Message From the Director

Dear Partners,

We are truly pleased to update you on various activities that the organization together with our partners, have been engaged in as we continue to safeguard and mitigate the suffering of Africa’s animals through our programs.

One of the most notable events on ANAW’s calendar this year is the Africa Animal Welfare Conference themed: “People, Animals and the Planet: One Health, One Welfare” The conference cohosted by ANAW, The Government of Kenya and the United Nations Environment took place at UN Complex, Nairobi between 3-5 September 2018 attracting 259 delegates drawn from over 23 nations (from Africa and beyond). This year’s conference encompassed animal law sessions in which many delegates seemed to ask, “Is it important to have animal law discussed in such a conference?” and the answer was an unwavering, “Yes, because animal law matters in our fight to protect Africa’s animals.”

We thank A Well-Fed World, Animal People Forum, Animal Welfare Institute, Center for Animal Law Studies-Lewis & Clark Law School, Compassion in World Farming, International Association Against Painful Experiments on Animals, and International Fund for Africa, The Donkey Sanctuary and World Animal Protection for the financial and technical support that made the conference a reality.

Apart from the conference, various field projects continued to take place in different parts of the country. ANAW’s Dr. Janerose Mutura attended to many animal welfare rescue calls at the animal clinic operated in conjunction with Colobus Conservation along the Indian Ocean’s Diani Beach in the south coast of Kenya. This newsletter highlights one of her many recent encounters on the job. In addition to Janerose, another ANAW veterinary surgeon, Dr. Dennis Bahati remained on standby for animal welfare calls through Kenya Wildlife Service animal veterinary department. Dr. Bahati briefly narrates in this newsletter about his recent experience to rescue a wild cape buffalo in Mt. Elgon National Park along the Kenya-Uganda boarder.

Many thanks to Animal Welfare Institute and Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad for their continued support that has enabled us continue to rescue animals in distress and offer education to the young children through animal welfare education department. Dr. Bahati briefly narrates in this newsletter about his recent experience to rescue a wild cape buffalo in Mt. Elgon National Park along the Kenya-Uganda boarder.

While we are at the tail-end of the year, and we have so many activities lined up in our devoted efforts of promoting humane treatment of all animals, we cannot forget to duly appreciate the strong partnership we have enjoyed so far with you, and we look forward to a continued or even stronger partnership going forward.

Thank you to each and every one of you. Do enjoy the read and on behalf of ANAW I wish you all the best.

Josaphat Ngonyo

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About 300 delegates from twenty-three countries met at the Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC) held at the United Nations Complex in Nairobi, Kenya to discuss the implications of the “One Health, One Welfare” concept in Africa. The 3-day meeting, which occurred from 3rd to the 5th of September 2018, was attended by representatives from government agencies, animal welfare civil society groups, non-governmental organizations, private sector, academic and research institutions.

The conference theme was: “People, Animals and the Planet: One Health-One Welfare”. It explored how the interconnectedness between People, Animals and the Planet affect the viability and needs of each other. In his keynote address, Professor Patrice Lumumba, a prominent lawyer in Kenya and currently the Dean at Kabarak University law school, extolled the virtues of compassion towards animals and their nature as sentient beings. Societies have a moral duty of care and the moral responsibility to accord adequate humane conditions to animals. In the meantime, animal law featured prominently at the conference. The sessions attracted a large cluster of law degree students from different universities.

A delegate from Nigeria, Mr. Chiemeka Chiedozie, shared some of his AAWC experiences in a message sent through Facebook reading as follows: “Thank you [to the AAWC organizers], I am back to my country, and forever grateful to ANAW for making it possible for me to come to Kenya and share with the world my works with animals during the Africa 2018 Animal Welfare Conference 2018. I feel fulfilled as a person. My coming to the conference has gotten me more connections and increased my enthusiasm to continue fighting for these voiceless animals. I will now take in more schools on my Animal Welfare Clubs and intend to proactively plan and organize the World Animal Day on October 4, 2018.”.

The Conference recognized that the state of animal health is a good indicator for planetary and human health too.

Technology-driven interventions for enhancing food security are increasing anti-microbial resistance, deteriorate public health standards, and contribute to careless animal resource management and irresponsible animal resource development. Such are disruptive to natural ecological systems too. Hence, there is need to share knowledge, monitor developments and increase animal welfare vigilance to avert unsustainable development.

