

Africa Network For Animal Welfare

Animal Welfare Updates - July 2019



Animal care remains a major focus at Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW). When animal welfare best practices are in place, and the animals kept comfortable and healthy, then, their longevity and well-being are both extended and safeguarded.

Fundamentally, taking care of these animals, their needs and ensuring their sentience and freedoms (freedom from hunger and thirst, freedom from discomfort, freedom from pain, injury or disease, freedom to express normal behavior and freedom from fear and distress) are safeguarded, goes a long way in ensuring their mental and physical state is protected and a healthy symbiotic relationship between man and animal is sustained.

In this quarterly newsletter, we highlight various achievements by the organization, including the outcomes of the just-concluded spay-neuter campaign in Machakos County undertaken in partnership with Vet Treks Foundation and Machakos County Government.

The **42** schools in the Animal Welfare Clubs Program recorded tremendous strides in their weekly lessons. The schools are in five counties in Kenya. We are glad to highlight these and more of our achievements during this second quarter as you will read in this newsletter.

We deeply appreciate your continued support of ANAW's programs, without which, we would have achieved all the highlighted successes.

We look forward to hosting you in our upcoming Africa Animal Welfare Conference 2019 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 2nd to 4th September.

I wish you a wonderful time as you peruse through the pages of this newsletter. And as we always say, do not hesitate to get back to us with your queries, comments and compliments on this duty of safeguarding Africa's animal welfare.

Thank
Josephat

you,
Naonvo.

245 Dogs Spayed/Neutered As 430 Others Vaccinated Against Rabies in Machakos County



ANAW in partnership with Vet Treks Foundation and the County Government of Machakos held a successful Spay and Neuter exercise as well as an anti-rabies Vaccination Campaign in Machakos town from June 7 – 10, 2019.

Why Machakos? Machakos County has been recognized as one of the most rabies endemic Counties in Kenya. Indeed, it has been selected as one of the pilot areas to roll out the National Rabies Elimination Program with ANAW being assigned to partner with the County and work together to attain zero-rabies by year 2030.

Based on the household information available from the official 2009 Kenya National Census Data, it is estimated that the total dog population of Machakos County stands at 259,394 dogs. The mean rabies vaccination levels for the County are very low with 9.5% in rural and 22.5% in urban areas with sterilization rates being equally as low at 14.5% in rural areas and 14.1% in urban areas.

Further, the population of dogs and cats both owned and stray, has grown proportionally with the human population in the County. An unregulated animal population coupled with limited animal care services and public health systems resulting in a high incidence of negative human-animal interactions as well as transmission of animal borne disease, including rabies has been on the increase.

It is against this backdrop that ANAW, Vet Treks Foundation and the County Government of Machakos came together this year, to address the dual concerns of unvaccinated animals and of overpopulation of dogs and cats in Machakos. The 2019 campaign was held in Machakos Central Sub-County. The 4-day campaign managed to sterilize **246** animals (245 dogs and one cat) as well as vaccinating

On the eve of the Spay/Neuter Campaign, the Vet Treks team and the ANAW staff held a Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Seminar at The University of Nairobi, dubbed, 'Field Based Surgical Techniques and Principles' intended to build capacity and enhance Veterinarians' field based surgical techniques during the Spay and Neuter Campaign.

The facilitators included Dr Lisa McCarthy (Vet Treks), Dr Gwen Lombard (Vet Treks), Dr Jennifer Fick (Vet Treks), Dr Willy Mwangi (University of Nairobi), Dr Dennis Bahati (ANAW) and Dr Erick Onsongo (ANAW). The seminar attracted 32 participants.

Learner Impacted Through Animal Welfare Clubs



ANAW continued to impact learners with animal welfare knowledge in five Kenyan Counties' schools through her program dubbed, 'Promoting Animal Welfare in Schools' (PAWS) all through the second quarter.

Through the testimony of the animal welfare clubs' patrons in various schools visited, the level of animal welfare conscious has grown tremendously among the students taken through the said clubs. The learners in the **42** schools in the program have had the privilege to absorb the knowledge and techniques that they learnt and apply them accordingly. Their sense of stewardship in environment, friendship and sense of unity has increased. One of the practical activities adopted by the learners from their lessons was tree planting.

A massive tree planting exercise happened in three schools. In Kea, Olchoro Onyiri and Uini Primary Schools. **420** tree seedlings were planted by students in their respective schools. Tree planting is a learning opportunity to the learners involved in conserving both the environment and animal habitat.

The project helps the students to effect a positive change to their schools and impact

their communities. It also increases learner's interest in the environment and fosters environmental stewardship.

Biting Drought Leaves Wildlife Dead



Since February this year, drought had continued to wreak havoc in many arid and semi-arid parts of Kenya, devastating both humans and animals. ANAW de-snaring teams on patrol inside Soysambu Conservancy in Nakuru County, found; **2** fresh carcasses of burchell's zebras suspected to have died from the raging drought in the county.

