

**2010 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 which are ecologically sustainable.

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. Tragically, this natural phenomenon is now under threat as the President of Tanzania has apparently contracted to build a road in 2012 from Arusha to Musoma, cutting straight through the Northern Serengeti. A road would interrupt, or destroy, the annual wildebeest and zebra migration of over 1.5 million animals as they travel northwards to Kenya's Masai Mara in their search for critical grazing and water. With heavy use, fast traffic and ultimately, probably a fence to prevent traffic accidents, it will surely be the end of this great migration, with millions of animals not being able to reach water and dying – as they did in Botswana several years ago where an entire migration was destroyed as the animals died along the fence. It is an outrage and a catastrophe. Petitions have been signed throughout the world; scientists have weighed in – currently to no avail. The plans are apparently still on track. There is an alternative and better, option of building a road around the Southern end of the Serengeti, which would benefit more people, bring development to the area and not interfere with the Serengeti itself nor would it impact the migration. To date, this plan has been discounted. I pray that sense will ultimately prevail after the elections and that the Serengeti, the Mara and the wildlife will be saved.



THE MIGRATION – PHOTO BY KAT COMBES

Following is a blog on this subject written by eminent National Geographic scientist and conservation biologist, Dr. Stuart Pimm:

<http://blogs.nationalgeographic.com/blogs/news/chiefeditor/2010/06/serengeti-road.html>

Unlike the National Parks in Kenya, which are run by the Kenya Wildlife Service, a Government agency, the Masai Mara is a National Reserve, held in trust by the local district councils. To effectively manage the Reserve, there is 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 which 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.

The Masai Mara has recently been designated as one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World. We hope that due to this new designation it will encourage more local and global support to assist in conserving both the habitat and the wildlife for future generations. The fact that this ecosystem and its animals are under serious threat is of broad concern to all of us who care about wildlife conservation.

As a non-political, non-profit 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, The Mara Conservancy, Kenya Wildlife Service, Mara North Conservancy, Olare Orok and Motorogi Conservancies, senior council members, wardens and rangers, tourist companies and operators, community elders and school committees and other NGO's in the area, such as Care for the Wild Kenya, Born Free Foundation, Living with Lions and Friends of Conservation.

GREAT NEWS! AKT RECEIVED A NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BIG CATS INITIATIVE (NGBCI) GRANT FOR THE LIVESTOCK ENCLOSURE ("BOMA") FORTIFICATION PROJECT.

I am so happy and proud to have become a NG Grantee. With this support, and recognition, I will now be able to expand and accelerate the livestock enclosure ("boma") fortification programme. I started this aspect of the project in 2009 to prevent predation of the Masai livestock by predators and the resultant revenge killings of the Big Cats, particularly lions. In partnership with the Masai livestock owners (they share 50% of the cost of the chain link), we fortify their existing bomas with 8' chain link fence, further strengthened with prickly kai apple hedges. As in many parts of the world, predation is not tolerated by ranchers and, if it occurs, the predators are killed – the Maasai are no different, and they have, in fact, been extremely tolerant over the years. The lion population is falling to a dangerously low level and it is predicted that, without intervention, they may be extinct in ten short years. I hope this effort will help to ensure their survival. To date we have protected approximately 200 bomas with 100% success - no further predation reported and no revenge killings. With National Geographic support we can expand this project to include many more bomas.

Following are some blogs pertaining to the project written by Dr. Stuart Pimm, National Geographic Scientist and a member of the NGBCI committee, which approved my grant, and myself:

http://blogs.nationalgeographic.com/blogs/admin/mt-search.cgi?tag=Anne%20Kent%20Taylor&blog_id=59

SINCERE THANKS TO NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BIG CATS INITIATIVE FOR THIS SUPPORT. I hope you will enjoy these blogs which will give you an even better understanding of what our work in the Mara entails. Dr. Stuart Pimm's posts are informative and interesting.

