MONTHLY UPDATES
AUGUST 2017

IN THIS UPDATE WE FEATURE
SOYSAMBU DE-SNARING

UPCOMING EVENTS:
WORLD RABIES DAY 2017
- MACHAKOS COUNTY EDITION 22ND SEPT. 2017
AFRICA ANIMAL WELFARE CONFERENCE
- ACTION 2017 - 3RD-4TH OCT. 2017
WORLD ANIMAL DAY
GLOBAL MARCH
- 4TH OCT. 2017
- FOR ELEPHANTS, RHINOS AND LIONS 7TH OCT. 2017
Greetings from Kenya!

It is my joy to invite you to read, our August’s update on the important work ANAW is doing to promote better treatment of all animals.

On the onset, it is important to highlight that the month of August has been the climax of politicking season here in Kenya, as citizens went to the ballot on 8th to exercise their constitutional and democratic right of choosing their preferred leaders for the next five years. We can say with gratitude that the country has been largely peaceful all through the electioneering period hence allowing us conducive atmosphere to execute our mandate as an organization.

In this edition, we have featured our continued efforts of being the voice of our animals in the wild. We have singularly intensified our response to animals in pain and distress arising from either being trapped by snares set up by poachers or through injury caused by the same poachers. In this month alone, ANAW has responded to five emergency calls. Similarly, I understand that for as long as the people (poachers) who set up the snares to harm the animals are not enlightened, the trend will continue incessantly. To create that awareness, ANAW with other stakeholders carried out a week-long de-snaring (removing of wires) at the expansive Soysambu Conservancy, in Nakuru County some 130 kilometers west of Nairobi capital, which involved combing the bushes, looking for snares and removing them. Thereafter, the team reached out to the communities, part of whom set up the snares, to sensitize them on the importance of caring and protecting our animals. ANAW has documented and compiled video clip capturing those moments and provided the link, kindly watch.

On our partnerships and advocacy, ANAW has continued to campaign against having Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) pass through the iconic Nairobi National Park. In this update, we feature residents of Tuala, raising their objection to the SGR’s trespass onto their lands. Tuala borders the park.

In July, ANAW recruited four volunteers having diverse skills and experiences to help us in our different departments even as they gain more experience. They have on a daily basis given of themselves unreservedly to promote ANAW’s agenda, and for that, we are truly grateful.

Africa Animal Welfare Conference co-hosted by UN Environment and ANAW is a few days away - October 2 – 4, 2017. We are excited and looking forward to the conference. We take this early opportunity to appreciate those of you who have generously contributed their resources to make the conference a reality.

Other upcoming events include the World Rabies Day; September 22, World Animal Day; October 4 and Global March for Elephants, Rhinos and Lions slated for October 7.

Enjoy the read

Josaphat Ngonyo
ANA W Executive Director
ANAW RESCUES A ZEBRA AT NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK’S BORDER

Following a distress call from one of the residents of Tuala Community, that a male zebra had been spotted limping and painfully pulling a wire-snare on its left hindlimb, ANAW in partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) responded and after immobilizing it, removed the wire that had eaten into the zebra’s foot resulting to a severe wound. After clinical assessment and treatment, the mammal was released to the field.

It was such a joy to see the zebra stop a little, look at the vets as if saying, ‘thanks,’ and then wagging its tail, hopped away to join its herd. This animal among others live in Tuala that borders Nairobi National Park and acts as a wildlife dispersal area.

Again, ANAW wishes to appreciate our partners who reach out to their pockets and contribute resources to facilitate the rescue of these wild animals. When they are happy, you’re partly the reason for their happiness! Many thanks, too, to our strong partners, KWS who have never hesitated to respond whenever ANAW has contacted them on improptu emergency calls to rescue an animal in pain and distress.

