.85 million person workforce is unemployed. Per capita income is less than \$1000 a year, and 50% of the population lives below the poverty line.

Due to recent years of devastating drought, which was not mitigated by recent rainfall, Kenya is experiencing a severe food crisis, which disproportionately affects the most vulnerable of their people, the children and the elderly. The drought has killed their livestock and decimated their agriculture. Though the United Nations and the international community have responded with emergency food assistance, it does not fill the massive need, so building an economy based on conserving and replenishing precious natural resources has never been more crucial to their survival.

If you're considering a trip to Africa, we hope you will investigate traveling through an ecotourism company that utilizes Kenyan personnel in the conduct of its tour. One U.K. company, Journeys by Design (<http://www.journeysbydesign.co.uk>), was profiled in The Financial Times' magazine *How to Spend It* as one that supports indigenous Kenyan tour operators and related services providers.

Some indigenous communities have opened and operate their own guest accommodations and wildlife adventures on their tribal lands, such as the Il' Ngwesi Lodge in eastern Kenya, owned and operated exclusively by the Maasai. Because these enterprises are operated on tribal lands and not in national forests, some offer more intimate interactions with their cultures and people.

As Victoria Muthoni Kariuki poignantly explains in her winning essay on page 3, an increase in tourism will create opportunities for small family businesses, elevating their standard of living in ways that steer them away from traditional tribal behaviors that exacerbate the effects of drought, deforestation, species decline, and other environmental degradation.

New ways of supporting their families, coupled with practical alternatives that conserve and replenish the natural environment rather than strip it, will give the indigenous people of Kenya new hope for their future. The realization that a higher standard of living is a direct result of increased tourism will encourage better stewardship of the wildlife the visitors come to experience and enjoy.

WHWF education programs directed toward rural villages assist communities in balancing the demands of increased tourism with those of the agricultural and domestic livestock industries in an environmentally sustainable manner.

If we make sure the dollars we spend on travel to Africa help its indigenous people, we assist them in lifting themselves out of poverty – and a hand up is better than a hand out any day.

Mt. Kenya Bongo Project Update

Special Thanks to Irls Hunt for her wonderful photos

Two years after the 18 American-born bongo were repatriated to their ancestral lands, Don Hunt, Founder Trustee of the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy and Vice President WHWF, announced that five baby bongos have been born to the American herd there. Several more bongos are pregnant, bringing the total herd at the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy to a notable count of 37 animals. The newest edition to the herd arrived in August, a male calf yet to be named. (For information about naming and adoption please email contact@animalorphanagekenya.org).



A baby bongo at the Mt. Kenya Wildlife Conservancy

While initially there were losses to the herd because the American bongo did not retain their natural immunity to diseases to which the indigenous herd is immune, it now appears that limited exposure to the new environment over time has helped the bongo to regain their natural defenses. As predicted by the supervising team of Kenyan veterinarians and scientists, the newest generation of Kenyan-born offspring are thriving.

In a preliminary step to the release of breeding herds into the Mount Kenya National Park, three adult males are now in an adjacent wilderness area. In August, while visiting Kenya for a progress report on the project, Ron Surratt, Executive Director of the International Bongo Foundation, USA, said: "The next step will see the animals outfitted with embedded transmitters before release on Mount Kenya. The transmitters will allow the Conservancy's team to track the bongos and evaluate their progress in adapting to their ancestral habitat."

To read more about the bongo project and the latest arrival, visit the website: www.animalorphanagekenya.org/bongonews.



A rare sight: A bongo breeding herd grazing near Mt. Kenya



Out of the Mouths of Babes

Essay contest shows effectiveness of WHWF education programs!

Editor's Note: WHWF sponsored an essay contest for rural school children. Essays addressed the benefits of the bongo repatriation project. Authors of winning essays received globes as prizes. The following was judged the best of the best. It has been slightly edited for length.

The Re-Introduction of the Mountain Bongo Back To Mt. Kenya Forest

By Victoria Muthoni Kariuki

St. Mary's Girls Secondary School Kiangima, Kenya

Introduction

The bongo re-introduction project is a noble and timely undertaking destined to relocate the mountain bongo back to its original habitat and, more importantly, to ensure it is free from danger of extinction, a problem it faced some few years ago.