OBJECTIVES OF OUR WORK

1. ANTIPOACHING PATROLS

- Provide patrolling assistance to the Mara Conservancy and Kenya Wildlife Service rangers and the surrounding communities.
- Remove snares from the forest and riverine habitats.
- Determine snaring hotspots and document poaching incidents.
- Vehicles to prevent wildlife harassment and do community work.
- 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.
- Prevent human/wildlife conflict by protecting Masai livestock enclosures from predation.
- Protect the forests by monitoring and apprehending charcoal burners

2. WILDLIFE RESCUES

- When possible we assist the Kenya Wildlife Service veterinarians to rescue animals found with human induced injuries – usually snares, poisoned arrows or spears.

3. COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

- Provide support to the schools in the community to further the education potential of the children. This work also helps to develop the trust and confidence of the local Maasai communities who, in turn, assist us with our conservation objectives.
- 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.
- Mobile Film Unit for environmental educational purposes. This work is done in partnership with the Born Free Foundation. One of the conservation films we use, “Living with Lions”, is generously provided by Dr. Laurence Frank.
- Student nutrition programme in Oloomongi and Pusangi Schools
- Bio-gas project to prevent de-forestation, to ease the women’s burden of having to carry loads of firewood. It also benefits the children by having a smoke free environment within their houses. The smoke causes serious health issues.
- Vertical gardens to provide better nutrition for the Masai
- Protect Masai livestock enclosures to prevent predation and the resultant human/wildlife conflict, which often results in revenge killings of the lions whose very survival is threatened.

4. SUPPORT LOCAL INITIATIVES TO FINANCIALLY BENEFIT THE MAASAI

- Help create micro-enterprise opportunities for Maasai and other Kenyans that can lead to sustainable development practices in and around the Masai Mara.
- Support local initiatives and training/education programs
- Create opportunities for adult education of team members.
- Micro loan investment in a Women’s Beading Initiative.
- Snare Art Sculptures –Kioko Mwitiki, a world-renowned metal artist creates wildlife sculptures using wire from confiscated snares collected by our team which AKTF purchases and markets in the USA with all proceeds going back to the project.

RESULTS OF PROJECTS IN 2010

DE-SNARING PATROLS AND “BOMA” FORTIFICATION

LIVESTOCK ENCLOSURE (“BOMA”) FORTIFICATION:

As you will have read earlier, I am proud to have received a National Geographic grant to support “boma” fortification in the Mara. This protection prevents predation and the resultant revenge killings of the predators by the Masai.



**MAASAI LIVESTOCK OWNER FORTIFYING HIS BOMA
PHOTO BY MARC GOSS**



KIMORO & ANNE CHECKING ON FORTIFIED SHEEP SHED

In July we visited many bomas to collect information and records of predation, of which, sadly, there were many. With Dr. Stuart Pimm, National Geographic scientist, Dr. Paula Kahumbu, Wildlife Direct and Peter Greste, BBC, we delivered chain-link to one “boma” where eight cows had been killed by lions with the result that, over the last two years, 20 or more lions were killed in retaliation. The owner of this boma assured me that with no predation there would be no reason to kill the lions, which is our objective. Subsequent to the extra protection no predation has been reported – and no lions killed!

We also visited another unprotected boma, where the owner had lost 33 goats and sheep to predation the previous week. A honey badger had dug under the sheep/goat shed and started tearing the sheep and goats apart; a hyena caught scent of the blood and added to the destruction and finally a leopard arrived continuing to kill these unfortunate animals. Total mayhem! One survived – a pregnant sheep which, after the attack, is paralyzed in her back legs as the predators severed her tendons. I visited this boma again a short while later – she was still alive but she lost her lamb.

Subsequent to this attack, we immediately delivered chain link to make this livestock owner's sheep and goat sheds impenetrable to predators. He has since experienced no further predation. We also received reports of lion predation and immediately responded with more chain link to protect those bomas before the lions returned. The Masai, knowing we were there to assist them, did not attempt to kill the lions in retaliation.