ZEBRA AND WATERBUCK RESCUE PICTORIAL

1. Female Zebra with an injured left hindlimb. Notice the casting of the affected limb
2. Zebra after darting and immobilization
3. Treatment being administered by KWS Vet Dr. Kariuki and ANAW Vet Dr. Bahati
4. Zebra after revival and release
5. Immobilized Waterbuck stuck on a wire snare
6. Wire snare wrapped around the Waterbuck’s neck
7. Teams from ANAW, KWS and Soysambu Conservancy assist to rescue the waterbuck
8. Waterbuck dashing after the snare was removed
ANAW RESCUES FOUR ENSNARED ANIMALS AND LIFTS MORE SNARES IN SOYSAMBU RANCH

As friends wake up to check on their dog’s kennels, chicken coops, rabbit’s hatches, cow’s shed, horse’s stables, sheep’s pen, owl’s owleri or cat’s cattery, the ANAW team of 11 set off to the wild to comb various habitats for snares. As keepers of animals at home provide food for their animal friends, we ensure that we are indeed very careful not to provide ourselves as food for the wild carnivores. Sadly, it is the animals that live in the wild that are trapped in snares for human consumption and commercial bush meat trade by communities living near wildlife areas.

We all packed into the land cruisers ready for the 4-day de-snaring expedition from August 21, 2017 to August 26, 2017. Our destination? Soysambu Conservancy. Having left Nairobi in the afternoon, we arrived at the conservancy in time to set up camp at Monkey’s Bridge Campsite and have a briefy by the bonfire before retiring for the night.

The early morning rise beckoned at us to save animals from deadly snares at the beautiful scape of Acacia trees, rolling hills, lush green plains and the shores of the well-known Lake Elementaita. The zebras, antelopes, gazelles, waterbucks, elands, buffaloes and hartebeests reminded us of the magnificent creation we were working day and night to protect. The small piece of paradise was home to 450 species and 10,000 mammals of more than 50 species. In the distant, a troop of baboons stared at us as the land cruisers made their way to the meeting site. They seemed to have briefly paused a meeting of their own, curious to see who the intruders were! Watch the video clip here.

A combined team of 27 animal guardians gathered at Maendeleo Camp at 8.30 am. After a round of introductions and a brief on bush rules, the team moved out and combed the great expanse. The next few days for five hours, we remove snares from bushes, plains, lagoas and trees. Part of the 48,000-acre conservancy covered include Maendeleo Camp, Kampi Mosh, Nyumba Mbilii, Milma Mbuil, Klungurulia, Quarry area, Barrier, Kenchic, Check Height, Jooai One, Meliyu House, Kampi Shule, Jersey Hall, Sundoer and Serena from Gate B of the conservancy to Kasambara House. The group was careful to avoid the most feared lone aggressive and territorial buffaloes. At the end of the four days, ANAW and Soysambu Conservancy staff, KWS rangers and Projects Abroad volunteers removed 129 live snares and 114 dead snares.

Four live animals caught in snares and two carcasses were found. One of the animals, a ground female waterbuck, was fighting hard against the bush snare when we rushed in a bid to respond to an alert by one of our teammates. The team held her down as the snare was carefully extracted from her neck. Though the rescuers moved back quickly to allow a safe escape once the animal was free of the snare, it took 5 minutes for her to get up and run to safety. Three zebras were also rescued from the salivating hands of the poachers by removing the snares and letting them hop to the bushes and join their fold.

Unfortunately, a gazelle that was caught in a bush snare had died a few hours before we arrived. Carcasses of a zebra and her foal was found on the third day. It was said that a few days before lions were seen feasting on them. Watch the video clip here.
On June 3, 2017 under the auspices of ANAW, the Watha people, a rare Cushitic tribe regarded by anthropologists as ‘hunter-gatherers’ held their first ever-cultural mini-festival since their existence at Maungu town in Taita Taveta County, some 359 kilometers east of Nairobi Capital.

It was a joy they could not elucidate, as for many years, they had been forced into extinction by the government. But on that day, with pride and dignity. They demonstrated their culture and way of life through song and dance.

Amid the bellowing smoke, from fire lit by use of dried elephant dung, rising dust from the vigorous traditional songs and dances, the cultural mini-festival by the Watha lifted the lid of many years of being misunderstood to be a threat to wildlife conservation, and reaffirmed to the world that indeed they had unrivaled cultural reverence for pristine wilderness areas, unmatched respect for wildlife and deep indigenous knowledge for nature conservation.