It pains me bitterly to know that some God-given animals such as dinosaurs and mammoths are already extinct. What went wrong? Did man contribute in this bizarre and outrageous act? Was there anything man would have done to arrest the situation? It is again very heart-breaking to learn that today some animals and plant species have been threatened with extinction, for example, the white rhino.

The million-dollar question is, what is our role in reversing this ungodly trend? We should protect the wildlife at all costs so as to ensure that it will not happen again. The government of the day should be on the fore-front in this "win-win" war and more importantly, its commitment ought to be seen in its formulation and implementation of progressive policies and intensive follow-up.

Today, we can afford a broad smile knowing that the bongo is out of danger. The computerization of the project will help ensure the security of bongo and excellent follow-up. Kudos to the William Holden Wildlife Foundation, the facilitator of the bongo re-introduction project.

On the same note, I would also like to extend my warmest regards to the Nobel Laureate, Professor Wangari Maathai, for her unending efforts in conserving nature.

It is true that good deeds do not go unnoticed. That is why every man and woman of God should take an active role in conserving the environment for posterity.

Benefits of the re-introduction of the mountain bongo to Mt. Kenya

One of the benefits will be tourism promotion. The re-introduction of the mountain bongo will promote tourism in that many tourists, both local and foreign, will begin to flock to the Mt. Kenya forest to watch this rare species. This will bring extra income to our country which in turn will highly boost our generally weak economy. The project will create employment opportunities which will aid the government to live up to its promise to employ 500,000 people per year.

The re-introduction of the mountain bongo to Mount Kenya will boost education, training, and research. Through education, the general public is made aware of this project. Also, students in learning institutions have abundantly benefited from the films and lectures offered by the facilitators of this program in their schools and will continue to do so. In addition, education centres have been established to boost education on the mountain bongo such as the William Holden Wildlife Education Centre.

The reintroduction will also benefit the local community. From the

improvements of the infrastructure around Mt. Kenya region; the community may set businesses where the tourists can buy snacks, handcrafts such as sculptures and other appealing items. This will earn local communities income uplifting their living standards in turn. As Kenyans benefit, wild animals will not be left behind.

As the protection of the bongo will be reinforced and tightened, the wildlife in that forest will also benefit from that protection in general. For instance, protection against poaching and forest fire outbreaks.

East or West, home is the best. Since our mountain bongo have been returned to their original homeland and habitat, they will multiply since the conditions are hospitable and conducive for their multiplication and survival. Kenya will regain her lost glory of owning such a wonderful, rare species like the bongo as an attraction of tourists.

Problems facing wild animals living in the natural forests with special emphasis to the mountain bongo

It is quite a cold welcome for our long-lost mountain bongo to have to face the problems of other wild animals in the natural forests, including:

Poaching, the illegal killing of wild animals for commercial purposes and for food. Poachers may target the bongo now that the bongo gospel has spread far.

Wild animals also face predation, and the bongo may be attacked by stronger animals like lions and be killed.

Fire outbreaks in the forests pose a great threat to the wild animals living there. When fire breaks out in the forests, animals are killed and bongo will not be an exception. Fire may also cause animals to migrate.

Destruction of the wildlife habitats through illegal settlement in the forest is yet another epidemic threatening the peaceful lives

of the wild animals. Man continues to clear forests carelessly for settlement, rendering the wild animals homeless - e.g., Mau Summit.

Hostile climate conditions have affected the lives of wild animals in one way or another. For instance, too hot sun rays reaching the soft, hairless body of bongo. Don't you think it is quite harmful? Too hot rays also dry the grass and the animals may die of starvation, especially herbivores.

Environmental pollution, in the form of harmful gases in the air like carbon monoxide may threaten the lives of wild animals. Poor disposal of chemicals and used up tires and containers cause land and water pollution which may lead to death of animals. If bongo inhaled air contaminated with carbon monoxide, or drank water from a contaminated source, it will definitely die. In addition, pests and diseases have posed a great threat to wild animals. Pests like tse-tse flies, diseases like nagana (an African sleeping sickness specific to Kenya) and anthrax, attack the wild animals and occasionally may cause discomfort or death.

(Continued on page 6)



Can a light bulb save the planet?

