From Executive Director’s Desk

Hoping you have kept well since our last edition, we are delighted to once again update you on our animal welfare interventions undertaken within the months of September and October 2017. Your indelible partnership has continued to bring such interventions to great success.

On October 2 - 4, ANAW in conjunction with UN Environment and the Government of Kenya held a successful Africa Animal Welfare Conference at the UN Complex in Nairobi. Following a comprehensive evaluation process, participants felt that the conference was helpful and would form a good forum for discussions on matters of environment and animal welfare across the board. On the overall, 94.4% appreciated the conference saying that they would like civil society-led Africa Animal Welfare Conferences such as this in the future. Of these, 84.8% recommended that these conferences be held on an annual basis.

In this edition, we seek to update you on the joy and fulfilment we experience when an animal is given another chance to live by way of rescue. Better still, when communities begin to change their attitudes on the way they treat a trapped animal – not as a ready meat on the table but an opportunity to save it. That was the case of Green Park Estate in Machakos County.

We are glad to inform you that our continuous creation of awareness to those living with Animals is paying off. This is best exemplified by the distress calls we receive coming from people living with those animals especially when they have seen them ensnared or wounded and want us to help free them from pain and suffering. Relatively, we continue to advance our efforts in preventing and keeping wildlife species away from snares by carrying out regular de-snaring expeditions. We comb the bushes and lift both live and dead wires as you will read in the Friends of ANAW column.

On the advocacy segment, we are strengthening our ties with our partners by participating in activities that promote our strategy and lengthen our relationship.

In this front, we participated and co-sponsored this year’s Global March for Elephants and Rhinos which brought most of the conservation organizations together to raise a voice in saving the last of the remaining elephants, rhinos and lions. Out of the event, about 88 Friends of ANAW were recruited and will be our ambassadors in their respective areas of operation. We also joined in this year’s International Beach Cleanup.

Rabid dog-bite cases are on the rise in many parts of Kenya and especially those areas that have been singled out by the National Rabies Elimination Coordination Committee as hotspots for contracting rabies. One of the hot zones is Machakos County, and this is where we chose to celebrate this year’s World Rabies Day and create awareness on the same by conducting free anti-rabies vaccination campaigns. On the same vein, Kasigau area in Taita Taveta County, a cry for anti-rabies vaccination was answered after residents raised alarm over rampant suspected rabid dog bites. We responded and vaccinated their pets.

Elimination of rabies formed the backbone of our World Animal Day celebrations this year as you will read in our update.

Finally, I would like to wish all of you the very best in all your endeavors even as you take your time to read about the important work we are doing to promote humane treatment of all animals in Africa. We welcome all of you to join us in this fulfilling endeavor.

Josaphat Ngonyo – Executive Director, ANAW
Anti-Rabies Vaccination Campaign
Treat to Kasigau Pets, Taita Taveta County by ANAW

ANAW spread her wings on September 18 – 19, 2017 and collaborated with the Department of Veterinary Services of Taita Taveta County where they jointly conducted a two-day Anti-Rabies Vaccination Campaign in Kasigau area, Voi Sub-County, after alarming reports of increased incidences of dog bites in the area.

The exercise which saw a total of 843 animals (742 dogs and 101 cats) vaccinated was in line with ANAW’s duty in implementation of the National Rabies Elimination Strategy through mass dog vaccination coupled with community awareness and sensitization on rabies prevention and control.

Amid the heavy rains that pounded on the mostly semi-arid area of Kenyan coast, ANAW partnered with local animal health assistants to painstakingly create community awareness on the dangers of rabies and its impacts on the society as well as how to best mitigate spread of the same.

One happy local resident Doreen Mwashemu whose 6 dogs were vaccinated on day two of the campaign had this to say, “I thank ANAW for vaccinating our dogs for free.” “It is such a gift to most of us who cannot afford the high cost of vaccination, which puts us all at risk of contracting rabies in case of a bite by a rabid dog” She gratefully added.

Young boy brought his Dog to be vaccinated by Dr. Ellie – ANAW.
Friends of ANAW Comb the Soysambu Animal Habitat for Snares

Despite working in the IT field, Richard was keen to take part in conservation work in any way he can. For a long time, he has had an interest in helping to protect and care for wildlife. Not expecting much, he joined the team in the monthly de-snaring activity at Soysambu as a Friend of ANAW.

