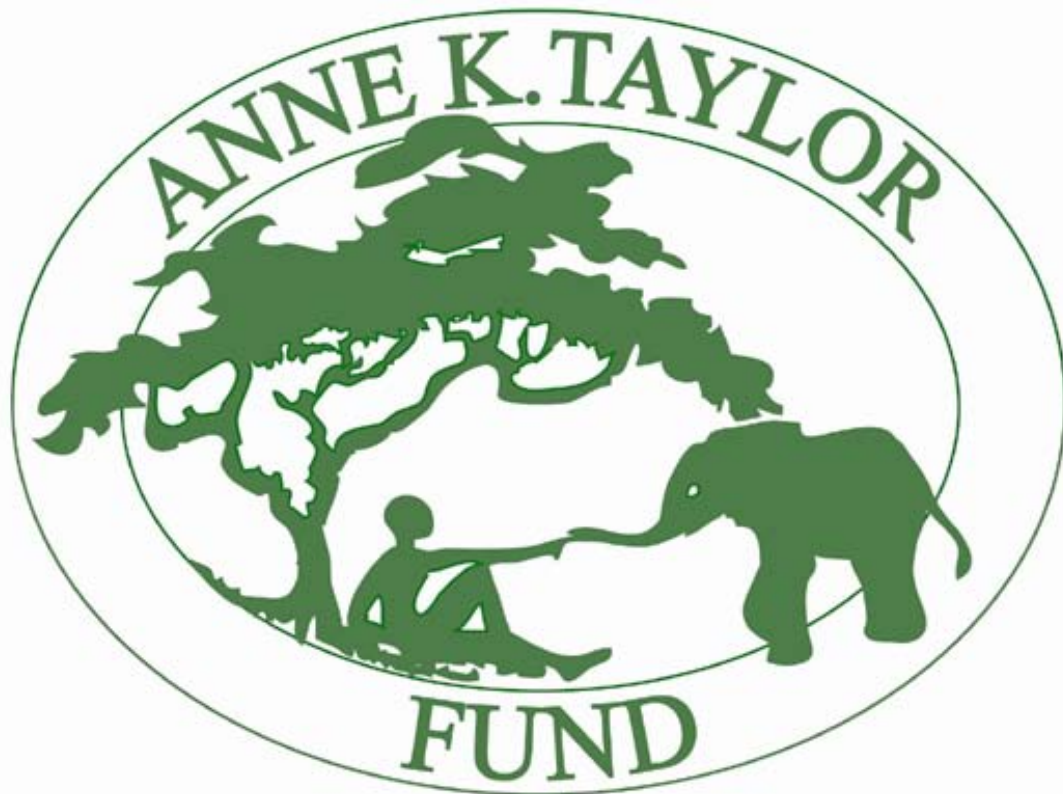


2007 YEAR END SUMMARY FOR
COMMUNITY BASED CONSERVATION
PROJECT IN THE
MASAI MARA, KENYA



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.

Dear Friends and Supporters:

As 2007 draws to a close, it is time for me to thank all of you who have again chosen to support the Anne K. Taylor Fund 501(c)3 and its community conservation work in Kenya's Masai Mara Game Reserve. I have big plans for 2008 and with your help I know we can achieve them. You should know that I and AK Taylor International provide all the administrative costs of running the Anne K. Taylor Fund at no charge, in order to ensure that nearly every penny of your money goes into projects on the ground.

Enclosed you will find the 2007 year end report. This report will soon be available for viewing on our website www.aktaylor.com. Look under Anne K. Taylor Fund and then go to Project Reports. I hope you will be pleased with all that has been achieved this year and I want you all to know how beneficial your generous donations are to both the wildlife and people of the Masai Mara. The progress is mostly visible with fewer injured animals being found, snaring decreasing (as the poachers move away from the Reserve due to the pressure being exerted on them). Of greater importance, however, is the change in the local community's attitude towards conservation. In order to secure their own financial future, which depends on the tourist industry, the Masai now recognize the need to save their wildlife and **they** understand that ultimately only they can make this happen. Our support is making it possible for them to make a difference.

I thank you again for believing in us and helping us achieve more each year. **To quote Edmund Burke "Nobody makes a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little"**. When I started this project, I did not know where it would lead but I have seen how it has positively impacted the local people over the last nine years. This is what makes it worthwhile and we can all be happy that we have made a difference in preserving the wildlife for future generations and have improved the lives of so many people. This is an invaluable gift and I thank you for your help and generosity.

