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In line with the above mandate, ANAW in partnership with the County Government of Machakos and Vet Treks - USA conducted a successful rabies elimination campaign in Tala, Machakos. A total of 2,167 dogs were vaccinated in the first two days of the campaign and 157 others spayed and neutered (84 spayed and 73 neutered/castrated) during the three-day exercise which ran from February 23 - 25, 2018.

The Vet-Trek’s form part of a team of Experienced Vets from the USA, who on an annual basis visit Kenya to carry out free vaccination and spay and neuter clinics within ANAW’s project areas benefiting communities that would otherwise not afford the cost of these services.

The highly publicized campaign, which got a lot of local media attention, had dog owners troop into Katine Polytechnic for the three days to have their dogs undergo the first ever spay neuter clinic in Machakos County. Dog owners were wowed at the surgery process and were glad to learn that the Surgeries were a dog population strategy alternative to baiting of dogs with strychnine poison.

One resident identified as Dorcas Mwikali could not hide her joy as she took home her two Neutered dogs, “I’m so happy today my dogs have been breeding a lot and I didn’t know what to do, some had died due to hunger and others due to diseases. I sincerely thank ANAW and its partners for organizing this clinic. I would not have afforded the services offered today.” She said with a smile as she walked her dogs away.

It was a beehive of activities in clinics set up across the sub-county where dedicated teams from ANAW and VetTreks together with county vet staff assisted by the University of Nairobi Final Year Veterinary Students were all hands-on deck as they harmoniously attended to dog owners who brought their pets to be vaccinated against rabies.
But it was perhaps Mzee (Swahili word for an old man) Nzina Mbao, 84 years, from Matungulu Sub-county who captured everyone’s attention as he humanely pulled his best friend, his dog named Simba, to Mukukuni shopping centre.

It was a moment to behold as the old man determinedly stood on his shaking feet at the registration desk to give details of Simba. We noticed, Mzee, as he is fondly referred to by the villagers, had a fringe of grey-white hair around his balding mottled scalp. He had a wizened face and a back slightly hunched. With each movement he made with his friend Simba at hand, there was a creak of old bones. A closer look through his furrowed face revealed that Mzee had that resigned look of one who knows that at his age, life had stopped giving and only took away. But still, he harbored that extra energy and determination to have his dog Simba given a jab against rabies.

With a slow voice, and stumbling on his words, he expressed his joy and expression to the vet attending to his dog, “There was no way, given my age, failing health and low-income state, I was going to afford the KES 1500 they charge for rabies vaccination here”. Leaning towards Simba and beginning to pat and massage him gently and obviously overtaken by emotions that had been buried for decades, he said, “Ni muveamuno” – a Kikamba translation for ‘thank you so much...’ He then straightened up, gesticulated at Simba and started for home.
ANAW has continued to partner with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and other stakeholders in the provision of emergency rescue services to injured and distressed animals.

On the 13th of April 2018, ANAW received a distress call coming from Soysambu Conservancy, in Nakuru County, some 140 kilometers west of Kenya’s Nairobi capital. The caller, Ms. Hellen Cherotich alerted ANAW veterinary officer in-charge of wildlife rescues that three (3) wildlife species (2 buffaloes, 2 waterbucks and 1 zebra) were in dire need of salvage from lethal wire snares. The ANAW vet, as usual, liaised with KWS team and they headed out to give life to those precious animals that upon any hesitation, even for a minute would cost their lives.

On arrival, the animated teams were greeted with a bizarre case - a juvenile male buffalo, one of the five animals had a significant damage to skin and muscle tissue resulting from a constricting wire snare on its right upper section of the carpal joint.

**HEFTY RESCUE - NEW LEASE OF LIFE!**

Juvenile buffalo with snare on the right humeral area treated and released

Female adult buffalo with a snare on the right hind limb. Minimal damage to surrounding tissues. After removal the individual was let loose.