To date, I have provided 100 rolls of chain link to the Mara North Conservancy to fortify bomas, with the balance being used in the Transmara area. This area is heavily populated and there is a high predation rate on Masai livestock. The boma protection is, again, proving to be very successful and the demand for chain link increases daily. As in the Transmara, the Masai themselves are invested in this project paying 50% of the chain link cost and having the responsibility of installing it. I provide the other 50% of the chain link cost and the transport costs from Nairobi.



ANNE & TEAM INSPECTING FORTIFIED CATTLE BOMA



DOUBLE FORTIFICATION – WIRE AND NEW PLANTINGS

An intern, Eddie, who works for Dr. Mordecai Ogada recently joined the team in the Mara to collect important data on the predation and revenge killings of predators; the location of each and every boma which we have fortified. When this data is entered and mapped, we will have a much better idea as to what has been achieved to date and what we hope to achieve in the future. My thanks go to Dr. Ogada for volunteering to help me interpret this data.

Many organizations, including Born Free Foundation and the Kenya Wildlife Service, have come to visit our project and are initiating our prototype bomas in other wildlife Parks and Reserves. It is amazing that something so simple can be so effective – long may it last!

DE-SNARING PATROLS

The Anne K. Taylor Fund/Care for the Wild (AKTF/CFTW) team continues to work closely with the authorities. The Mara Conservancy's Sgt. Daniel Tunai took over command of our team from Sgt. Pengo, who was transferred to another command post on the Mara Conservancy's regular rotation.

He will be missed but we particularly welcome Daniel as, eleven years ago, he was one of the original members of our team when I started this project. The team, along with the authorities in each area, continues to do extensive patrols apprehending poachers, removing snares, rescuing wildlife with man-induced injuries and helping me with my community work.



ANNE WITH AKTF/CFTW TEAM

In the first six months of this year, the team assisted the authorities in apprehending 19 poachers and removed 153 snares, saving literally hundreds, or maybe even thousands, of animals from a terrible death as each snare is used over and over again. They also found 20 dead animals which is the tip of the iceberg. In June, the team had a busy and effective time. They apprehended several poachers – one of whom was notorious and effective. He had eluded capture for a couple of years but, on this patrol, his time was up and the animals are now safer!

While the team continues to remove the snares, it is, sadly, often too late for many animals. On one recent patrol the team removed 25 snares but found one poor buffalo, which the poachers had already butchered. We also found a beautiful male impala killed by a snare. The kill was fresh so we spent some time following the trail of the poachers, who had already butchered the impala and taken the meat with them. Regrettably they had enough of a lead on us that they escaped – this time! The following day we managed to apprehend two youths, with five snares, who were involved in snaring, particularly for Giant Bush Pigs, which is tragic as their numbers have already been so depleted. Their meat apparently gave the poachers a tummy ache – so all in all a total waste. These poachers provided us with a lot of information about the rest of their “gang” who had managed to escape when these arrests were made. The AKTF/CFTW team, along with the Mara Conservancy ranger, Daniel Tunai, will definitely follow up and will hopefully apprehend them in the near future. Once they are identified it is just a matter of time.....



REMOVING DEEPLY EMBEDDED SNARE



ZEBRA WITH SNARE WOUND

In October the team came across a beautiful Tom Leopard which was tragically caught by the foot in a snare. The authorities attempted a rescue but regrettably were unsuccessful. The leopard broke “free” but sadly with the snare still attached to its leg. The team alerted the community, as it will now be a very dangerous beast, and I have been in contact with Dr. Dominic Mijeje, the KWS veterinarian based in the Mara, to plan a forward plan of action to save the leopard, if it can be found and darted. The team was also able to apprehend several people who were cutting down the hardwood trees to make charcoal and they removed 26 snares. All together a busy and successful patrol and we pray that the leopard will be found again and treated. The animals which we find caught in snares are only the tip of the iceberg. My heart bleeds for the many animals we do not find, which die a slow and excruciatingly painful death. Each snare our team removes means thousands of animals are safer.