The Watha, who once occupied the vast region now under the jurisdiction of Tsavo East National Park and Tsavo West National Park, used this maiden celebration to revitalize and re-invigorate their culture and heritage as intricately linked to wildlife and nature conservation.

For the last 10 years, ANAW has been partnering with the little-known Watha community, who are also legendary for hunting of elephants with the most powerful traditional hand-made bows in the world, to promote peaceful human-wildlife coexistence through offering alternatives to their well-known-for hunting wildlife for food.

This partnership between ANAW and the Watha aims at supporting the community to raise their voices for recognition by the state, and be considered as equals among Kenyan tribes. Establishment of a cultural and heritage resource centre for the purposes of education will then follow. Follow link to documentary
Eager to begin work, Chinese railroad workers arrive at Oloosirikon in Tualu in an entourage of vehicles accompanied by administrative police. They jump over back fences into private property to lay temporary and permanent beacons. Not giving any notice to the property owners, they haul bags of cement and chalk from their vehicles, trudge through the expansive community land and quickly begin their work. When confronted by the owners, they claim that they are in search of stray wildlife, pretend not to understand English, offer bribes or plainly ignore them. The more truthful workers explain that they have orders to set up beacons to ready the land for the construction of the Standard Gauge Railway (SGR). They make such efforts to access the land as they understand that the owners are not open to the SGR go through their land.

The action by the workers follows a ruling on an appeal filed by the China Road and Bridges Corporation (CRBC) at the Kenya’s Environment and Land Court to quash the existing stop order barring all construction work on Phase 2A of the SGR until a hearing is determined. The appeal was not granted. A full hearing on the appeal was slated for November 22, 2017. The Environment and Land Court, which was established under Section 4 of the Environment and Land Court Act No. 19 of 2011, also directed CRBC to serve all parties within 14 days after the ruling was given. Despite the ruling, the company has resumed construction.

The antics by Chinese construction workers on community land might make for great comedy, but things sober up when a cloud of eviction, loss of ancestral land, destruction of family burial sites and suffering the toll of neighboring construction work looms low. Furthermore, owners of the land claim that Nairobi National Park, which was formally their ancestral land before giving it as a gift to the government years ago.

On the other hand, the community members of Tualu are not relenting. After learning that showing the stop order to the workers does not work, they banded together to hire a lawyer to seek justice. They came together to write a protest letter to the County Commissioner and the Deputy seeking restraining of intruders on private property and mobilise media to cover the ongoing activities.

Constructing the railway through Tualu means that the area would be an exit point for the SGR from the park, a route that is highly contested by ANAW, conservationists and neighboring community members alike. The construction team working for CRBC continue with the work despite a stop order by the National Environmental Tribunal (NET) being in place.

The multi-billion national flagship project would not be of much concern to the community and conservationists alike had it not been affecting Nairobi National Park and the neighboring community members. It has been established that Phase 2A of the SGR begins from Syokimau into the park, out into Tualu, Ongata Rongai, Nkoroi, Ngong to Kamangu. It has been established that there are beacons set in Ololua Forest as well. The two groups are hopeful to work with the Government so that they can come to a good solution.

Community members are infuriated by the government’s keen intent to cut across an important animal habitat such as Nairobi National Park. ANAW has always through communities living outside Nairobi Park, advocated for a re-route of the railway away from the iconic park that is home to 100 animal species and an important bird area with over 400 bird species.

Further, ANAW and those who have been advocating for an alternative route of the modern rail agree that the city’s park should not be interfered with as it provides a critical breeding ground to endangered rhinos.
Kenya has joined the league of African nations such as Rwanda, Morocco, South Africa and others that have banned use of plastic bags in their countries to conserve the environment and its habitats. The ban was effected on August 28, 2017, through a gazette notice by Kenya’s Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources, Prof Judi Wakhungu.

The ban was good news to ANAW given that plastics have very glaring negative ramifications on the welfare of animals, which is ANAW’s bloodstream. Indeed, even before the ban was effected, ANAW worked very closely with National Environment Management Authority (NEMA), the body mandated to execute the veto, to see the policy decision actualized. Read our press statement sent to newsrooms here.