Adult female zebra spotted with two snares on the neck. Individual successfully restrained, and snares removed before release
Female waterbuck spotted with wire snare on the back. Minimal damage to skin and surrounding area. After immobilization, snare was snapped, and individual released.

Sub-adult female waterbuck with a snare on the neck with no damage to surrounding tissue. Individual successfully immobilized, and snare removed.

Upon close prognosis, the team discovered that the ill-fated wire snare had caused extensive damage to the animal’s skin and muscle tissue. With hard stares and stone-faces, the team removed the wire and after managing the wound, the injured buffalo was released to the wild and jubilantly joined its folk.

The remaining four had no apparent injury and were released immediately after snares removal. As the team drove back to Nairobi, one question lingered in their minds, all through the journey; when shall this brutal cruelty to the unoffending animals end?

As the team parked the rescue vehicle, the ANAW Vet solemnly whispered to his colleagues, “Moving forward, we shall endeavor to carry out high voltage awareness on the importance of keeping these beautiful animals for future generations, to the communities who live next to the conservancy, and who are normally the first culprits upon investigations.”

“We may also need to provide an alternative to their livelihoods especially where the poachers, harm the animals in search of food for their families.” Simon Wambua the ANAW driver added.
The simplicity of this technology, a life changing solution to a pestilent anthropological problem, continues to astound many. Its adaptable nature eases its application continent-wide and warrants ardent focus to ensure that the foreseeable favorable outcome is achieved. Conservation experts, pre-vet and animal behavior students echoed these thoughts as they observed and discussed the Lion Deterrent Lights project in Kapiti Plains.

As Michael Mbithi demonstrated the basic concept of how the lights work and how they are used to keep away predators from bomas, Dr. Sue Margulis, Margaret Halfdanardottir, Kari Tuite and Sydney Chertoff, a team from the USA visiting ANAW projects, were fascinated by how effective the project had become. Michael Mbithi, a renowned conservationist, is the Director of Lion Elephant Deterrent Systems (LEDs) and the Green Rural African Development International/ Zambia. He is a Board Member of Kenya Wildlife Conservancy Association (KWCA) - Athi Kapiti Conservancy Association (AKCA).

Mbithi’s 16-year experience in conservation has seen him work in Kenya, Tanzania and Zambia. He specializes his efforts on lion and cheetah research, studies animal behavior, specifically predators, captive husbandry, human-wildlife conflict mitigation, community conservation relations, conservancy management and green energy- solar biogas installations.

Due to the expansion of development projects and fast developing towns, encroachment on wildlife territories has caused conflicts between human beings and predators. Lions are seen to breach human turf in a stealth approach that causes fatal injuries which often leads to death. The carnivores jump over boma fences, attack and kill their livestock.

The installation of lion lights has greatly turned the tides. The flashing lights have kept not only the predators at bay but also herbivores, scavengers and the larger mammals.

What is it exactly about the light that has successfully scared off the animals? Mbithi negated the well-propagated fib that the lions were afraid of getting close to a boma because the flashing lights gave an impression of a human being moving along, perhaps patrolling the area. The major reason why it works is simple. The bright flashing lights are harsh on the lion’s eyes. This has protected hundreds of livestock from night predation by lions, hyenas, jackals and leopards.

In installing [more than] 700 lights, Mbithi stated that only three lions had been reported to have broken past boma fences. Further investigation, it was established that the lions that had ferociously attacked livestock despite the lion lights being in place were in fact all lionesses. “They were familiar with the bomas they attacked. They knew the homesteads and were well-versed with the area.” He said. “One of the lionesses laid in wait until the homestead was asleep and quiet before pouncing into the boma... with her eyes closed.” Apart from the remains of the meal, a dent had been made on the fence where she hit blindly before attacking the animal. She attacked the livestock and had her meal for the day.