As the recent documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth" demonstrates, our planet is in the throes of possibly catastrophic climate changes, most a direct result of human activity. The United States, with only a fraction of the world's population, disproportionately emits 25% of the world's greenhouse gases. Polar ice caps and permafrost are melting at alarming rates, releasing long-inert methane, furthering what has quickly become a vicious cycle. Our dependence on fossil fuels to generate our electricity is a primary culprit. Sometimes the problems seem so daunting that we feel helpless to change them. Or it's the government's problem, not ours. But how many of us know that we can take an important first step toward reversing the effects of climate change by simply changing a lightbulb?

Fluorescent lights have been around for decades. Most of us remember them as the long tube lights in schools, industry, or hotels and motels...the ones that never quite seemed to put out enough light to see by and hummed incessantly.

Those lights have about as much in common with today's compact fluorescent light bulbs as today's small, light-weight, text-messaging video cell phones have with their bulky, heavy precursors ... the concept is the same, but the technology has advanced exponentially.

Today's CFLs come in the "swirly" variety, but also in the rounded styles of regular incandescents, and they easily screw in to existing fixtures. Made for indoor and outdoor use, CFLs are more expensive than incandescents initially, but the energy savings in the first three months of use more than covers the increased cost, and they last up to 10 times longer than even "long-life" incandescents. Energy-efficient CFLs can be used in recessed fixtures, table lamps, ceiling fixtures and porch lights. 3-way CFLs are now also available for lamps with 3-way settings. Newer CFLs give a warm, inviting light instead of the "cool white" light of older fluorescents.

25% of average household expenses go to energy use. Using less energy not only saves you money, it decreases the amount of greenhouse gases that power plants release. If you're in business, where energy costs are often higher (depending on the size of your operation), using CFLs makes good business sense.

Just ask the retail giant WalMart. They became converts to CFLs when they discovered that swapping out the incandescents in their ceiling fan displays in over 3000 stores (ten fans per store / 4 bulbs per fan) would save them \$6 million a year in electricity costs.

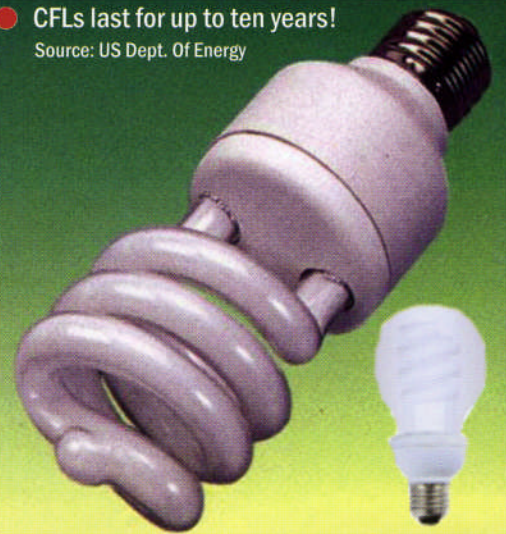
If every American household swapped out only one incandescent for an energy-saving CFL it would save enough energy to power a city of 1.5 million people, or would be the equivalent of taking 1.3 million cars off the highways. Isn't that reason enough to give them a try? Together, we CAN change the world for the better, reduce air and water pollution, and our dependency on fossil fuels and foreign oil. So let's "just do it"... one lightbulb at a time!

For further information, do a Google.com search for compact fluorescent light bulbs, or visit the websites www.energystar.gov, or www.earteasy.com.

WHY TRY CFLs?

- CFLs use 50-80% less energy than incandescent bulbs, while producing the same quality/intensity light with less heat
- Switching out your most-used 100 watt incandescent bulbs with 25 watt CFLs will save you approximately \$12-15 per year per bulb in energy costs
- If every U.S. household swapped out five regular bulbs for CFLs, we would prevent one trillion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions, the equivalent output of 8 million cars
- Conserving power at home helps ease our dependence on fossil fuels
- CFLs last for up to ten years!

Source: US Dept. Of Energy



SUPPORT WHWF WITH A DONATION

I want to carry on with the work of the William Holden Wildlife Foundation.

Enclosed is my contribution of: ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other \$ _____



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WHWF Merchandise

GREETING CARDS

(boxed set of 12)

\$18



WHWF LOGO T-SHIRTS

Made from Fortrel EcoSpun

Imagine! Through state-of-the-art technology, your recycled plastic bottle caps can have a new life as Fortrel EcoSpun. EcoSpun fabrics provide comfort ... easy-care ... durability ... softness ... a rich-looking appearance, and help preserve the earth. EcoFact: Via recycling, 2.4 billion plastic containers are kept out of landfills annually.



