Dear Partners,

We as Africa Network for Animal Welfare (ANAW), welcome 2018 with new vigor! While celebrating our successes for 2017, we continue to lay much emphasis on the need to promote humane treatment of all animals from a holistic perspective. Our theme for the New Year, ‘Transforming Livelihoods through Responsible Care of all Animals and Environment’ gives us the much-needed focus to heighten our collaborations with our partners in the Year 2018. We are keen to continue working very closely with our newly formed networks while cementing our collaborations with our long-time partners that have solidly stood by us this far.

Animal welfare has never been a one-man affair; the more reason for the need to employ diverse and innovative strategies backed by collective synergies in achieving the overall objective of promoting the welfare of animals across the board. In this new year, ANAW will continue to lay focus on its three key result areas, thus; Better Animal Care; Human-Animal Coexistence and Capacity Building, Education and Awareness. As we continue to focus our attention on the rescue, treatment and rehabilitation of terrestrial animals, we intend to dig deeper into marine conservation of the sea turtles through solidified collaborations with the community at the Coast. We envisage that this endeavor will improve the wellbeing and safety of the Sea Turtles, their Monitors and that of the surrounding environment.

And of course, not forgetting the important work ANAW is doing in saving Primates in collaboration with Colobus Conservation Limited in Diani, Kwale County.

For the welfare of animals to be sustained now and in future, engagement of the young school children is critical. In Kenya for example, a whole new system has taken root with the country picking lessons from the past. Moving forward, ANAW through its ‘Promoting Animal Welfare in Schools (PAWS)’ Program is keen to ensuring that current and future generations embrace the need to prioritize animal welfare from their early years. Further to this, ANAW prides herself in having been able to pioneer the inclusion of Animal Welfare Education in the Kenya National Curriculum of Education. Work now lies on drawing out strategies that will see to it that this curriculum is embraced and adopted across the country.

Our engagement in 2017 to co-host Africa Animal Welfare Conference heightened our level of partnerships with key resolutions being tabled for consideration in the coming years. As a follow up on this, ANAW, together with the UN Environment and the Government of Kenya intends to once again co-host a similar but relatively more elaborate Animal Welfare Conference in 2018.

We are therefore, in line with our drive this year, glad to share with you our January 2018 Updates.

Do enjoy the read. Wishing you all the best.

Sincerely,

Josaphat Ngonyo - ANAW Executive Director
January 31, 2018 was not like any other day for Maanzoni Ranch Guardian, Edwin Lemiso. He had woken up early, as usual, to make rounds in the expansive Maanzoni Ranch, about 70Kms East of Nairobi Capital, to assess the well-being of the beautiful wildlife species in his custody.

Whistling and listening to his pocket radio, Lemiso briskly walked through the animal-made pathways on the dry grass, appreciating the good health most of the animals seemed to have. At one of the far corners of the ranch, he noticed a peculiar behavior exhibited by some two male zebras huddled together. They seemed unperturbed and unmoved by his presence, contrary to what they would do under normal circumstance. While others were hopping away at his sight, those two zebras didn’t move an inch till he was a few meters towards them, when they painstakingly limped away.

Switching off his radio for a closer and eventual examination, Mr. Lemiso noticed that they were in pain as one dragged a wire snare logged on its left forelimb, on the fetlock joint. The other zebra had a snare on its neck and seemed to be writhing in excruciating pain.

As Edwin stood there, with his eyes sunk, he imagined how much pain and distress these animals were experiencing. He racked up his mind and he knew who to call for help; ANAW and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). When the distress call was received, the ever on-standby ANAW Veterinarian, Dr. Dennis Bahati reached out to KWS and within an hour the two teams were at the ranch ready to rescue the two male zebras from the pain inflicted on them by some bushmeat-salivating poachers.

Upon close prognosis after darting and immobilizing the hurting zebras, the vets realized there were severe tissue damages on both animals. The snares were removed, and the animals released to join their folks.

Mr. Lemiso could not hide his joy, “I am very happy to see the zebras not in pain. Thank you, ANAW and KWS.” Gawking at the team, he added, “It is because of what you do, that we shall conserve the heritage of these animals and generations to come will thank you for your continuous good job. Thank you.” He picked up his guiding stick, and walked away with shoulders lifted high, perhaps to monitor and counter-check the welfare of the rest of the species before the vets could leave.

ANAW has a deep understanding that all animals are sentient beings and they suffer when in pain caused by a myriad of factors; poachers’ vice practices being one of them. ANAW has therefore, dedicated resources through our funding partners, and able teams to ensure these emergencies are responded to within the shortest time possible. We thank KWS, Marchig Trust and Humane Society International for continued reliable partnership in saving these animals.
A 2-day course in International Certificate in Humane Education (ICHE) took place in five Counties namely Nairobi, Kiambu, Makueni, Kajiado and Machakos from January 22 to February 2, 2018 with 50 teachers in attendance.