CHARCOAL BURNING AND DEFORESTATION:

In the course of their patrols, the team is discovering the full extent of the destructive charcoal industry – in a period of three months they confiscated 178 bags of charcoal, destroyed the kilns and, along with the authorities, arrested the charcoal burners. Our forests are fast disappearing due to these illegal activities. The authorities are very happy with our assistance in facilitating these arrests.

In July, after a violent incident in a private camp ground, the team was asked to assist the authorities to seek information from the local communities, which could lead to the arrest of these thugs. As our team members are all local, their input was helpful and valued. I am happy to report that this gang has now all been taken into custody by the authorities.

In August, there were further challenges as a fire had been started by an unknown person in the Mara Triangle. It was huge and spread fast – the team was called to assist the Mara Conservancy in quelling the bush-fire. It destroyed valuable grazing land needed by the 1.5 wildebeest and zebra, which had migrated into the Mara from the Serengeti in search of food and water.

August 20, 2010 News. Team leader Elias Kamande wrote from the field:

“Today we patrolled an area that I have been wishing to visit (because of the many poaching incidences reported) and arrested five men who were preparing the charcoal kilns and felling the hard wood trees for timber. They had already killed a bush back and dried the meat. We arrested them and we are hoping to arrest more as they are associated with the bush meat.”

NEW TEAM VEHICLE

Care for the Wild, UK, through a grant from Body Shop, provided funding to purchase a Land Rover for our patrols and community work. The team is ecstatic as they no longer have to wedge themselves in to our tiny Suzuki and they will be able to cover a much larger area! Thank you!

AKT FUNDED VEHICLES

The Suzukis purchased by AKTF continue to protect the wildlife from tourist harassment in the Mara Conservancy and the Olare Orok Conservancy . They are also used for patrols and community work.

2010 MEDIA EXPOSURE

WILDLIFE DIRECT – DR. PAULA KAHUMBU

Paula Kahumbu, the Executive Director of Wildlife Direct has invited Elias to blog on their website in order to keep people abreast on the team’s work. In order to facilitate this, WD most generously donated a personal computer for him to take into the field. Communication is still proving challenging as there is often no network or electricity but it will get done, somehow!

MARA TRIANGLE BLOG

Elias Kamande, our team leader blogs may be found on the Mara Triangle Website. Please check this link to see our team's activities: <http://www.maratriangle.org/blog/2009/11/19/update-from-kamande-on-work-of-care-for-the-wildakt-scouts.html#entry5848715>

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC BLOGS

Stuart Pimm's blog on **SERENGETI NORTH ROAD**:

<http://blogs.nationalgeographic.com/blogs/news/chiefeditor/2010/06/serengeti-road.html>

Stuart Pimm's and Anne Kent Taylor's blogs on the **MASAI LIVESTOCK ENCLOSURE FORTIFICATION PROJECT** which National Geographic is supporting:

http://blogs.nationalgeographic.com/blogs/admin/mt-search.cgi?tag=Anne%20Kent%20Taylor&blog_id=59

M.E.A.K. VIDEO ON VISIT TO OLOOMONGI NURSERY SCHOOL ON YOU TUBE

Jess Atkins <http://meak.org/> and John Paul Teutonico shot this video on their last visit to Oloomongi. It is delightful - please check it out: <http://www.youtube.com/user/MEAKenya>

WILDLIFE RESCUES

We helped co-ordinate several wildlife rescues this year and sadly lost other animals which were found too late to save. I participated in two elephant rescues, flying the veterinarians to the Mara from Nairobi. We had backup in the field from the Mara Conservancy rangers, Kichwa Tembo guides and our team in the Mara.

On February 22nd, 2010 I wrote about one of the elephant rescues:

"It is thundering, lightening with torrents of rain but I am exhilarated. I flew the vet in this morning from Nairobi on Air Kenya- we finally found the elephant with a snare attached to its leg, biting deeply into the flesh. It was in the middle of a milk herd so I knew it was going to be a tough rescue and it was. I called in reinforcements as with only 2 Suzukis (so small compared to an elephant!) and a Kichwa Tembo open safari car we could have been overwhelmed by the charging herd. After some time another Kichwa Tembo car came to help as did Brian Heath, the CEO of the Mara Conservancy, accompanied by Dr. Asuka Takita. Their appearance was a relief as they were in a Land Rover, which was the safest vehicle for this rescue operation. Dr. Dominic Mijele switched over to Brian's car in order to dart the elephant. The elephants suspected something was up and were moving fast towards the forest - luckily Dr. Mijele has good aim.