This year we are very grateful to several new donors who have given us very generous funding. These include the Lynn Chase Wildlife Foundation (thanks to Cynthia Stebbins, a Board member, for recommending our project and introducing me to the LCWF)), Ritz Family Foundation, Case/Phelps families, Edward E. Hills Fund, Mr. James R. Scott, The Luck/Haw/Harrigan families, The Charles Engelhard Foundation, Sophie Craighead, Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Chickering, Morrison Family Foundation, Molly Steel, Kent and Karen Cochran, and Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund that provided funds towards the purchase of a vehicle that Dr. Asuka Takita will use for the distemper and rabies vaccination programme. Thank you for joining our "family" of supporters. For a complete list of supporters please (see) turn to the end of this report.

With gratitude and warm regards,

Anne Kent Taylor

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 mammals 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, Kenya Wildlife Service, senior council members, wardens and rangers, tourist companies and operators, community elders and school committees and other NGO's, such as Care for the Wild Kenya, the Born Free Foundation, Friends of Conservation and The Mara Conservancy.

OBJECTIVES OF OUR WORK

I. 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.
- Transportation assistance/or vehicles for many projects in the area.
- 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. Recently we collaborated with Dr. Abigail Allison to create hand puppets to use in educational programmes.
- Employ local Maasai on our projects to further develop community awareness and support of wildlife conservation initiatives.
- Distemper and rabies vaccination programme in Maasai communities. This is a new project we are working on with Dr. Asuka Takita that is a serious human health issue as well as domestic animals and wildlife both in the Reserve and the surrounding area.
- Mobile Film Unit for environmental educational purposes. This work is done in partnership with the Born Free Foundation.

4. SUPPORT LOCAL INITIATIVES TO BETTER THE LIVES OF THE MAASAI

- Help create micro-enterprise opportunities for Maasai and other Kenyans that can help lead to sustainable development practices in and around the Masai Mara.
- Support local initiatives and training/education programs such as reforestation projects, first aid and medical training, anti-litter campaigns, and art programs.
- Create opportunities for adult education of team members.
- Chili Pepper Project – A means to naturally deter elephants from corn fields and reduce human/wildlife conflict issues around the Masai Mara.
- Women's Beading Initiative, Kilgoris, Masai Mara. Through a micro loan programme AKTF loaned start up funds to a women's group to make beaded bracelets. AKTF sells these in the US at Sage Spa and Salon and our website.
- Snare Art Sculptures – Using wire from confiscated snares collected by our team members in the Masai Mara we have employed a local Kenyan artist to create beautiful wildlife sculptures.

RESULTS OF PROJECTS IN 2007

1. ANTIPOACHING PATROLS

This year we restructured the team and how they patrol. Our team members now work full time under the Mara Conservancy, with us (Care for the Wild (CFTW) UK and Kenya and AKTF) continuing to pay their salaries. This will be more effective as

patrolling is continuous rather than in two week periods. The team continues to remove many snares and, working alongside Conservancy rangers, apprehends poachers. Our new Suzuki is being used for patrols. Thank you to the Mara Conservancy.



AKTF de-snaring team and rangers find piles of meat in a poachers camp.

Mobility is one of the biggest challenges in Kenyan conservation and vehicles are expensive to buy and maintain. For these reasons, AKTF decided to invest in the purchase of five Suzuki Maruti 4x4 vehicles. Thanks to Martin Forster of Cooper Motors, Nairobi, for allowing us to purchase these vehicles at a reduced rate for conservation purposes. Thanks, also, to all our supporters whose contributions to AKTF went towards the purchase of these vehicles. It is money well spent.

The vehicles will be used as follows:

- #1 **ANNE K. TAYLOR FUND, SUZUKI**- Care for the Wild, Kenya sold their Landrover and it has not yet been replaced. AKTF bought a small Suzuki Maruti so that our team can continue with their patrols over large distances. CFTW maintains the AKTF vehicle and takes care of the running costs.
- #2 **OLARE OROK CONSERVANCY, MASAI MARA, SUZUKI**- This vehicle was purchased by AKTF with generous designated funding from the Edward E. Hills Fund and Nicholas and Karen Chickering. It was donated for patrolling and community purposes.
- #3 **MARA CONSERVANCY, SUZUKI** – This vehicle was purchased by AKTF and donated to the Mara Conservancy. It is to be used for patrolling and helping to

monitor the human/wildlife conflict, particularly during the wildebeest migration when visitor numbers increase dramatically. The presence of this vehicle and a ranger patrolling the Mara Reserve deters visitors from approaching wildlife (particularly the cheetah which are diurnal hunters) too closely, which causes great stress. Tickets are issued to drivers who “misbehave”, which is critical for the well being of the animals.

