



Anne K. Taylor Fund

2005 YEAR END SUMMARY FOR COMMUNITY BASED CONSERVATION PROJECT IN THE MASAI MARA

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UPDATE AND THANKS FOR SUPPORT

During the last year the Anne K. Taylor Fund has been able to continue with important work in the Masai Mara. We thank Asgar Pathan and Care for the Wild, UK and Kenya for their help with our projects this year as well as critical support from the American Foundation, Humane Society of the United States through the Alice Morgan Wright-Edith Goode Fund, Dallas Zoo Chapter of AAZK, Pegasus Foundation, Sanctuary Spa and Salon of Billings, MT and Wildize Foundation in Aspen, CO. We would also like to thank the following individuals and family foundations for their continued support; Elizabeth Boehmler, George Bunn Jr., Sir John Collins, Anne Cusic, Denver Chapter of APTA, Dyan Tresenfeld/Ed Waldrup, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Jackson, Johnson Family Foundation, Gwyn Gordon Knowlton, Stuart Lansing, McBride Family Foundation, Donna Meyer, Muffie Murray, Frederick Murray, Dr. Mark Randak, Randak Family Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Taylor Jr., and Anne Young. In addition we are able to rent vehicles for our project at reduced rates from Abercrombie and Kent. Friends of Conservation in Nairobi offered considerable assistance, particularly Lynne Nkatha. We are still supported to a large extent by personal donations from individuals to whom we are most grateful and thank all of you for your continued assistance.

This year we have greatly expanded our efforts to provide economic incentives in terms of micro enterprise businesses for the Maasai women and other Kenyans (see results for more information on this work). A special thanks to Becky Adams, Pat Davidson from Davidson Designs, Sandra Reiter, Susan Sidd, and Sanctuary Spa and Salon in Billings, MT, for helping us expose the public to our wire animal sculptures. Many thanks also to the Sheeley Family in Aspen, CO, who have been marketing the beaded bracelets to support the project. Of course a special thanks to all our friends that have supported the project through their purchases of the beaded work and snare sculptures.

The Anne K. Taylor Fund still works closely with Brian Heath and the Mara Conservancy, the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Narok County Council and the Koiyaki Wildlife Trust and we thank them for their cooperation and participation in our project. Many of the camps in the region provide logistical assistance including, Little Governor's Camp, Governor's Camp, Kichwa Tembo, Olonana and Serena. We wish to thank everyone for supporting us so generously. With the help of Eli Weiss of

Wildize Foundation, we were able to show environmental education films translated into local languages to hundreds of people in the local community.

I would also like to thank our team leader, James Evanson Kariuki, for his steadfastness and persistence in staying with our project since the beginning. We expect he will continue the great job he has done in leading the team of young Maasai that includes, William Korose, Saruni Ole Kitonu, Nengoju Ole Leluka, Nelson Ole Nakuso, Lelimpa Olongoswa, Mark Liriam Perselela and Ben Paswa Rramet. These young men have also been with the project since the very beginning and without their dedication and bravery the project would not be the success it is today. In addition, we would like to give a special thanks to Bernie Githigi for the help she provides with organizing logistics for the project as well as Joseph Mpatiany and James Kones for their personal support.

INTRODUCTION TO THE MASAI MARA

The Masai Mara forms the northern extension of the vast Serengeti - Mara ecosystem and is home to one of the last great wildlife migrations on earth. Unlike the National Parks in Kenya, which are run by the government, the Masai Mara is a National Reserve, held in trust by the local district councils. To effectively manage the Reserve, there has been a need to generate revenue, to balance the use of the reserve area between the local communities and wildlife and to harmonize the traditionally semi-nomadic Maasai lifestyle with tourism and new concepts in conservation. The region is experiencing a rapidly changing culture and land use towards a more sedentary agricultural society that is placing ever increasing pressure on the amount of open land that is available for wildlife and thus increasing instances of human/wildlife conflict.

The Masai Mara reserve is Kenya's most visited protected area and world famous for its high density of herbivores and predators as well as the annual wildebeest and zebra migration. The land is composed of open rolling grasslands, riverine forests, acacia woodlands, swamps and non-deciduous thickets and boulder strewn escarpments. There is great biodiversity here with over 95 species of mammal recorded and over 480 bird species.

As a nonpolitical nonprofit entity we strive to work in cooperation with the various stakeholders in the Masai Mara region. We have a good working relationship with the Government Minister from this area, senior council members, wardens and rangers, tourist companies and operators, community elders and school committees and other NGO's, such as Friends of Conservation and The Mara Conservancy.