Plastics, even when disposed of properly, take many years to decompose and break down, generating large amounts of garbage over long periods of time. If not disposed of properly, the bags can pollute waterways, clog sewers and oceans. They have been found to affect the habitat of animals and marine creatures.

Why should the ban be a good tiding to us as ANAW? Because we, as an Organization are concerned with not only domestic but also wildlife welfare. The primary damage to wildlife includes entanglement and ingestion. When the animals or birds are entangled they drown or cannot fly due to entanglement. Plastic bags are often ingested by animals because they cannot distinguish whether it is food or not.

As a result, these plastics clog their intestines which lead to death by starvation. Justifiably, plastic bags can block drainage systems, trap birds and kill livestock.

The World-Wide Fund for Nature has estimated that over 100,000 whales, seals, and turtles die every year arising from eating or being trapped by plastic bags. Here in Kenya, for example, an estimated number of 4–10 cows die every day in capital Nairobi and its environs, because of complications brought about by ingestion of plastic bags.

It is therefore, in line with this undebatable importance of the plastic ban, that in October 2nd – 4th this year, ANAW and UN Environment will be co-hosting the Africa Animal Welfare Conference — Action 2017 themed, “Nexus between Animal Welfare, Environment and Development: Safeguarding our common destiny” where pollution, especially that caused by plastics will be a key topic.

Volunteering for Animal Welfare
Know more about ANAW's volunteers in this update

BRIAN EDDY MBANGA is an ICT enthusiast and holds a Degree in Business Information Technology from Kenya Methodist University.

Brian joined ANAW in July 2017 as a volunteer with the ICT where he provides information technology support, manages organization online presence, graphic design and newsletter updates. Possessing a unique and dynamic nature, he has freely blended into various activities that are held within the Organization.

Brian has training certification in CISCO unified communications, CISCO Certified Network Associate (CCNA) and Digital Marketing certified by Google. In the two months, he has been at the organization, he has worked hard and recharged ANAW’s social following, achieving hundreds of new followers on Facebook and Instagram accounts. Read more

Meet MICHAEL YULU, a Photographer and Videographer volunteer in the Public Affairs Department.

He studied Television Production at the country’s premier media college - Kenya Institute of Mass Communication (KIMC) where he graduated with a Diploma in Television Production.

Michael joined ANAW in July 2017 for a three-months volunteer program in Public Affairs Department and he brings a wealth of experience having worked for several production houses and media stations including; Ebru Africa, KTN, KBC among others. Read more
Volunteering for Animal Welfare

Meet the smiling Gladys Wangeci Chege who holds a Bachelor's Degree in Economics. Before joining ANAW in July 2017 as a volunteer in the Administration section under Operations Department, she worked as an Operations Clerk Intern at Transnational Bank Limited and Nakumatt Stores as a Nivea Brand Ambassador.

Gladys has remarkable interpersonal and communication skills that she so uses at the front desk where she is assigned currently. As the first ‘eye’ of ANAW, she has blended excellently and so easily with the clients who pay visit to the Organization.

Ms. Wangeci’s quick ability to learn procedures and new systems has helped her navigate the Quick Books Finance application with ease and helped reduce the backlog in general journal entries as well as petty cash. Read more

Elly Kirwa is a One Health and research aficionado holding a Bachelor’s Degree in Veterinary Medicine (BVM) from the University of Nairobi, working as a veterinary volunteer under Programs Department at ANAW.

He provides support in de-snaring and rescue activities as well as Promoting Animal Welfare Education in Schools. Being a all-rounded veterinarian, Elly as he is fondly known by his contemporaries, also does hotel web reviews, essay writing, architectural designs and designing of computer aided applications in both medical and veterinary field. Read more

Stephen Methu Wanjiku was born and raised in Naivasha which is 91 kilometers to the west of Nairobi, spending most of his formative years in a place full of wildlife and an unimaginable biodiversity. Stephen attended Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute where he graduated with a Diploma in Tourism and Nature Interpretation.