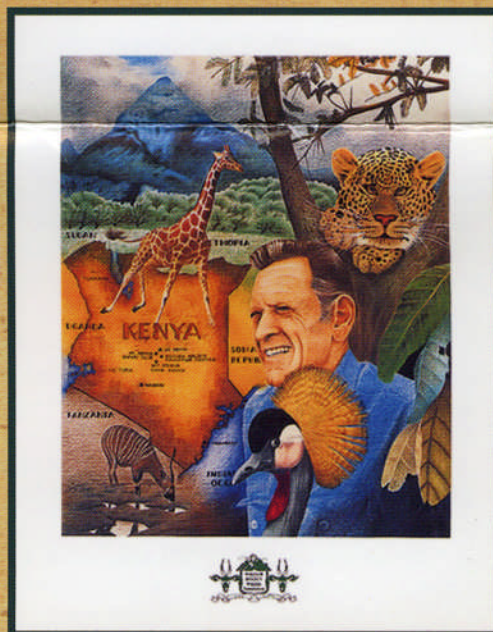
Black Logo Imprint
on Off-White



White Imprint on Safari Green

\$15 + shipping

Please specify color and size



WHWF POSTER \$15

+ \$3 Shipping

MERCHANDISE ORDER FORM

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Please send check or money order to:
WILLIAM HOLDEN WILDLIFE FOUNDATION
Post Office Box 16637
Los Angeles, CA 90209

ITEM	PRICE	QTY	S/H	TOTAL
Greeting Cards (boxed set) <small>SHIPPING: \$3 US \$5 CAN / \$7 INTL</small>	\$18			
*Greeting Card Brochure	FREE			FREE
WHWF Poster <small>SHIPPING: \$3 US \$5 CAN / \$7 INTL</small>	\$15		\$3	
WHWF Logo T-Shirts (please indicate size/color selection)				
#1: Size: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL Color: <input type="checkbox"/> CREAM <input type="checkbox"/> DARK GREEN <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK	\$15		\$2	
#2: Size: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL Color: <input type="checkbox"/> CREAM <input type="checkbox"/> DARK GREEN <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK				
#3: Size: <input type="checkbox"/> S <input type="checkbox"/> M <input type="checkbox"/> L <input type="checkbox"/> XL Color: <input type="checkbox"/> CREAM <input type="checkbox"/> DARK GREEN <input type="checkbox"/> BLACK				
ORDER TOTAL				

WINNING STUDENT ESSAY

(continued from page 3)

The threats facing our natural forests

Fire outbreaks: One of the traumatizing problems facing our natural forests is outbreaks of fire. There have been continuous reports of fire outbreaks in the forests set by unknown people. Again, fires have been caused accidentally by tourists, forest guards or poachers who carelessly drop cigarette stubs in the forest. These stubs commense fires which extensively destroy forests.

Deforestation: This is the act of cutting down of trees without replacement. This deprives the forest of the best trees and at long last, if this anti-social act is not halted, the forest will be reduced to mere bushes. Droughts also pose a threat to our natural forests. When there is a drought, trees will dry up, become weak and fall. Continued droughts for long may cause great damage to our natural forests.

Illegal settlement is another threat. Man clears forests to establish settlement. He does not even care the type of trees he is felling but his immediate greed is to create room for settlement. This is a great threat to our natural forests as this may lead to the depletion of the forest if not curbed in time.

Our natural forests also face the danger of extinction through **poor or no replacement**. Man has cut down the indigenous trees and replaced them with exotic ones. At long run, our natural forests will no longer be natural with indigenous species but with exotic species.

Another threat facing our natural forests is **destruction by wild animals**. Strong animals like elephants do uproot and break trees in the forest especially when they are in rage. Animals like monkeys break the branches of the trees as they jump from one tree to another. Such animals thus destroy our forests.

Not forgetting, **environmental pollution** is yet another hazard to our natural forests. Emission of harmful gases such as sulphur (iv) oxide from industries can prove harmful to forest vegetation. Sulphur (iv) oxide facilitates formation of the acid rain which has a scorching effect on vegetation. The natural forest vegetation ends up being destroyed.