This is a follow up to the continuing roll out of the ‘Promoting Animal Welfare in Schools (PAWS) Program’ that has this year heightened its focus – that of empowering teachers with better understanding of humane education so that they can efficiently pass it on to the ‘waiting’ pupils. A plethora of activities have been lined up to achieve the set-out mandate of the PAWS Program by end of December this year.

Having undergone intense sessions of capacity development, it is important to note that, the training also acted as a transitioning period, laying ground for Ms. Susan Mwai, Certified Humane Education Specialist to take a lead role in training key stakeholders on humane education, laying much emphasis on training more teachers on PAWS Program in Kenya. The mantle was passed on to her from Dr. Stephanie Itle-clark, curriculum developer (ICHE) based in the USA who happened to be present throughout the training.

The 2-days sessions of the ICHE Course, were part of a bigger 5-day course intended to be completed within the same 5 Counties in November this year.

Dr. Stephen Albone, Director of Education program in SPANA graced this phenomenal activity that came at the wake of the introduction of a whole new curriculum of education in Kenya. Teachers commended this great activity that was freely offered to them pointing out that they were now well equipped to develop learner-centered lesson plans through integration of humane pedagogy in their normal lessons.

The main objective of the training was to instill to the teachers the full definition of Humane Education, which is basically encouraging kindness and empathy and the understanding for the need of compassion and respect for people, animals and the environment and understanding that these three components are interconnected. The long-term goal is to develop values and attitudes that lead to prosocial behavior.

Teachers are now down to work as they eagerly await the second part of the training, later in the year.
It was a beehive of activities at ANAW’s booth as tens of residents of Nyandarua County, conservationists and other stakeholders trooped in to hear from our staff especially on the animal welfare issues that would arise if the lake dried up.

ANAW got interviewed by a National Swahili Radio on the importance of the lake to animals.

It was a win for all conservationists as the outgoing Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources, Prof. Judi Wakhungu announced that Lake Ol-Bolossat – the only lake in the expansive central region, was now a protected wetland area, effective January 24, 2018.

Prof. Wakhungu made the good-tidings declaration during this year’s World Wetlands Day celebrations held on the shores of that newly gazetted lake (Ol-Bolossat) in Nyandarua County on February 2, 2018. This international event attended by three Kenyan Cabinet Secretaries was themed: Wetlands for a Sustainable Urban Future.

It was good news for ANAW because Lake Ol-Bolossat, like any other water mass, is habitation to so many animals and when interfered with, the ecosystem is affected which negatively distresses the welfare of the fauna. As a build up to the main event, ANAW participated in a community forum held on 31st January 2018 at Kasuku grounds, next to the lake, with over 300 community representatives from Nyandarua County discussing how to avert human-wildlife conflict arising from the lake and how to conserve the more than 150 Bird species, Hippos and other marine creatures in the lake.
Friends of ANAW achieved a remarkable feat in hiking up the Ololosokuan outback in Ngong on January 22, 2018, the first event of the year.

Participants got to know each other through games and introductions when they gathered at Savannah Sunset Lodge. The three-hour hike brought out discussions on tackling challenges in animal welfare in Africa today.

Through its membership structure, ANAW boosts its outreach effort by creating a ripple effect of spreading the animal welfare messages across the continent. The aim of ANAW, through the Friends of ANAW, is to enable nurturing environment for all animals in Africa.

During lunch, the group bonded, asked questions and demystified misunderstandings on beliefs and stereotypes on challenges faced in protecting wildlife. Friends of ANAW deem it necessary to protect their own - animals at home, in the wilderness, in the lakes, seas and oceans and at the farms.

They also have fun, make friends, engage in physical activity and give hope to those passionate in caring for animals as they go forth on these adventures.
UPCOMING EVENTS

22 February 2018:
Continuous Professional Development training coming up at the University of Nairobi, Upper Kabete to be held at Clinical Studies Seminar room targeting vet professionals. This is in partnership with Vet Treks, Kenya Society for the Protection and Care of Animals (KSPCA) and the University of Nairobi (UoN).

23-25 February 2018:
A 3-day Spay Neuter activity in Tala, Machakos County, accompanied by a vaccination campaign and community sensitization on responsible pet ownership, humane dog population control strategies and rabies prevention. This in partnership with Machakos County Director of Vet services, University of Nairobi (UoN) and VetTreks.

SAVE THE DATE

#ACTION 2018
3-5 September 2018

VENUE: UNITED NATIONS NAIROBI, KENYA.

Registration
Opening Soon

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