Though de-snaring was a new concept to him, he understood the intricacies and depth of its impact on the hundreds of wildlife populations in Nakuru. Species that are usually targeted include zebras, antelopes, impalas, cape buffaloes, elands, giraffes, gazelles, wildebeests, hartebeests, waterbucks and bushbucks among other animals.

Venturing into the bushes, forests and rocky hills, members of Friends of ANAW learnt about the targeted species, type of snares used, likely areas to find snares and wildlife behavior and human-wildlife conflict in Nakuru and Naivasha. Rangers guided them and demonstrated how to track footsteps and keep away from territorial animals at the same time. The group of 16 people walked for four hours under the hot sun to find 13 live snares and 5 dead snares. We appreciate all the Friends of ANAW members and continue to recruit more to aid us in the great mandate of promoting humane treatment of all animals.

Pictures 1, 2 & 3 showing removal of traps/snares set by poachers at the Soysambu Conservancy
Front Foot Forward: ANAW Joins 2017 Global March for Elephants and Rhino

ANA W joined more than 5000 enthusiastic participants on October 7, 2017 in a walk to mark this year’s Global March for Elephants and Rhinos (GMFER) themed ‘Justice for Wildlife’ meant to increase public awareness about the plight of elephants, rhinos and lions, which have also been on a sharp decline. GMFER is a worldwide call to action to condemn the poaching of elephants, rhinos and the trafficking of wildlife trophies.

The march which started from National Museums of Kenya, in Nairobi and culminated at the Kenya Wildlife Service Headquarters was flagged off by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Natural Resources, Prof. Judi Wakhungu who called upon governments, the civil society, grass root communities and all stakeholders to be proactive and collaborative to ensure the survival of these remaining species - elephants and rhino.

Prof. Wakhungu said, “The future of these keystone species is at stake due to 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.” She added.

ANA W did also participate in a Wildlife Exhibition at KWS Headquarters to showcase our programs and projects we undertake in wildlife conservation. During the exhibition, ANAW’s stand was a beehive of activities as participants thronged to enquire and learn about what we do and how they could participate. As a result, 88 of the participants registered to become Friends of ANAW and are envisaged to spread and practice animal welfare ideals within their core activities. Our visibility and networking was enhanced.
Groomed Habitat for Animal Comfort: International Beach Clean-Up Day

Environmental pollution has proven to be a catastrophic instrument towards biodiversity and nature conservation with considerable damage being seen across the continent. Ocean waste especially plastic bags are a serious threat to the welfare of marine life; more so to turtles that confuse them with jelly fish that form part of their normal diet. Oil spillage in seas has caused immense harm to aquatic life even to the point of near extinction of some species.

During the International Beach clean-up Day held annually every 16th of September, ANAW partnered with other key conservation stakeholders including the Colobus Conservation, South Coast Residents Association, Safari link Airlines, Diani Turtle Watch and individual residents from Diani who are conservation enthusiasts for a 5-mile Diani Beach-shore stretch clean-up exercise.

At the end of the exercise, 1165.5kg (184 bags) of recyclable waste, flip flops, plastic bags and bottles were collected.

It is ANAW’s firm belief that achieving waste-free oceans and seas’ status requires a deliberate and intentional effort from governments, corporate institutions and the whole society in ensuring a conducive and safe environment for both our animals and humans.
Wildlife Species Freed from Pain and Injury

Collective efforts from both the ANAW and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Vet Department Teams guaranteed the continued survival of different wildlife species in different regions where ANAW executes its mandate of safeguarding animals’ freedom from pain, injury and disease. In the month of September and part of October, four rescue excursions were carried out; two in Kibiko, Ngong area within the locale of Kajiado County and the other two in Machakos County.

On the 1st and 5th of September respectively, two giraffes were spotted with snares on the neck in Kibiko area, approximately 30kms west of Nairobi city.

The distress call came from a local resident who immediately informed the ANAW and KWS Teams that quickly responded and removed the painful snares thereby freeing the animals from pain because of the snare injury onto their necks.