The team discussed the effectiveness and the challenges presented in finding solutions at length. Gaps were identified and comparisons of similar concepts were arrived at. It was however made clear that more research - data collection and analysis on the outcome should be done. This strategy is vital as it aids in charting future plans of action and generating knowledge. More experts on this are welcome to work with us to obtain solutions to the gaps identified. We believe in partnerships initiatives, all geared towards the welfare of animals and the communities that live with this animals.
More Strides Made In Promoting Animal Welfare in Schools -The PAWS Program-

‘Promoting Animal Welfare in Schools’ (PAWS program), focuses on promoting positive attitudes and behavior towards animals.

The main focus of the first visits was to distribute teaching and learning materials to all the schools within the PAWS program. These materials included children activity books, teachers’ manuals and stationery.

More schools were recruited to the program increasing the number of schools under the PAWS program to 40. However, this number was surpassed due to the growing popularity of the clubs in the counties where PAWS program is present. New schools recruited in the year this far include Kalanzoni, Kea, Muumandu, Kyanguli and Kajiado Township primary schools in Machakos, Makueni and Kajiado Counties respectively.

Commencement of the visits also allowed teachers that had attended the International Certificate of Humane Training to share their views on how they are making use of the knowledge gained to improve their lesson delivery.

From the discussions, it was evident that the teachers now feel more equipped to create learner-centered lessons and reported that children have become increasingly receptive and willing to learn.

The 1st round of International Certificate in Humane Education training was held in January 2018. The purpose of this training is to equip teachers with knowledge and skills to deliver learner-centered lessons by infusing humane pedagogy into their normal lesson plans. This training comes in the wake of the introduction of a new more competency-based Education Curriculum in Kenya that is envisaged to incorporate animal welfare in schools.

“Children want to interact more with the environment. They have become more curious and inquisitive” Mr. Mwaura of Lower-Kihara primary school observed.

During these visits, ANAW team, supported by both patrons and club members collected inspiring stories emanating from heroic children’s activities within the welfare club program.

Kathithyamaa Primary school was one such school whose story is worth noting. The entire school received a heifer as a donation from a well-wisher organization. The club patron within the school requested the school management if the members of club could adopt the cow, whose name is Stacy. It was all joys for the club members as the school management granted their wish.

Members of the club now take turns clustered in groups to feed, change drinking water, and clean the shed for Stacy while offering occasional baths to her. Stacy plays a key role and acts as a practical example to give the children an opportunity to humanely apply knowledge and skills learnt in demonstrating their competency in applying the Five Animal Freedoms; freedom from hunger and thirst; freedom from pain, injury and disease; freedom from discomfort; freedom to express natural behavior and freedom from fear and distress.

Kathithyamaa is a special school and not literally but in the sense that the administration has actually agreed to rare a live animal within the school compound with the help from the animal welfare club.

Often financial challenges and lack of security deter many schools in the likes of Kathithyamaa to maintain animals such as dairy cows. For Kathithyamaa, this was one major opportunity that will continue to assist children in practicing good welfare skills for animals and help in building relationships based on empathy and kindness. SPANA has continued to be very instrumental in offering financial and technical support to enable continuity of the program.
It is an innovative idea that drew in Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), Kenya Wildlife Conservation Association (KWCA) and other conservation stakeholders, community members and Kenya Wildlife Service representatives to the Open Day of Naretunoi Conservancy and The Wildlife Foundation Community Centre on May 11, 2018.

The Wildlife Foundation (TWF) partners with communities to facilitate open and unfenced land for easy migration of wildlife in the Athi-Kaputiei ecosystem. The organization serves to avail land and secure critical dispersal corridors for wildlife in the Nairobi National Park. Naretunoi Conservancy helps protect dispersal areas of Nairobi National Park. “Profits from the center go to communities in the form of leases to help them keep their land open, unfenced and undivided for wildlife and livestock.” said TWF Chairman, Edward Loosli.

It cannot be overstated that efforts must be made to secure dispersal areas. Kenya’s Vision 2030 flagship project elaborates at length the crucial facet of securing wildlife dispersal areas and migratory routes/corridors. According to the 2017 report, ‘Wildlife Migratory Corridors and Dispersal Areas: Kenya Rangelands and Coastal Terrestrial Ecosystems’, the flagship project intends to formulate strategies for reclaiming habitat connectivities that have been compromised by human activities.