His great passion for wildlife and environment during his schooling years eventually turned into a career in tourism and conservation. From then, Stephen worked with several conservation bodies such as Sadhana Forest, Rocha Kenya, Elsamere Center for Education in Sustainability, Nature Kenya, National Museums of Kenya and Naivasha Basin Sustainability Initiative. Read more

Pascal MwachofI holds a Degree in Tourism Management from Kenyatta University. His love for nature and wildlife has inspired him to have a responsible approach towards the co-relation of a nature friendly environment and direct effects it has on Tourism. He has managed to share his knowledge comprehensively with colleagues at ANAW and members of communities during field expeditions like conservancy desnaring activities.

He is also a skilled driver and with his professional skills he has been a great asset in Logistics and Transport section in the Operations department. Read more
ANAW 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 supporting the rabies baseline survey at Machakos County. Going forward, this year, we plan to:

Install elephants' deterrent lights system in five farms in Kasigau Ranch.

Continue public advocacy against infrastructure development through Kenya's national parks.

Host the Africa Animal Welfare Conference 2017

Purchase equipment's and materials for the Kasigau Guardians. We are in need binoculars, GPS’s, uniforms, shoes, cameras and motor cycles.

Vaccinate 70% of the dog populations against rabies in Machakos County, Kenya.

Hold the first Africa Animal Law Conference.

Publish 4 issues of the animal welfare magazines.

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 (1) Make a monthly or one-time donation (2) Renew your membership to Friends of ANAW (3) Participate in ANAW's experiential learning trips d) By putting a bequest to ANAW in your will or trust.

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS FOR YOUR DONATIONS, EXPERTISE AND PARTNERSHIP. WE IMPROVE THE LIVES OF ANIMALS FAR BEYOND YOUR LIFE TIME
The Africa Animal Welfare Conference aims at bringing together experts in various thematic areas from different nations across Africa and beyond, to address the interplay between Animal Welfare, Environment and Development amongst them pollution, food security, environmental health, animal welfare concerns as well as sustainable development goals. Visit: www.aawconference.org to know more about the conference.

GLOBAL MARCH 2017
For Elephants, Rhinos and Lions

On October 7, 2017, ANAW will join Government agencies, Kenya conservation organizations, civil societies, grass root communities and all relevant stakeholders for this year’s Global March for Elephants, Rhinos and Lions (GMFERL) in Nairobi, Kenya starting from National Museums of Kenya, through Uhuru highway – Nyayo Stadium, then Lang’ata Road to Kenya Wildlife Service headquarters.

GMFERL is a worldwide call to action to condemn the poaching of elephants, rhinos, Lions and the trafficking of wildlife trophies. This global movement calls upon governments, the civil society, grass root communities and all stakeholders to be proactive and collaborative to ensure the survival of especially the elephants and rhinos which are critically endangered.

The future of these keystone species is at stake due burgeoning human population growth and clearance of natural habitats for establishment of settlements, both in rural and urban areas, construction of infrastructure and industrial installations. The demand for ivory and rhino horn for the Asian market is also a growing threat. To address these challenges, Kenya will mark the 2017 GMFERL day by increasing public awareness about the plight of elephants, rhinos and lions, which have also been on a sharp decline.

Note of Gratitude

It is with great joy that ANAW expresses our gratitude for the initiative of Chinese Students to raise funds for support towards the Rukanga Basket Weavers in Kasigau, Taita Taveta. We are happy to receive 5167.8 RMB (USD 792.05) from Jiali Ouyang, Meixin Huang and Yue Guo.

Through ANAW’s partnership, the women have taken to weaving baskets, a move that will persuade the community against poaching and will be a motivation that will be able to sustain their families' livelihood. This funding will go a long way towards providing funds for sustenance, school fees and necessities for their families.

Moreover, ANAW greatly appreciates the opportunity to have hosted the students for the Conservation Education Program in Kapiti, Voi and Kasigau. Sincere gratitude also to China House for their collaborative efforts on this very important project.

Click here to watch the de-snaring activity they engaged in at Kapiti Ranch.

Asante sana (Thank you so much)!