4 **MARA CONSERVANCY, SUZUKI** – Generous contributions for this patrol vehicle were made by the Case/Phelps families and Abercrombie and Kent to the Mara Conservancy, with AKTF contributing to the balance. This vehicle is based in a different area from Suzuki #3 and will be used for similar wildlife monitoring purposes/patrolling in a different area of the Mara Reserve and its presence is a deterrent for poachers.

5 **DR. ASUKA TAKITA, SUZUKI** - Due to a serious outbreak of both rabies and distemper in local Masai dogs, AKTF sponsored Dr. Asuka Takita to vaccinate as many dogs as possible along the Mara Reserve boundary. The vehicle she was using was in bad need of replacement if this programme was to continue. With partial funding from the Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund we hope to be able to help her purchase this new vehicle.

- We continue to document elephants with trunks cut by wire snares. While not specifically targeted, the elephant frequently get caught in the snares while foraging and end up with severed trunks or dragging a snare.
- **Snaring is an indiscriminate form of poaching and results in the death of non-target species such as lions, leopards, hyenas and elephants.** Our findings are just a glimpse of the actual number of animals killed each year.
- Living with wildlife near the reserve is not easy. In an attempt to help reduce the financial loss of livestock to Maasai in the region the Mara Conservancy is now paying for livestock losses in the region. When a leopard or hyenas attack a compound it is often not just one or two goats that are killed but a dozen or more. We commend and support this action which is modeled after programs in the US where ranchers are paid for losses of livestock to predators.

2. WILDLIFE RESCUES AND DISTEMPER AND RABIES VACCINATION PROGRAMME

During the year we were able to continue working with Dr. Kashmiri and the Kenya Wildlife Service on wildlife rescues in the Mara region. We help support Kashmiri and these vets with donations of vet drugs and other supplies for the animal rescues. We are still seeking a more permanent solution in terms of a resident vet.

Several years ago, a large percentage of lion and other carnivores were lost to canine distemper in Tanzania's Serengeti National Park. Luckily, we were able to learn from this crisis and now have a system in place in the Masai Mara to prevent this from occurring again. This vaccination programme is administered by Dr. Asuka Takita with help from AKTF.



Dr. Asuka Takita with Masai community members



Dog handler with newly vaccinated dog

To date, Dr. Takita has vaccinated over 2500 dogs, with still more to go. She estimates that approximately a month's worth of work still remains with the goal of vaccinating another 1000+ dogs. The approximate cost for this work will be \$5000.00. This is a monumental task as the dogs are not used to being handled and the area she is covering is vast. She is working both with scientists from the Serengeti and the local Kenyan authorities. You can learn more about her work by going to "blogs" on www.wildlifedirect.org



RESCUE OF "LITTLE KILGORIS" BY AKTF TEAM

Our team assisted in the rescue of a tiny baby elephant which had been swept down a flooded river and was separated from his mother. He followed a herd of cows back to a Masai village. Amazingly, the village chief walked the baby elephant to the Kenya Wildlife Service headquarters, about 15 km away! Our team was called in to assist and Little Kilgoris was flown to Nairobi by the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust. You can learn more about this orphaned elephant and others at (www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org) If you would like to adopt one of these orphans through AKTF ***please let us know. It takes an incredible amount of time and resources to raise one of these orphans and introduce them back to a wild herd.



Little Narok

LITTLE NAROK

An abandoned newborn baby impala was also brought to us. We are very excited about these rescues because it means that the local population is now recognizing that we are available to help in these situations.