MATRIARCHS SUPPORTING TRANQUILIZED YOUNG BULL



ANGRY MOTHER AND TRANQUILIZED YOUNG BULL

PHOTOS BY DEVON MC CLEARY

As soon as the elephant went down all hell broke loose – the herd tried to lift him up - we had to drive the herd off with a very fierce matriarch not wanting to leave.... It was a matter of will and she finally turned – our hearts were pounding! However all was well Dominic worked fast and efficiently - removed the snare and gave the young bull the reversal drug....the anxious mother on seeing him (having thought her “baby” was dead!) ran in fright thinking, I suppose, that she had seen a ghost. Now I can rest (until the next time!). I am happy this was a successful rescue as this elephant was in terrible pain and should now recover. Dominic’s plane just took off back to Nairobi. I am now drying off inside my house. Still pouring outside....Sooooo happy!!!”

COMMUNITY EDUCATION AND SUPPORT PROGRAM

SCHOOL NUTRITION PROJECT AND DEWORMING

Regrettably our funding from U. of Illinois National Soybean Research Lab has come to an end so we are seeking other ways of keeping this critical school nutrition programme going. With designated private funding from the Jackson family, Cynthia Cassano, Bridget Owen and AKTF we have been able to deliver enough Insta fully nutritional porridge for the current term to the children of Pusangi and Oloomongi schools.

The Stephenson Pope Babcock Foundation has just awarded AKTF a very generous grant to enable us to continue the school lunch programme through the first school term of 2011, for which we are most grateful. It is a wonderful way to celebrate Pope Babcock’s memory. Pope was a very caring person and I am sure that he would be happy to know that, in his memory; these children are being nourished, ensuring both physical and academic improvement, perhaps changing the future of the Masai Mara. My sincere thanks go to Pope’s parents, and the Board of this Foundation who made the decision to support these schoolchildren. Pope’s spirit is forever in the Mara.



LUNCHTIME - PUSANGI PRIMARY AND OLOOMONGI PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Insta Products Student Nutrition Coordinator, Carol Kiugo, and our team have held several meetings with the community and parents to encourage their active and financial participation in order to keep this programme going. The parents confirm they are keen to do this but it has not translated into positive action. We will keep working with them until it does! In the meantime thanks to our kind donors who made money available to feed the children. With this supplemental nutrition the children’s hunger has been alleviated, their health improved and their academic standards rose considerably. They can concentrate and learn. We visited several schools in the area to de-worm the students and their families. Worms are a very serious problem with most of the communities and their health will definitely improve without them!



Anne with Oloomongi School Children. Photo by John Paul Teutonico

In November of this year, my good friend and generous AKTF supporter, Sandee Bartkowski of Sandee O Photography, joined VINCE and 944 for a Charitable Evening of Fashion and Art in Atlanta. One of Sandee's amazing African photographs was auctioned for the Anne K. Taylor Fund to support the Emurototo Primary School in the Masai Mara. A portion of the evening's proceeds also benefited the Rally Foundation. My humble thanks go to Sandee for this generosity. The school will be most grateful for this incredible gesture.



PHOTOS BY SANDEE BARTKOWSKI

WORKSHOPS

“Student Nutrition in Masai Mara School: Workshop for Raising Awareness and Creating Linkages” In February, 2010 this workshop was funded and organized by Insta Products, AKTF and U of Illinois. It was very well attended and informative and we received a lot of positive feedback. The importance of a student nutrition programme was discussed at length with the teachers present citing the fact that school meals are having a positive effect on the ability of students to concentrate in the classroom, the duration of their attention spans, and their cognitive and learning abilities. Improving school enrollment has been cited as the single most effective child protection intervention, and school meals ensure that children in the impoverished circumstances come to class.