Another carcass also lay fresh with an injury on the shoulder and suspected to have died of Septicaemia (also known as sepsis) a potentially fatal infection in which large amounts of bacteria are present in the blood. It is commonly referred to as blood poisoning. The open wound which was caused by a wire snare had not been attended to for some time, and seemed to have precipitated the infection.

The exercise which happened between 23rd and 27th April 2019 saw the team lift **117** wire snares, (**71** live snares and **46** of dead snares). Further, it was evident that the drought had caused a lot of movement for the wildlife as they looked for fresh grass and water hence many animals moving beyond the loosely fenced perimeters of the ranch and ending up in the hands of bushmeat poachers who are almost always on standby to feast on any stray animal from the conservancy.

In our Kenya's Coastal area project; Diani Turtle Monitoring, **14** new turtle nests were identified in the months of May and June with **1,333** eggs along the Diani

Canisius College Experiential Tour



ANAW is a renowned provider of experiential tours for animal welfare enthusiasts. Participants enjoy hands on experiences in animal welfare work while interacting with local communities and learning about indigenous cultures.

From June 16 - 29, 2019, ANAW hosted **14** students from Canisius College in New York in the United States of America. The students participated in wildlife conservation activities in Nakuru, Laikipia and Samburu Counties. The tour's objectives included to understand the involvement and participation of communities in wildlife conservation; to learn about the impacts of habitat conservation and restoration efforts on animal behavior and biology; and also learn about the functional models combining cultural practices and modern-day innovations in conservation as well as understanding the association between gender, traditions and community perspectives of animals.

During their stay, the students participated in activities such as de-sharing and animal monitoring. They visited various institutions and organizations that have programs in protecting endangered species. They were able to take note of the various initiatives these organizations are undertaking to protect the wildlife species. They also interacted and learnt more from the local communities who live in some of the world's wildlife hotspots.

ANAW Joins the World in Celebrating Donkey Welfare



The dusty town of Wang'uru, in Kirinyaga County was at standstill on May 17, 2019 as ANAW joined donkey owners, other animal welfare organizations, National and County governments and thousands of Wang'uru and its environs' dwellers to celebrate this year's World Donkey Day, Kenyan chapter dubbed, 'My Donkey; My life'.

The event that swept the sleepy town, started with a public procession from Mwea's Mosque and led by a local band formed a queue which snaked almost a kilometer, through the town, as song and dance in praise of the donkey reverberated the skywaves and ended at Wang'uru Stadium, the event's official venue.

World Donkey Day is celebrated to show respect for one of the most enduring and respectable animals in the Equid family. Throughout history, the donkey has served all over the world as a true beast of burden in some of the most challenging terrains and forbidding climates and has done so with pride and endurance. It is unsurprising that these beasts' success is due in part, to their stubborn nature, and World Donkey Day honors them for this, along with their other, perhaps more laudable, traits.

ANAW having been at the forefront fighting for donkey welfare especially on ending the wanton donkey slaughter and its subsequent skin trade was included in the programme of the day. "The compelling reason for donkey slaughter in Kenya is not its meat but its skin, for export to China. They use the skin to make a traditional medicine called 'ejiao' which they claim to be an anti-aging agent as well as libido booster in men" Josiah Ojwang, ANAW's Director of Programs told the celebrants.

"15 years ago, China had a population of 11million donkeys, but they now have a partly 4.5million of donkeys remaining. Having wiped out their donkeys, Chinese traders have now turned to Africa to meet the demand for donkey skin, in Kenya they are behind the four operational donkey abattoirs that slaughter almost 1000 donkeys a day. If Kenya does not wake up and smell the coffee, its donkey population, which is estimated to be less than a million now, will get depleted in the next few years." He added.

Mr. Ojwang added that the burgeoning market for donkey hides in China had fueled massive theft of the animal causing untold suffering to the communities that solely depend on donkeys for their livelihoods hence urging all the donkey owners present to be extra vigilant and ensure their donkeys are kept healthy and safe.

Kirinyaga County Director of Veterinary Services, Dr Richard Gichangi, who was the chief guest emphasized the dire need of donkey owners to closely monitor the welfare of the animal and ensure the handlers, who in most cases are not the owners, do not mistreat the animal in anyway.

Thousands of Conservationists March in Nairobi Streets for This Year's Global March



On April 13, 2019, ANAW joined over 20 other conservation organizations in this year's Global March for Elephants, Rhinos, Lions (GMFERL) and other endangered species celebrations dubbed, 'No Market, No Trade' flagged off by Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, Hon Najib Balala at the National Museums of Kenya!

A jaw-dropping number of Kenyans numbering over **3,500** people came out on that chilly morning to protest the killings and express their love and pride for wildlife in Kenya. After the flag-off, the enthusiastic celebrants took to the streets with banners stretched and placards lifted high to march from the National Museums of Kenya through the Nairobi Central Business District (CBD) to Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Headquarters which was the official event's venue.