2. COMMUNITY EDUCATION

MOBILE FILM UNIT

In 2007 AKTF purchased a mobile film unit for educational purposes. In partnership with Born Free Foundation, we have, in this year alone, brought the message of “bushmeat” (illegal, indiscriminate and unsustainable poaching of wildlife for commercial gain) and conservation to over 100,000 local Kenyans. The medium of film is very effective and has shown a HUGE breakthrough in how people view poaching at this time, as opposed to nine years ago when I started the de-snaring project. This is why community “conservation education” is high on our list of priorities. In the early days there was little understanding of what was actually happening and thus, no action was taken by the local communities. Now they are “on board” and wildlife has a chance. Poachers are no longer welcomed nor tolerated by the Masai in the Mara.

Environmental education is also increasingly important as modern agriculture takes root in the areas surrounding the Mara Reserve. Fences for these large scale commercial farms are incompatible with migratory animals and increasingly result in the death and displacement of wildlife.





Giraffe found entangled and drowned in fencing wire.

HAND PUPPETS AS TOYS AND EDUCATIONAL TOOLS

In collaboration with Dr. Abigail Allison, we are starting another community project which will be both educational and fun. This will be a cottage industry with Abigail designing hand puppets which can be used in puppet shows as a tool to bring the conservation message to the young Masai in whose hands the future of our wildlife will lie. The puppet characters will be poachers, Masai families, tourists and the animals.

Masai children have few toys so we will market these hand puppets as best we can and give them to the Masai children who can make up their own stories. I think this might be a valuable tool in helping the younger generations to understand the value of the wildlife and what needs to be done to sustain it through the medium of story-telling.



Hand puppets for educational programmes

PUSANGI PRIMARY SCHOOL, MASAI MARA:



We currently operate environmental educational programs at 14 schools which serve over 4,000 students. We purchased and the school installed a 4600 liter water tank/gutter rain harvesting system so that the children in this school may have clean water (or any water) to drink during the school day. This is a very remote school and just getting the tank to the school was a major achievement! To date, we have purchased and installed tanks in five schools in the area and will do more as funding allows. In addition, we have purchased text books and sports equipment for the children and planted tree seedlings so there will be a lovely forest surrounding the school, as long as the elephants and goats do not eat them.

The wish list for this particular school now includes building an additional classroom as the existing ones are overflowing now that Kenya has instigated free primary education.



Anne with students and their parents

EMUROTOTO PRIMARY SCHOOL, MASAI MARA

With generous donations from some of our guests, we were able to purchase a large number of desks to help this school which is, again, very overcrowded. Some children have no desks at all and others have to share one desk between several students. We also provided more textbooks and sports equipment (having done this previously). The balls for any sport do not last very long due to the thorns on and around the respective fields! The girls' netball team is doing well and for the first time they have a sport of their own.

ADULT EDUCATION AND BOOKS FOR TEAM MEMBERS AND RANGERS

As a special project this year we provided a teacher for several of our team members who showed an interest in becoming literate. They were very excited by this program and opportunity and are progressing well. We believe it is important to assist our team members with their professional development and seek ways to help them.



Anne K. Taylor Fund Team Members from left to right: Elias Kamande, Ole Nelson Nakuso, Ole Ben Rramet, Ole Peter Kilonga, Missing; William Korose and Ole Sirere

KOYAKI GUIDING SCHOOL (KGS) SCHOLARSHIPS, MASAI MARA

In an effort to empower women, we are sponsoring Miriam Kipas for a year's course at the KGS. This is an intensive programme covering a number of disciplines including conservation. She has achieved 100% on her written exam and has been well received. If you would like to know more about the Koiyaki Guiding school you may visit their website at: <http://www.koiyaki.com/> A year's scholarship costs approximately \$2000.00. If anyone is interested in making a donation towards a student's scholarship, you may do it through the Anne K. Taylor Fund 501(c)3 which would make your donation tax deductible. We can choose a qualified candidate.

MICRO-ENTERPRISE PROJECTS

Women's Beading Group

Our community projects expanded this last year with a women's project with beaded bracelets. We loaned the women's group start up money to buy beads and supplies. They then design and make the bracelets and sell them to Anne at Kenya market prices. AKTF brings them back to the USA for distribution to various people that sell them. The money is then returned to the women. The women collectively decide what to do with the profits. Our only requirement is that it has to help the community and not just a few individuals. Their first exciting purchase in 2006 was a grain grinding machine which helps reduce their daily work. They can also lease out the use of this machine and generate some income. It is a small success story that we are thrilled to have been a part of.