In Machakos County, about 70kms east of Nairobi Capital, (on the 5th of September), a female zebra that had wandered into a construction site located within Green Park Estate fell in a ditch and was successfully hoisted out to safety with considerable assistance from the construction workers who had placed the distress call and were overjoyed when finally, the zebra was rescued, leapt to join its fold, and had another chance to live.

Finally, on the 13th of September, a juvenile wildebeest was rescued with a wire snare on the neck at Maanzoni Ranch, Machakos County following a distress call from one of the guardians within the ranch.
Marking 2017 World Animal Day

On 4th October 2017, ANAW joined fellow animal welfare partners and other animal lovers across the world to celebrate this year’s World Animal Day themed: Love for Animals All Day; Every Day, by organizing a one-day field event in Dagorretti, Nairobi County. The event provided a special opportunity to commemorate our love and respect for animals as we celebrated their importance in our communities and in the world.

The objective of this year’s event was to unite animal welfare stakeholders across Africa to celebrate our animals and raise the status of animals to improve the welfare standards in Africa and around the globe.

Hundreds of dog and cat owners thronged the open field, some gently pulling their pets while others carrying them, either on cars or sacks and cartons ready to have them attended to by professional vets, receive free anti-rabies vaccinations and deworming administered. Minor clinical cases were also carried out. At the end of the well-attended event, 455 animals were attended to.

In ANAW, we believe that one of the ways of promoting humane treatment of all animals is through increased awareness and education. In this way, we can create a world where animals are always recognized as sentient beings and full regard always paid to their welfare.

Speaking during the celebrations, ANAW’s Executive Director, Mr. Josphat Ngonyo, thanked all the animal welfare partners who included Kenya Society for the Protection and Care for Animals (KSPCA), The Donkey Sanctuary Kenya & United Kingdom, Brooke, Humane Society International (HSI), University Veterinary Students and lecturers drawn from Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology, University of Nairobi and Kenyatta University; and all the representatives from Africa – Lesotho, Nigeria, Uganda, Tanzania, Mauritius, South Africa and Ghana for gracing and supporting the occasion, making it a success.

Children brought their animals to have Vets do checkups on them for free.
ANAW Launches Rabies Elimination Campaign in Machakos County

To mark this year’s World Rabies Day, ANAW partnered with Machakos County Veterinary Department on September 22, 2017 to roll out a campaign strategy aimed at eliminating rabies by way of conducting a structured systematic rabies vaccination campaign for the next 3 consecutive years. According to a recent World Health Organization (WHO) report, Machakos was identified as one of the rabies-burdened counties in Kenya with the highest dog bite cases reported with most incidences occurring in young children below the age of 5.

Speaking at the Mitaboni Shopping Centre, which was the main venue for the celebration, ANAW’s Executive Director Josphat Ngonyo, thanked the Machakos County Director of Veterinary Services Dr. David Waweru and his team for accepting to partner with ANAW to create awareness on the rabies elimination campaign.

Reiterating the importance of the campaign, Mr. Ngonyo said, “Rabies is a fatal disease, and as research has indicated, the disease claims lives of around 59,000 people annually worldwide; that is nearly one death, every nine minutes.” “Most affected are countries in Africa and Asia, and almost half of the victims are children under the age of 15.” He added.

During the celebrations cum the rabies elimination campaign launch, a free vaccination clinic was set up in two shopping centres (Mitaboni and Mumbuni) and a total of 1042 animals (981 dogs, 43 Cats and 18 Donkeys) were vaccinated and owners issued with a multi-use Vaccination Certificate. Consequently, over 800 residents were sensitized on rabies and dog bite management and the role of community in supporting the collaboration between ANAW and Machakos County government to eliminate rabies in the area.

Through your partner support and dedicated participation by all delegates, the conference achieved its set objectives ranging from establishing a connection between Animal Welfare, Environment and development with Pollution to Capacity Building amongst participants.

In our day to day activities, we also acknowledge support of The Society for the Protection of Animals Abroad (SPANA) for supporting Animal Welfare clubs through the Promoting Animal Welfare in Schools programme - PAWS, The Marching Trust for supporting Animal rescues and the Humane Society International for supporting Animal Welfare.

CLICK HERE FOR CONFERENCE PICTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND FEEDBACK FROM DELEGATES RESPECTIVELY.