Law Enforcement Workshop in Narok town – 27th February 2010.

This workshop was partially sponsored by CFTW International and our team leader, Elias Kamande, was asked to give a presentation on our work highlighting the issues of bush meat and logging. It was a productive workshop and received a lot of “press”.

Bush meat Eastern Africa Network (B.E.A.N) August 29th – 31st, 2010 .

Our team was invited to participate in this workshop by Evanson Kariuki, who was the AKTF team leader for many years, whose goal was to capacity build between key groups in the greater Masai Mara ecosystem to reduce bush meat utilization by 50% before 2013 through improved law enforcement, bush meat off take monitoring, sensitization to protein alternatives, bush meat awareness and increased knowledge on the impacts of the illegal bush meat trade. The participants were trained to collect and monitor bush meat using GPS technology and a data analysis system was established. Further collaboration and information sharing were encouraged between the various game scout associations operating in this area.



HERD OF DEAD IMPALA KILLED BY POACHERS



DRYING MEAT FROM ANIMALS KILLED BY POACHERS

TEACHERS

AKTF continues to supplement the salaries of two excellent teachers in order to ensure that they do not move on. Good teachers are hard to find and worth keeping when one finds them. The community does not have the funding to pay them a reasonable salary.

MOBILE FILM THEATER

The mobile film theater, purchased by AKTF and operated by Born Free Foundation in conjunction with AKTF continues to take the message of conservation to tens of thousands of Kenyans. It is probably one of the most effective educational tools. David Manoa, from Born Free Foundation visited the Mara, with our mobile film unit, earlier this year. We showed “Living with Lions”, produced and provided by Dr. Laurence Frank, which had been translated into Maa, throughout the area. Literally hundreds of people showed up for each “show time” and a lot of discussion was generated by the conservation message on a very hot topic – that of predation and revenge killings of predators. It was very interesting to hear the feedback from the viewers, many of whom had never even considered the conservation possibilities



CROWD WATCHING CONSERVATION FILM

BUILDING OF CLASSROOMS AND INSTALLATION OF GUTTER SYSTEM AND WATER TANKS.

This year we delivered water tanks, and water collection systems, to many Masai homesteads to provide a source of potable water. These tanks also save the women from having to haul water, which usually is not even fit for human consumption, from many miles away.



NEWLY DELIVERED WATER TANK



ANNE AND TEAM WITH WATER COLLECTION SYSTEM

The second classroom at Oloomongi School has been partially completed.

A special thank you goes to the Jackson and the Zungailia Families for their continued support of AKTF and their generous donations to be used for the schools.

TEXT BOOKS AND SPORTS EQUIPMENT

I continue to purchase text books to distribute to students, my team and the rangers with whom our team patrols. Education is a top priority for most Kenyans and the extra hours the children can study by owning their own books, and being able to take them home with them, makes a huge difference to their performance. I am proud to tell you that, with the added advantage of these text books, the son of Ole Sirere (an AKTF/CFTW team member) took first place in his district. The daughter of Joseph and Regina Mpatiany, Naomi Naipamei, came in 2nd place in the large Kilgoris district – a huge achievement. Kimojino, from the Mara Conservancy, told me that his daughter also excelled coming in third in her district. Their excellent results will allow these achievers to have the possibility of being accepted into the top flight secondary schools, which are very competitive and where few students from rural areas are accepted.