Sage Spa and Salon in Montana is marketing the bracelets on our behalf.

www.sagespasalon.com. They have a recent interview with me on the project – if anyone is interested in listening to it, please go to:

http://www.sagespaliving.com/sia_login.php and click on the 'sia podcast' graphic - when the player launches you'll see the 2 podcasts if you scroll down slightly.



With their profits from this year they want to build a small shop to provide basic needs (corn, fruit, eggs, milk, vegetables, etc.) to the community, who currently have to walk for miles to the closest market. We are close to making this a reality.



IF ANYONE WOULD LIKE TO BUY A BRACELET (OR TWO!) TO HELP THE WOMEN'S PROJECT, PLEASE LET US KNOW AND WE WILL SHIP THEM TO YOU. PLEASE CONTACT US AT 406 294 9430 OR explore@aktaylor.com. THEY COST \$30.00 EACH PLUS POSTAGE.

Snare Art

To utilize the destructive snares in a productive way we work with a world class Kenya artists to design and market small animal sculptures. Please let us know if you would like to buy any wire art sculptures or bracelets. This is recycling with a flare. The small sculptures cost \$50.00 each, which goes back to the Mara projects.

We have rhino, lion, warthog, giraffe and elephant. They are \$50.00 each, plus postage.



Snare art commissioned through Kioko Mwitiki, world renowned Kenyan artist.

Should you want to make any purchases, please contact us at 406 294 9430 or explore@aktaylor.com and we can ship them out immediately.

CHILI PEPPER PILOT PROJECT

In an effort to deter elephants from raiding nearby maize farms, we initiated a pilot chili pepper project as elephants do not like their smell. A piece of rope is dipped in engine oil, rubbed in dried chili pepper which is then used as a fence to surround the farm. It is quite successful and we would like to expand this project. If we can get the Masai to grow chili peppers, rather than maize, we could find a market for the peppers (make salsa etc) which would bring them a steady income with which they could buy their maize from other sources and the elephant/human conflict would be diminished considerably. This will be an ambitious project but worth a try!

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Finally, unlike so many organizations that often spend a lot of money to solicit donations and other funding; we rely entirely on your unsolicited support. None of us have the time or capability to seek out donations or write proposals. It is also important to mention that, with the help of Mary Zrubek and my daughter Farley, I am able to do all the administration connected with the project at no cost to the Fund which allows all of your donations to go back into the field where they belong. Without your continuing support we would definitely crumble! So, once again, please know how valuable your support is for the operation of this worthwhile project. Thank you so very much.

I hope that in 2008 we will reach new heights with your help.

Thank you,



Anne K. Taylor Fund

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Billings, MT 59102
Ph: (406) – 656 0706
Email: anne@aktaylor.com

In 2007 the following donors contributed generously to the Anne K. Taylor Fund 501(c)3.

Peter Bender/Anne Ostberg – Pegasus Foundation
Mr. Seth Bent
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Brinley, Morrison Family Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. George R. Bunn Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Willard Bunn Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Ben Case
Lynn Chase and the Lynn Chase Wildlife Foundation
Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Chickering, the N.R. Chickering Charitable Fund
Sophie Craighead, The Charles Englehard Foundation
Kent and Kern Cochran
Anne Cusic
Disney Wildlife Conservation Fund
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Everett
Hazel Ford, Frogfoot Limited
Roy and Gretchen Jackson
Martin Forster, Cooper Motors Corporation Holdings, Nairobi, Kenya
Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Harrigan and family
Margaret S. Hart
Mr. and Mrs. Sheppard Haw and family
Ingrid Hills, Edward E. Hills Fund
The Humane Society of the United States
Mr. and Mrs. Henry T. Johnson
Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Johnson, Johnson Family Foundation
Mr. Jim Johnson, Johnson Family Foundation
Dana C. Jones
Kelpie Arts, LLC
Gwynn Knowlton
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lansing
Mr. Stuart Lansing
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas P. Lowe
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Luck and family
Mr. John McBride, McBride Family Foundation
Mr. Ian McLaughlin
Barbara Maas, Care for the Wild, England
Mr. and Mrs. David Meyer
Donna Meyer
Mr. and Mrs. Harold M. Morrison, Morrison Family Foundation
Devon Page McCleary
Asgar Pathan, Care for the Wild Kenya
Patricia and Herbert Pearthree
Anne Pendergast
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Phelps
Dr. and Mrs. Mark Randak
Ritz Family Foundation
John F. Root/Vivian Latta Root

Mr. James Scot
 Mr. and Mrs. Don Sheeley and family
 Valerie C. Spencer, The Broadwater Foundation, American Foundation
 Molly Steel
 Mr. and Mrs. Peter Taylor

Special thanks to **Devon Page McCleary** for choosing AKTF as her organization of choice to receive a percentage of her jewelry sales from the Barneys Christmas catalogue, where our name was mentioned giving us extensive exposure. Thanks to her and her annual generous support.