A NEW THREAT TO AFRICA'S WILDLIFE

In the past few decades poaching for ivory and rhino horn have devastated populations of elephant and rhino all over Africa. Kenya has often led the African

nations in their battle against poaching. Currently the commercial bushmeat trade threatens the existence of the large plains animals and many other species all over Africa. It is important to note that the commercial bushmeat trade is very different from subsistence hunting which has occurred for centuries. The bushmeat trade is conducted at unsustainable levels within protected areas and is often run by criminal organizations that profit from selling the meat in larger cities. For further information about the bushmeat crisis please visit www.bushmeat.org. Our project is listed on this site as one of the few working against this problem that threatens the wildlife in Kenya.

ANNE K. TAYLOR FUND MISSION STATEMENT

The Anne K. Taylor Fund was created to encourage and assist individuals, communities and corporations to conserve, protect and restore biodiversity through sound economic activities that are ecologically sustainable.

OBJECTIVES OF OUR WORK

1. ANTIPOACHING PATROLS

- Provide assistance to the local County Council rangers, Mara Conservancy, Kenya Wildlife Service and the surrounding communities for antipoaching patrols.
- Remove snares from the forest and riverine habitats.
- Determine snaring hotspots and document poaching incidents.
- Recheck known poachers' camps from past visits to determine their level of activity.
- Act as a deterrent to poaching activity by having a presence in areas not frequently visited by tourists or reserve authorities.
- Document animals killed by poachers.

2. WILDLIFE RESCUES

- When possible rescue animals found with human induced injuries.

3. COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Provide support to the schools in the community in order to help develop the trust and confidence of the local Maasai communities.
- Conduct children and teacher wildlife conservation educational programs at local schools in the community.
- Employ local Maasai on our projects to further develop community awareness and support of wildlife conservation initiatives.
- Support local initiatives and training/education programs such as reforestation projects, first aid and medical training, anti-litter campaigns, and art programs.

- Help create micro-enterprise opportunities for Maasai and other Kenyans that can help lead to sustainable development practices in and around the Masai Mara.
- Create opportunities for adult education of team members through special grants and programs.

4. DEVELOP REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO ADDRESS THE BUSHMEAT TRADE

- Create interest and support in wildlife conservation from tour operators and tourist facilities in the region.
- Work in cooperation with other NGO's to further our goals of wildlife conservation.
- Educate tourists visiting the region about the problem of the commercial bushmeat trade.

RESULTS OF PROJECTS IN 2005

1. ANTIPOACHING PATROLS

- This year we were able to complete ten (two-week duration) antipoaching patrols. We were able to meet our goal of running ten sweeps this year and hope to continue running 10-12 sweeps each year along with our other activities. We have seen continued poaching pressure and feel we act as a deterrent to poaching when our teams are in the region. Team members collected and or disabled 869 snares of different types. Poachers use many types of snares from the standard wire snare to spring snares and pit and stick snares all designed to kill animals. In addition we have documented evidence of poachers using dogs for hunting and using poisoned arrows.
- In the poachers' camps and from evidence from field patrols we documented a total of 120 animals killed by poachers and over 117 animals injured from human activities. Scientific estimates of the number of animals killed each year by poachers in the Serengeti/Mara ecosystem range over 20,000. If one assumes a 5% daily success rate for a snare (which is a low estimate) – then it is estimated that 1000 snares will kill 18,250 animals a year.



Zebra butchered for only the choice cuts of meat and left to rot.

- Obviously our findings are just a glimpse of the actual number of animals killed each year by poachers. What is interesting to note from these numbers is the range of different species killed. *The list includes more than 20 different species of animals that were killed by poachers.* Snaring is an indiscriminate form of poaching and results in the death of non-target species such as lions, leopards, hyenas and elephants



Ben Rramet and a beautiful eland killed by poachers.

- We succeeded in assisting in the arrest of ten poachers this year.
- We continued to document elephants with trunks cut by wire snares. Unfortunately the change in the CITES regulations concerning the trade in ivory has resulted in an increase in elephant poaching in Kenya. The disruption of the tight family networks of elephants and their normal migratory movements can result in the starvation and loss of young elephants in the herd which were not even the target of the ivory poachers. Below is a picture of a dead young elephant found by team members.

- This year we documented two lions killed by community members in the region in retaliation for livestock depredations. We documented significant numbers of cases of human/wildlife conflict and held community forums to discuss and address community concerns. On literally every two-week patrol we had reports of human/wildlife conflict. These reports ranged from wildlife such as elephant, hippo and antelope invading crops and gardens to the loss of livestock due to leopard, lion, hyena and baboons. Living with wildlife near the reserve is not easy.
- Many of our team members have lost domestic livestock to wildlife depredations. Their actions to secure their enclosures more carefully instead of retaliating and killing the predators are an example to the community of proper measures to take in this circumstance. Our team has held training meetings on the proper security measures that should be taken to protect livestock without using poison or killing predators. To provide better security for the community and protect the reserve from illegal cattle grazing the team has also begun assisting in the recovery of stolen cattle.