The 2019 AAWC will be held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Meanwhile, the United Nations Environment Division will use the outcomes of AAWC 2018, to prepare civil society organizations participation at the forthcoming United Nations Environment Assembly-Session Four from 11th to 15th March 2019 in Nairobi Kenya.
ANAW in partnership with SPANA has been facilitating the formation of animal welfare clubs to promote humane education in private and public primary schools in Kenya. Teachers serve as the club patrons and mentors. As part of their exposure and knowledge management, 23 teachers from five counties (Nairobi, Machakos, Makueni, Kiambu and Kajiado) attended the 2018 Africa Animal Welfare Conference from 3rd to 5th September 2018.

The teachers gained various experiences at the international meeting. Mr. Simon Kainga of Kabiria Road Primary school, in Kiambu County said that he was mesmerized to learn that ‘One Health-One Welfare Model’ can be taught and practiced in primary schools to shape the attitude of children who are current and future animal handlers. “This concept was a game-changer to me” Mr. Kainga, he observed. Ms Roselida from Kajiado Township Primary school, in Kajiado County was also quick to mention how the conference transformed her perspective and attitude towards animals saying, “I grew up knowing animals especially dogs as ‘dirty’ but I have been ‘baptized’; and my attitude completely turned around hence have decided to keep a dog and a cat.” Like many of the teachers who attended sessions relevant to their teaching practice, she was happy to note that it was through practice of responsible pet ownership that ensures dogs and other animals kept at home are clean and healthy.

In their conference attendance report to ANAW, the teachers committed to incorporate the lessons gained into their work-plans in order to impart the students with useful skills and knowledge for better animal welfare standards’ observance and practice.
Africa Animal Welfare Adventure

A group of 17 animal welfare stewards from the United States of America (USA) travelled to Kenya for experiential learning from 7th to 21st August 2018. For the two weeks, the travelers joined ANAW field teams to undertake free-of-charge anti-rabies vaccination exercises in Machakos and Taita Taveta Counties in the country.

The operation team composed of county veterinary and public health officials, ANAW staff and the visitors vaccinated a total of 6,643 animals, comprised of dogs, cats and donkeys. In addition, ANAW organized natural and cultural conservation expeditions to Tsavo East National Park, Mount Kasighau, and Diani Beach. Encounters with the red elephants of Tsavo, hiking on Mount Kasighau and releasing turtle hatchling with ANAW community volunteers at Diani Beach, provided the visitors with unforgettable experiences.

The trip evaluation report indicates that 99% of the visitors would love to come again to Kenya and do exactly what they did. Indeed, one participant comments: “This was the most amazing experience I have had in my life! I will forever treasure it. I was privileged as a Vet, to attend to lovely dogs, cats and donkeys as they received their anti-rabies jabs and talk to their owners on how to care for the animals.

It was purely exciting, to say the least.” “Will never forget the experience of sharing lunch with one of the local Women Conservation Groups, listening to stories from a forgotten Watha Community, also locally known as the ‘real elephant keepers’ – once revered poachers but now turned-conservationists, tell their past stories. My mouth was agape all through as they shared their experiences on how they hunted the elephants specifically for food and not for commercial purposes. Again, I cannot forget going for patrols along the Indian Ocean shores with the ANAW Sea Turtle Monitors and hearing their success stories in protecting these endangered reptiles.”

The visitors’ group team leader, Dr. Julie Kelly pledged to organize such visits on a regular, annual basis henceforth.
ANAW’s resident veterinary surgeon at the Colobus Conservation rehabilitation centre Dr. Janerose Mutura joined the rescue team to investigate a report about a monkey in distress at a local village on the Indian Ocean’s Diani beach in Ukunda, Kenya. On arrival the rescue team discovered a baby Syke’s monkey (Cercopithecus mitis albogularis) tied with a copper wire around the waist on a seat at a home as a pet. The owner did not possess a valid license to keep the animal, which he claimed to have found abandoned in the bush around the village.

Keeping wild animals, including primates, at home as pets is becoming a common occurrence in villages located around wildlife hotspots. Most collectors are ignorant of legal requirements to keep a wild animal at home. Common types of animals collected include birds, reptiles, small mammals, including primates and rodents.

The young monkey was malnourished, suffering from various infections, dehydrated and traumatized. Dr. Mutura admitted it at the clinic and has been nurturing it back to health before its rehabilitation back to the wild at the appropriate time. The animal clinic receives an average of 15 different species of primates rescued from inhumane conditions, cruelty and accidents, including electrocution and road accidents over a period of three months.