Special thanks also to the following who have supported us from the beginning and continue to do so:

Jim, Jesse and Mary Johnson and the Johnson Family Foundation
 Roy and Gretchen Jackson
 Peter Bender and Anne Ostberg, Pegasus Foundation
 Humane Society of the United States
 John McBride, McBride Family Foundation

Long term and consistent funding allows us to make long term plans which are very important to our work.

Thanks to **Sage Spa and Salon in Montana** for selling the women's group beaded bracelets and our snare art sculptures.

Thanks to **Davidson Designs in Billings** for selling the snare art with all proceeds being returned to AKTF

As a result of limited personal mention in previous years, I would now like to acknowledge and thank several friends/donors for their support in the past:

1. **Will Travers of Born Free Foundation** who believed that I could make a difference at the very beginning, nine years ago, and supported me generously; Pat Awori and Irene Mugambi for introducing me to Will at the CITES meeting in Nairobi.
2. **Heidi and Lori Bergemann of Amara Conservation**, whose generous donation allowed me to install our first school water tank and rain water harvesting system.
3. **Eli Weiss**, a dedicated conservationist who started Wildize Foundation, supported our team's salaries and many other aspects of our project. She also visited the Mara personally to show conservation films to the community with her own equipment.
4. **Kayhan Ostovar** who trained our initial de-snaring team members and created the field protocols that incorporated local Masai youth to be employed on the teams. He continues to assist AKTF with the write up of the annual report.
5. **Patty Stetson Agnew**, whose family Foundation kindly donated a year's scholarship to the Koiyaki Guiding School for Mark Parsarella, who is now employed as a driver/guide in one of the tourist camps. This has changed his life.
6. **Joel and Patty Scrafford**, who so generously donated some night vision binoculars to aid us in night patrols – they are proving to be most effective. The poachers have changed their modus operandi and now mostly “work” at night, setting their traps and snares – you can imagine their surprise that our rangers can see in the dark!

7. **Jorie Butler Kent, Friends of Conservation**, who helped me tremendously by accepting donations on my behalf for several years until we formalised the Anne K. Taylor Fund as a non profit 501 (c)3 last year. This now allows us to directly accept tax deductible donations.
8. **My brother, Geoffrey Kent**, on a personal level helped me tremendously by giving me a new Toyota Land Cruiser a few years ago to ensure that I had a safe and durable car – my old Landrover was consistently leaving me stranded all over the place which is somewhat dangerous as many of the places I visit are very remote!
9. **Sanctuary Spa and Salon staff and management** for choosing to support the Anne K. Taylor Fund in their Christmas giving last year.

The unrestricted funding from the following donors has been carefully used for both the community projects and our conservation work. I wish to thank the following who donated so generously last and previous, years:

- Mr. Robert Allgyer Jr
- Mr. and Mrs. Townsend Bancroft
- Mr. and Mrs. Thacher Brown
- Barbara Cochran
- Sir John Collins
- Mr. and Mrs. Austin De Pree
- Mr. and Mrs. Otto Georgi
- Ms. Katherine M. Georgi
- Mr. Stewart Honeyman
- Mr. and Mrs. Ellis Jones
- Mr. and Mrs. Morris W. Kellogg
- Mr. and Mrs. Hunter Morin
- Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Murray
- Mstr. Frick Murray
- Riley O'Neil
- Mr. and Mrs. Morris W. Kellogg
- Mr. and Mrs. Steve Langlas
- Mr. Robert Model
- Mr. and Mrs. A.D. Stuart
- Mr. and Mrs. Walt Taylor
- Bea Van Roijen

Many of you joined us on Stuart and Farley's wedding safari and so kindly contributed. Thank you.