2. WILDLIFE RESCUES

During the year we were able to continue working with Dr. Kashmiri on wildlife rescues in the Mara region. This year we supported Kashmiri with a large supply of vet drugs and other supplies for the animal rescues but still do not pay him a salary for his time, which he kindly donates. He was able to conduct several rescues, including one buffalo and the endangered black rhino. Generally animals recover very well from their wounds once the snare is removed and antibiotics have been administered.



Dr. Kashmiri and our team immobilizing and treating an injured buffalo.

3. COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

This year we added another school to our sponsored list, which now totals 14 and over 3200 children. We help these schools with textbooks and sports equipment and present programs on environmental issues. We also presented

textbooks to everyone on the team and rangers with children at home so they can give their children an extra jump on learning during the school holidays.

We continued with our field trip program taking countless students, their parents and other family members into the reserve to witness wildlife from the safety of a vehicle and learn their importance. Their enthusiasm for this program is very rewarding to see and really makes a difference in helping them understand what an incredibly valuable resource their wildlife is to the world. We have seen an increased interest in our conservation work from the school children. They now expect to see us and our team members on a regular basis. **They continue to show their concern for wildlife protection and turn in many wire snares that they retrieve while tending livestock.** We believe this is a very positive sign of their interest and the success of our programs.

With a special donation ear-tagged for educational purposes we were able to sponsor one of our Maasai team members, Mark Liaram, to attend a one year program at the Koyaki Lemek Guiding School. Mark did very well on his exams and should now have a great future in conservation and guiding in the Masai Mara. This school only recently opened and is especially designed for the Maasai so that they will be better equipped to make sound decisions in the Mara region which is undergoing rapid change.

This February Anne has arranged for Evanson and the Maasai team members to climb Mt. Kenya and then assist on patrols with Bongo Woodley's rangers to learn from them and get some perspective of the poaching problem all around Kenya. It will also be very exciting for the team members to see snow for the first time and witness first hand the results of severe deforestation as it is now occurring in the Mara region as well. In 2003, the team went on a field trip to Lake Victoria where they were fascinated to learn about a grass roots project in the Kakamega Forest and see domestic pigs for the first time!

4. DEVELOP REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT TO ADDRESS THE BUSHMEAT TRADE

- We continue to work with the local tour operators, camp managers and local guides and drivers.
- We educate the clients of A.K. Taylor International as to the serious threat the bushmeat trade has for Africa's wildlife and what is being done to address the problem. Many have been exposed to our projects during their visits to the Masai Mara and have offered their assistance.
- We continue to bring national and international attention to our work through different sources of media.



We recently started working with the acclaimed Kenyan artist Kioko Mwitiki who is making beautiful small wire sculptures of African animals from wire snares that our team collects. This is recycling with a flare. The small sculptures cost \$50.00 each, which goes back to the conservation work we do. Please call us if you would like to order one. (406) 656-0706

Along with the wire sculptures we have created more opportunities for economic development with our Maasai women's beading group. These beaded bracelets are sold in stores in Aspen, CO and are also available for purchase from Anne for \$50.00. We believe economic independence and educational opportunities for African women are important for the survival of the Maasai and their environment.

Kenyan artist Kioko Mwitiki and his wire art sculptures.



Beautiful beaded bracelets.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

We are pleased with what we have been able to accomplish with the help of so many. In 2006 we hope to do much more and plan to conduct more sweeps than ever before. We hope that through continued education of local community members about the importance of wildlife we will be able to preserve some of the amazing natural resources in this region for future generations.

We are currently looking into the use of trained scent dogs to locate wire snares in the bush. This would greatly increase the efficiency of our team and act as a deterrent to poachers operating in the region. Currently there is already a team working on another de-snaring project with these dogs in Kenya, with great success. If anyone would like to provide special funding to move this project along it would be greatly appreciated. We will need to carefully train dogs and handlers but feel it would be a very worthwhile effort.

We look forward to the New Year and thank all those many friends and organizations that share in our passion to help the Masai people protect their wildlife heritage which is a gift to us all.

Please make donation checks out to:

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A special thanks to Friends of Conservation for their support of our work. 100% of the FOC donations with Anne K. Taylor Fund reference are used to support our Mara projects.