SUPPORT AND INITIATE LOCAL INITIATIVES TO BENEFIT THE MAASAI

BIO-GAS DIGESTERS

In an attempt to introduce an alternative source of fuel to the Masai homesteads to reduce deforestation, we worked with Dominic Wanjihia, “Simply Logic”, to start a pilot, affordable biogas project for individual use. His design is quite brilliant – a large “balloon” which is filled with cow dung mixed with water, which percolates in the heat, producing gas which can be piped to the house for cooking or lighting. As there is plenty of cow dung, this is quite brilliant and the Masai are starting to explore this alternative. To date two have been installed with a lot of interest being generated to install more. The slurry from these digesters can be used to fertilize vertical gardens. If you want to

read more about them or Dominic, who is an incredible inventor, following is a link you can access:
<http://wildaboutafrica.wordpress.com/category/biogas/>



DOMINIC WANJIHIA INSTALLING BIO GAS DIGESTER



ELIAS & FELIX EXAMINING A BIO GAS DIGESTER

VERTICAL GARDENS

We have introduced vertical gardens (also designed by Dominic) to offer the community a good, and water-efficient, method of farming, which will improve their nutrition. These vertical gardens can be planted inside a protected “boma” and will be safe from crop-raiding ungulates. As water is in short supply, this is a very effective form of farming as the vertical gardens, planted in plastic sacks, require very little water. The slurry from the biogas is the best possible fertilizer. Currently the Masai are buying commercial fertilizer which is not as good, and a lot more expensive, than the natural slurry that is readily available. This simple method of vertical farming can also be used in the schools to provide much-needed nutrients to the schoolchildren.



PILOT PROJECT - VERTICAL GARDEN

MICRO FINANCE - MASAI LADIES' BEADING PROJECT MANAGED BY JOSEPH AND REGINA MPATIANY

WILDLIFE FRIENDLY: These bracelets continue to enjoy certification from Wildlife Friendly www.wildlifefriendly.org an organization dedicated to the development and marketing of products that conserve threatened wildlife while contributing to the economic vitality of rural communities.

FEED PROJECTS: I am excited to report that I recently had the pleasure of meeting an amazing young lady, Ellen Gustafson in New York City. She co-founded the FEED Projects with Lauren Bush,

which has raised millions of dollars to feed the hungry children of the world. FEED has placed an order with us for beaded bracelets which will have the word “FEED” incorporated into the beadwork. This is very exciting and we hope it may be an ongoing mutually beneficial relationship. www.feedprojects.com



FEED BRACELET



BRACELETS IN BEADED BOWL

THE TRAVELER’S COLLECTION: We have also received an order for bracelets from The Traveler’s Collection which they will market on their website www.thetravellerscollection.com

BEADED PASHMINAS BY MAGDALENE MUMBI AND HER WOMEN’S BEADING GROUP

These beaded pashminas are absolutely beautiful and are proving to be very popular with everyone who has seen them. Each design is unique and there is a rainbow of colours to choose from.



MAGDALENE WEARING ONE OF HER BEADED PASHMINAS



PASHMINA BEADING WORK

SNARE ART

The charming snare art sculptures made from illegal wire snares, which are removed from the bush by our team, designed by internationally known Kenyan metal artist, Kioko Mwitiki, continue to be popular gift items – and for a good cause!

IF ANYONE WANTS TO PURCHASE BEADED BRACELETS, BEADED SHAWLS OR SNARE ART PLEASE CALL THE OFFICE IN MONTANA, USA: 1-406 294 9430 or email your request to info@aktaylor.com.

EQUIPMENT

TENTS AND UNIFORMS: We had to replace the team's tents and uniforms this year.

RADIOS: We purchased seven hand held radios, along with a base station, for Marc Goss who manages Mara North Conservancy. These radios are critical for the safe operation of the Conservancy and their patrols.



HAND HELD RADIOS



CAR RADIO

MISCELLANEOUS DONATION:

We were very honored to receive a very generous donation from Wings of Grace International through Tasmin Keshavjee to be distributed as I saw fit. They donated a lorry load of bicycles, several treadle sewing machines and bags and bags of clothing and toys. I distributed these items to a number of worthy people and organizations including The Hanne Howard Fund children's project in Nairobi and The Terry Hope Centre. The recipients of these gifts were most grateful.



DONATION TO THE TERRY HOPE CENTER – ANNE WITH TERRY STOBBS

EXCITING POSSIBILITIES FOR 2011

NABU INTERNATIONAL

I am thrilled to report that NABU will soon be supporting the wildlife aspect of our project for which I am most grateful and which will allow us to operate more patrols and cover a larger area where poaching problems may exist.