From an operational standpoint, there are so many people who contribute to the success of this project and I would like to acknowledge them. Without their help and support we would not have been able to move forward as we have:

- Particular thanks to **Asgar Pathan, Care for the Wild, Kenya and CFTW, England** for their continuing support of the de-snaring patrols. This support ensures that we keep the poachers on the run and the wildlife safer. Asgar also helps me co-ordinate many of the logistics involved with running this project, which are difficult or in some cases

impossible, for me to do from the U.S. I am most grateful to him and to CFTW, England for their financial support.

- Thanks to **Born Free Foundation, Nairobi and England**, for providing trained staff and a vehicle to transport the AKTF mobile film unit throughout Kenya bringing the conservation/illegal bushmeat message to tens of thousands of Kenyans.
- I would also now like to thank our **team in the Masai Mara** who work so diligently to protect their wildlife and involve their own communities, without whom none of our work would be successful. Our team members: **James Kariuki Evanson**, who decided to move on to greener pastures and thus is no longer actually on the team but he has recently agreed to work on a part time basis. He recently led two patrols with very effective results – poachers apprehended and snares removed. He has been an integral part of the project from the beginning and will be missed. We hope that he will be able to continue to join the team from time to time. **Elias Kamande**, who has been Evanson's right hand man for the past few years is also, sadly, no longer working for us. He is now working full time for the Nairobi Museum where he was working part time when he first joined us. This is a good career move as he is a very accomplished ornithologist and this will enable him to do some lucrative guiding work. We shall miss him! The following Masai team members are all still dedicated to their/our work and I thank them for their bravery, hard work and endurance: **Lelimpa Ole Ngoswa, Ben Parswa Rramet, Nengonju Ole Leluka, William Korose Karia, Nelson Ole Nakuso, Saruni Ole Kitonu.**

They are a great group of men and I am proud that they work with us to keep the wildlife safer for future generations.

- I would also like to thank **Joseph Mpatiany**, who helps me so much in the Mara, both personally and for the project. He puts in endless hours on my behalf and on behalf of the project on top of another full time job that he holds.
- My husband, **Jim Taylor** for taking care of the books which take a lot of his time.

Several camps in the Mara give me logistical support when necessary for which I am grateful. I would like to thank the **staff and management of Kichwa Tembo Tented Camp**, where my house is located in the Masai Mara, for the support they give me when I need it. **Olonana Tented Camp, Governor's Camp and Little Governor's Camp** often provide assistance when needed; **Saruni** for selling my snare art and **Serian** for offering to do so but I have not yet provided them!

I would like to thank the following for their support in Kenya:

- **Abercrombie and Kent, Nairobi**, for logistical support. Knowing that they are there to help me should I ever need it is very comforting to me.
- **Brian Heath and his staff of the Mara Conservancy** for allowing us to work so closely with them and for supporting every aspect of our work in any way that they are able. This year we formed a new alliance with them, which is working very well.
- **The armed rangers from the Mara Conservancy and Kenya Wildlife Service** who accompany our team on their patrols. They are dedicated and brave men and keep the

team members safe from the wildlife and the poachers they encounter as our team is unarmed.

- **The Kenya Wildlife Service** for trusting us and allowing us to co-operate with them in the de-snaring work.
- **Kenya Wildlife Service and David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust** for placing a wildlife veterinarian in the Mara. This will assist in animal rescues when needed.
- **Bernie Githigi**, Nairobi, who has been a friend and colleague of mine for the past 35 years deserves special thanks as she has helped us tirelessly co-ordinate many aspects of the project. When she is unavailable, which is very rarely, I realize how much I rely on her!
- **Paul Benson** for his unerring support – he is a talented wildlife photographer and allows me to use his images whenever they are needed. He has also taught first aid courses to my team and in the schools and he has given advanced driving lessons to our team.
- **James Kones and Felix Munyao**, who take care of many of the logistics of my life when I am in Kenya.
- **Dr. Zahoor Kashmir** - Another good friend of mine, who has given tirelessly of his time and money during the last several years in order to help save the wildlife from snares, arrows, spears and any other human induced injury. He has saved countless animals at his own expense.

I realize this is a lengthy list of “thank-you’s” but I really wanted to take this opportunity to give credit to everyone who helps to make our work in the Mara a success. It is important that everyone in the U.S. knows how strong the Kenyans’ support is for the project.

You are all most understanding that my time is limited and thus my communication with you all throughout the year may be sporadic at best. I thank you for that.

Thanks again to each of you.

Anne



Anne Ker Taylor