In its programs, ANAW puts to focus on the critical challenge faced countrywide by communities living next to Kenya’s protected areas - human-wildlife conflict. As unanimously stated at the forum, human-wildlife conflict continues to be a major threat to livestock keeping for the Maasai community.

Through an interpreter, a community elder spoke his mind. “When a moran killed a lion, he was seen as a hero. But today things have changed. You look at the [benefit] of the country.” “To KWS, the compensation bill should be relooked at because we are losing a lot of livestock.” It was established that it poses a challenge to the conservation of wildlife and its habitat in the Athi-Kaputiei ecosystem.

The looming threat faced as a result of the fast growth of infrastructural development encroaching Nairobi National Park was discussed. The massive structures being put up in the park poses a threat to wildlife and livestock in periphery areas. People present were encouraged to join in the campaign to protect the park.

A biodiversity conservation education and research facility, the TWF Center hosts students interested in seeking solutions to protecting wildlife dispersal areas through research, education and action.
Sidney Quntai, a Wildlife Conservation Warrior, Dies at 57!

The sun has, sadly, set on a modern-day hero in East Africa’s conservation world today.

According to his family, Sidney 57, passed on, on the morning of Friday 20th April 2018 after a short illness which he so courageously fought but lost.

The entire conservation fraternity bemoan the profound loss of Sidney Quntai Tauwo, a champion advocate for the country’s wildlife and natural resources. The devastating news of his untimely death caught his family, friends, and conservationists unawares and in great shudder.

Mr. Quntai will be remembered for his steadfast belief, fierce stance and bold readiness to fight for the justice of wildlife, the environment and the community instilled positive strides towards good animal welfare practices. His steady voice, especially through the media and advocacy campaigns spoke to many a marginalized and disheartened people and inspired them to protect what belonged to them.

Sidney was always at the front-line as he intensely lobbied, picketed and advocated for both protected and unprotected wildlife territories to remain untouched, free of infrastructural development encroachment and environmental destruction.

Throughout his many years of close association with Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) which he consulted for, Sidney worked as the Community liaison and advocacy point man for the organization. ANAW’s Executive Director Josphat Ngonyo, dazed beyond words, mourned his friend, “Shocked, is an understatement. It is truly difficult to accept the news of passing on of Sidney Quntai; a man I have known and had the privilege to work closely with in conservation for over 15 years. Sidney was a one man with unmatched and unquestionable dedication, passion and commitment to wildlife conservation and community cause. Yes, a man you could always count on to give voice to wildlife and communities... the unsung hero in conservation”.

In 2004, he ran the Human Wildlife Conflict Network. He later in 2005, helped establish Kenya Coalition for Wildlife Conservation and Management (KCWCM) and was its chairman until his death. He has been regarded as the backbone of the Save Nairobi National Park Campaign, which is made up of conservation organizations keen on conserving the iconic park especially from infrastructure development encroachment. The government’s sponsored multi-billion Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) has been regarded as the worst encroachment that may see the park decimated.

Even in his sick-bed, Mr. Quntai wanted to know how far in the Park the Standard Railway Gauge (SGR) phase 2A reconstruction had reached.

Lucy Waruingi, the Executive Director of Africa Conservation Centre, described Sidney, in her moving tribute, as an honorable man with a contagious passion, unrelenting energy and who could do anything to secure the future of the wildlife. “He was the life and energy of the #SaveNNP Campaign. Quntai epitomized what it meant to give up personal comfort for a greater cause. An ordinary community man, humble yet courageous who championed an extraordinary cause for the greater good of man and nature. We will miss him – a champion like no other, and we hope that his memory will serve to inspire many more champions who will do all they can to serve this country and its people.” She added.

Nkamunu Patita, a community activist who worked very closely with Sidney could not believe it, “We read about heroes, we look for heroes in far-away lands. You were right here with us, you walked with us, we believed in the same course, you fought with your tears, blood and sweat. I lost one true hero, one fearless soldier. My dear brother, you were and are still a hero to many of us.”