The ANAW, communications team was active online updating the public on the happenings and highlighting wildlife conservation and animal welfare issues being addressed by the theme of the day: No Market, No Trade. The team, in a designated exhibition booth, had a chance to meet and interact with participants. Many expressed their interests in knowing more about what it entails to look out for the welfare of endangered species and other works that ANAW was engaged in.

Global March for Elephants, Rhinos and Lions (GMFERL) is organized every year in hundreds of cities across the globe. This year the march was organized in 100 cities, among them Nairobi. Despite the beauty that the African continent beholds, the

numbers of elephant species have been dwindled at an alarming speed in the last decade only a quarter of the number of what it was, stands today. Each year, approximately 35,000 are killed to meet the demand of ivory worldwide. In the same breath, only 23,000 lions roam what is left of their home today.

The 2019 Environment and Land Court Judges' Annual Conference



ANAW in collaboration with the Judiciary Training Institute (JTI) and other relevant stakeholders held this year's Environment and Land Court Judges' Annual Conference from 4th to 8th, June 2019 at Serena Beach Resort in Mombasa. The conference attracted **76** participants, among them; **31** Judges and **30** Deputy Registrars of the Environment and Land Court (ELC).

One of ANAW's goal is to work with the public sector and like-minded partners to review; develop and implement relevant environmental policies and laws; to protect Kenya's natural resources from illegal activities, infrastructure development; and to increase the skills and capacity of the judiciary, prosecutors and law enforcement agencies through effectively collaboration to delivery and realize their respective mandates.

The successful 2019 three-days colloquium which was graced by Kenya's Deputy Chief Justice who also serves as the Vice-President of the Supreme Court, Hon. Lady Justice Philomena Mwilu had a theme dubbed, 'An Appraisal of the Environment and Land Court: Balancing Accountability, Professional Calling and The Oath of Office'.

In her opening remarks, Hon. Mwilu acknowledged judges, magistrates and partners present adding that the theme was not only relevant in the lenses of the conference but also in every day's execution of the judiciary's mandate.

Hon. Mwilu urged the judges to play their sacred roles diligently. She reckoned that the judiciary cannot administer judicial authority independently without being

exceptionally accountable for service delivery perspective.

In his welcoming remarks, ANAW's Board Chairman, Amb. Nehemiah Rotich said that the judiciary was a critical agent in environmental and land management through adjudication. He added land and environment in Kenya require, more than ever before, proactive interventions that are fair and just for the sake of preserving the integrity of natural and man-made environmental resources as well as people and animals.

According to Amb. Rotich, as the court grows, there is need for enhanced jurisprudence that presents the balance between development and environment and which looks at the substance of environmental law and not just procedural law. He gave an example the need for a rich jurisprudence on the pre-cautionary, polluter-pays principle and intergeneration principle.

In his closing annotations, the ELC Presiding Judge Hon. Justice Samson Okong'o reminded the judges that their Judicial decisions have sometimes become disciplinary actions, and hence sometimes, impacting independence of verdicts either positively or negatively. He urged all the judicial officers present to always remember that achieving balance of independence of judges and being accountable to the public goes hand in hand.

[Africa Animal Welfare Conference 2019 Update](#)



The Africa Animal Welfare Conference (AAWC 2019) is fast-approaching and preparation is nearing its last leg with less than two months to go. The team is revved up and excited to host you at the United Nations Conference Center - Addis Ababa (UNCC - AA) from September 2 - 4, 2019.

The abstracts for the highly publicized conference are in and the organizing committee is in the process of reviewing them. Once finalized the team will communicate with the speakers.

Registration is open and is ongoing. [Click Here to Register](#) Africa's natural resources are prime on the agenda in many countries across the continent.

Conference organizer, Josiah Ojwang, speaks on the focus that has been given to address ongoing dire challenges faced in different countries.

“Our concern in this conference is that we need to find a platform to strike a balance and a sustainable at that, between the first phase of sustainable infrastructural growth in Africa and environmental protection. At the same time, we aim to bring in issues of animal welfare and link them to One Health and Environment. If you haven't registered, **please click here to book your slot** . Please send any enquiries, comments or suggestions through info@aawconference.org or enquiries@aawconference.org.

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.

Contact Purity at partners@anaw.org if you need additional information about how to include us in your will.

You can also support our work by donating online through our secure online platform. Please, click on the donate button below to submit your donation.



Kind
Eunice
Communications

Africa Network for Animal Welfare
Office : Suite 2, 1st Floor, Westend Place Building, • Access to The School of the

Regards,
Robai,
Department,
Welfare

Blind, off Mai Mahiu Road • P.O Box 3731 – 00506, Nairobi, Kenya; • Phone: +254
(020) 6006510

#

#