Inadequate government commitment to protect forests is another threat. The government sets aside inadequate funds to cater for forest affairs. For instance, if the forest guards are not paid well, to them, they have all the reasons to collaborate with the loggers of natural forests. The government also does not take strict and stern actions on those who violate the set rules that protect the forests.

Benefits that we get from well conserved forests

One of the benefits we get from well conserved forests is **foreign currency**. Well conserved forests act as an aspect of tourist attraction, hence promoting tourism both locally and internationally. This earns our country income in terms of foreign currency.

Modification of the climate: Well conserved forests help to modify the climate. Trees attract rainfall. Forests are water catchment areas for many permanent rivers. This ensures provision of water throughout. Trees also balance the carbon dioxide and oxygen in the air.

Well preserved forests are **good habitats for wild animals**. This prevents the wild animals from interference by local communities in the fight for space for settlement. The local communities benefit from well conserved forests in that wild animals do not go astray to destroy their crops in the fields. Preserving the forest also protects the trees with medicinal benefits for humans and wildlife, allowing all to benefit from these natural remedies.

Well conserved forests support life directly and indirectly. As a matter of facts, forests are water catchment areas and also attract rainfall. Water is one necessity that cannot be done without. Forests provide sources of water for domestic use, industrial use, and it is also harnessed to generate hydro-electric power. Well preserved forests also help **solve the problem of species extinction, as reproduction rates are high due to conducive conditions and environment free from human interference**.

Research on forests, forestry and wildlife are carried out effectively in a well preserved forest. Students go for field studies in the forests thus promoting the theoretical knowledge gained in class, making the learning more practical.



Healthy forests also help in curbing soil erosion, because the tree roots hold soil particles firmly together. Forming extensive canopies, tall trees also prevent direct rain drops from sweeping the soil away. Trees act as wind breakers, so erosion by wind is curbed as the wind's force is broken down.

In conclusion, I would urge my fellow Kenyans to appreciate the efforts of this program and strive hard and wide to protect our wildlife, especially the bongo. Unity is strength. Let's join hands with the mountain bongo awareness program and preach the gospel of the beauty of our wildlife worldwide.

Let's appreciate that our endangered species, such as the bongo, are being brought to safety. Let's appreciate the green atmosphere of our beloved country and learn to conserve and preserve our forests. Green is life. Let's adopt and practice the policy of "cut one and plant three".

Let the government also join hands with the patriots of the green environment, conserve and protect our wildlife, and, above all, our mountain bongo! Let's be as lovely and friendly as our mountain bongo. It sounds ironical, for man to be taught how to emulate animal-character, doesn't it? As a matter of fact, we ought to emulate bongo's friendly and calm character.

Once again, kudos to the William Holden Wildlife Foundation, the facilitator of the bongo re-introduction project, for such a noble undertaking! May God bless you abundantly!

WHWF Pen Pal Program

In the late 1980's our president began a correspondence with a fan in Ascot, England who wanted to involve her son's school in our work in Kenya. Roselle Cameron formed our first pen pal program in 1991, pairing Ascot Heath Infant School with students from Kahurura Primary School. Since that time, we have partnered many students in the UK and the US with Kenyan Students, all of whom have benefitted enormously from the exchange of ideas and from the fund-raising to provide books and learning tools to the Kenyan Schools. We wish to welcome our latest addition to our pen pal program, the students of Michelle Laverdure's class at Saint Clare of Assisi's in the hometown of William Holden, O'Fallon, IL.

Our aim at WHWF is to foster enthusiasm and dedication in the children that come to participate in our programs so that they will become better stewards of their environment and all creatures that depend on it.

At WHWF we believe this will spark a life-long interest motivating them to become true protectors of the natural world.

Our Pen Pal Program puts children around the world in touch with one another so that they may share their perspectives and awareness of wildlife and conservation.

When children have a chance to view their own valuable natural resources through the eyes of students half a world away, it inspires an eagerness to do more.

By making the world "smaller" through such efforts as these, children and their parents become more aware of our growing interdependence on each other and nature, increasing the potential for uniting people through mutual concerns.

If you know of a class that would like to join our pen pal program, please contact the WHWF office for further details.