Kenya is home to five out seven sea turtle species existing in the world. Those found in Kenya are: Green, Leatherback, Loggerhead, Olive, Ridley and Hawksbill turtles. Global populations are decreasing rapidly due to wanton destruction of natural habitats by industrialization effluent and solid waste pollution – especially plastics.

ANAW supports a team of 13 local community volunteers in Kenya’s south coast to monitor the conservation of turtles through finding and protecting turtle nests, rescue turtles trapped by fishing nets, community sensitization about the importance of sea turtles, surveillance against turtle poaching for shells and unlawful collection of turtle eggs.

The team conducts daily beach patrols along the Tiwi, Diani and Galu beaches in Kenya’s South Coast. Mr. Said Ali, the head of the local community volunteer monitors, says of the achievement since July 2018 as follows: “We have rescued, transferred and protected 41 turtle nests. Of these 41 nests, 13 have successfully hatched bringing forth over 1145 hatchlings that efficaciously made it back to sea.” The community team logs all the nest data with the Diani Turtle Watch, a local program for Local Ocean Conservation, a leading turtle conservation organization in north coast, Kenya.
Even a Wild Cape Buffalo is Worth Saving

Since July 2018, the ANAW animal rescue team has attended to 14 animal welfare calls in different parts of Kenya. The team works in partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), the agency with the national mandate to conserve and manage wildlife in the country. Animals rescued are, namely: eight zebras, three buffalos, one tortoise, one impala and one warthog.

One of the most adventurous rescues missions happened at Mount Elgon National Park, which is located along the Kenya-Uganda international border. The aim was to rescue a Cape buffalo that was writhing in pain inside the protected area. Park rangers on patrol spotted the animal dragging a metal wire snare on its body. Also, the animal seemed to be in a lot of pain.

Buffaloes are naturally ‘short-tempered’ animals with no tolerance for humans – even those on mission to rescue it from suffering. The park has a rough, near-impossible terrain to navigate by vehicle. The rescue job had to be without a car. After 4 or so agonizing hours working dangerously mostly on foot in the high-altitude mist-wreathed hills, the ambitious team successfully rescued the distressed animal. There was ululation from the team and villagers from nearby communities living next to the Park who watched the rescue process from the start to end. The wire-free buffalo galloped back to the forest after its ordeal. “Even a buffalo deserves freedom from pain”, exclaimed one Park ranger on the rescue team.

Crop Replacement can Deter Elephants from Invading Farms

Mr. Joshua Jumwa Mwalugongo is a 70-year old subsistence farmer at Kasighau location, Voi Sub-County, Taita-Taveta County. His farm sits on a regular seasonal elephant migration route for animals moving between Tsavo East, Tsavo West and Mkomazi National Parks. Until recently, Mr. Jumwa has been suffering untold crop losses and livestock depredation by the migrating animals. The elephants are the most voracious feeders of his crops.

Since 2015, ANAW’s Kasighau Conservancy Project has been promoting non-lethal ways to deter animals from invading farms. The project employs fulltime 7 local guardians to patrol the nearby 52,000-acre community ranch as well as extend skills and knowledge to enable farmers co-exist harmoniously with large populations of wildlife dispersing between the national parks through the ranch and surrounding peasant farms.

One such idea is to intersperse, or even replace, common food plants with crops that elephants avoid on farms. Mr. Jumwa has been planting sunflower, red cayenne chilies and black beans together with regular crops such as maize, lentils and cassava. Although elephants invaded his 5-acre farm, the animals completely did not touch or taste a sunflower, chilly or black beans. Mr. Jumwa has been increasing the acreage for the elephant-deterrent crops gradually and hopes to eventually completely replace the maize crop.

The next planting season begins during the short rains in November. Mr. Jumwa is optimistic about getting a better yield from the alternative crops, which he prays may yield handsome profits to enable him purchase staple foods otherwise destroyed by elephants. He also fears that although elephants avoid the alternative crops, antelopes such as eland, lesser kudu and impala, and birds feed on them too. In the meantime, the intervention is working. Hopefully, more farmers will adopt the crop replacement approach to deter elephants from invading their farms and ultimately saving their lives too.
We can make the world better, far much better, by being kind to animals and treating them right. Join us in our efforts to make animal lives better.

LEAVE A LEGACY OF COMPASSION FOR ANIMALS
Here’s a great way to support Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW) and enable us to protect future generations of animals. By putting a bequest to ANAW in your will or trust, you will help us to improve the lives of animals far beyond your lifetime.
On behalf of the animals we work for, Thank you!