WildlifeDirect CEO posted on her Facebook page, “Utterly shocked and saddened to learn that Sidney Quntai has passed away this morning. He was at the forefront of legal battles to save our parks. This is a huge loss for Kenya.”

He advocated strongly against the culling of wildlife, a move that led to its frowned-upon status. He greatly contributed to what is today the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (WCMA) 2013, and its amendment thereof.

One of the landmarks Mr. Quntai will be remembered for will be his steadfastness and courage in organizing protests across the country against Kenya’s plan to gift Thailand’s government over 300 wild animals in 2005. Sidney through the Kenya Wildlife Conservation Network led other conservationists and communities in putting up a spirited fight to oppose the move, till the government caved, and dropped the plan.

In the early days of his career, he was a steadfast journalist working in some of the country’s major media house including Standard Group. He worked his way up and flourished to become one of the most respected media practitioners of his time.

“We believe Kenya’s wildlife should remain in the wild in Kenya for the benefit of all Kenyans and all our guests from all over the world.” – Sidney Quntai
On March 7, 2018 ANAW signed a new partnership agreement with UN Environment building on the excellent cooperation of the previous years. The 2-year MOU (2018-2019) between ANAW and UN Environment envisages achieving concrete results as follows:

Co-hosting the 2018 Africa Animal Welfare Conference scheduled for September 2018 in Nairobi followed by a co-hosting of a similar conference in December 2019 in Ethiopia.

Jointly organizing of events to offer participating organizations a platform geared towards discussing their engagements with United Nations Environment Assembly in March 2019.

Enhance the Civil Society’s engagement during the third Open Ended meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives and 18th Global Major Groups and stakeholders Forum in March 2018.

Africa Network for Animal Welfare could not have achieved all of the above without partners and friend’s support. Special thanks go to Marching Trust-UK for supporting the Animal Rescue work and to the Government of Kenya and Humane Society International for continuing to support anti-rabies initiative at Machakos County.

Going forward, this year, we plan to:

- Install elephants’ deterrent light systems in five farms in Kasigau Ranch.
- Continue public advocacy against infrastructure development through Kenya’s National parks.
- Purchase equipment (binoculars, GPS, uniforms, shoes, cameras and motor cycles) and materials for the Kasigau Ranch Guardians.
- Vaccinate 70% of the dog populations against Rabies in Machakos County, Kenya.
- Publish 2 issues of the Animal Welfare magazine.
- Renovate the animal clinic at Colobus Conservation Limited.
- Continue support to the communities’ volunteers’ sea turtle conservation and rescue programme along the Southern Coast of Kenya.

Contact us on partners@anaw.org if you need additional information on the above ask list.
Together we will save lives, stop suffering, and protect species. On behalf of the animals we work with, thank you.

- Make a gift or donation,
- Make a monthly or one-time donation,
- Renew your membership to Friends of ANAW,
- Participate in ANAW’s experiential learning trips,
- By putting a bequest to Africa Network for Animal Welfare in your will or trust.

ANAW is registered under the provisions of the Non-Governmental Organizations Co-ordination Act, 1990 Section 3(10) Laws of Kenya Certificate no. OP. 218/051/2006/0185/4157.

USA citizens can enjoy 501(c)(3) tax-deductible status to the extent permitted by law through ANAW USA office in Denver Colorado.

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Animal Welfare Adventure – August 2018

August 6-22, 2018

Join us for an ANAW-Animal Welfare Adventure to the heartland of Kenya and work alongside ANAW’s dedicated program and veterinary staff in Kenya! Through an Animal Welfare Adventure you will join a global team of animal lovers and professionals while advancing ANAW’s mission of promoting the humane treatment of all animals. Our trips include participation in mass anti-rabies clinics in remote areas and/or mobile spay and neuter clinics. https://anaw-usa-adventures.squarespace.com/