JESS ATKINS, FOUNDER, MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL AID TO KENYA (MEAK)

I met again with Jess Atkins, the founder of MEAK, regarding the addition of a medical component to the AKTF Mara project. When Jess visited the project last year, we had lengthy discussions with the community about their most pressing medical needs and challenges.

Typhoid and malaria were the two diseases, which were mentioned most often, both of which are preventable but the local Maasai communities do not have access to immunizations or mosquito nets. Jess plans to re-visit the project early next year to examine different solutions to these most pressing problems.

JASON BROWN FILM

Jason Brown recently broached the subject of doing a feature film on AKTF's multi-faceted project, which is a very interesting idea and I am honoured. We will have further discussions to explore this possibility. I feel that it would make interesting viewing and would be a wonderful opportunity to share with the world, not only the magic of the Mara, its wildlife and its people but also the multiple challenges we all face.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

The Anne K. Taylor Fund 501(c)3 never sends out a formal fund raising appeal but we would be so grateful for your continuing support so that our critical work in the Masai Mara may continue. Thank you in advance for whatever you can do. We are also set up to accept gifts of securities.

Tax deductible donations may be made to:

**Anne K. Taylor Fund
2724 Arvin Road,
Billings, MT. 59102**

My sincerest gratitude to each of you and please know how valuable your support is for the continuing operation of this broad-ranging project. I regret we are unable to accept credit card donations.

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 Brian Heath and the Mara Conservancy for working closely with our team and for the support they offer.

- 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.
- Thanks to Dr. Laurence Frank for producing and providing the excellent conservation film, *Living with Lions*, which we show to appreciative audiences to the Masai people who have to live with the lions.
- I would also like to thank our **team members 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. The following Masai team members are all still dedicated to their/our work and I thank them for their bravery, hard work and endurance: **Peter ole Kilonga, ole Sirere, ole Saitoti, ole Kimoro and Elias Kamande**. Our team is under the capable command of Sgt. **Daniel Tunai** from the **Mara Conservancy** whom I would also like to thank. The Chief of the Kawai area and ex- team member, **William Korose**, who is the Assistant Chief, continue to be very supportive of our project and assist us whenever needed.

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 with 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 accounts, which take a lot of his valuable 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 their unwavering logistical support whenever needed; **Olonana Tented Camp always gives me tremendous logistical support. This year they have been particularly helpful, allowing me to store the chain link wire for a short while whilst delivery arrangements were being made. They also helped me to deliver the wire to local Masai homesteads; Governor's Camp and Little Governor's Camp** often provide logistical assistance whenever I request help.
- Thanks to Marc Goss for arranging delivery of chain link to the "bomas" in the Mara North Conservancy, for assisting in the construction of the bomas and for obtaining the relevant GPS co-ordinates and data collection which we need for the future efficient monitoring of this programme.
- I am most grateful to Abercrombie and Kent Philanthropy for their generous donation towards the boma fortification project.

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.
- **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 and wildlife rescues.
- **Kenya Wildlife Service and David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust** for placing a wildlife veterinarian in the Mara. This assists 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. Mordecai Ogada** for assisting me with data collection and analysis.
- **Dr. Noah Wasilwa**, whose concentration is Human Elephant Conflict. Noah helps us when we have issues with elephants terrorizing communities. He designed a small fire cracker which deters the raiding elephants. He trained the community/our team in the use of these firecrackers which are proving to be so effective. Thanks, Noah!

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 Overseas knows how strong the Kenyans’ support is for the project. This is a critical factor in the project’s ongoing success.

In closing, none of this work would be possible without the incredible financial support I receive from you, my friends and supporters. I am so very grateful.

Thank you, too, for understanding that my time is limited and thus my communication with you all throughout the year may be sporadic at best. To make sure your generous donations are used to the best possible advantage I try to do as much as possible myself to avoid spending money on administration.

Thanks again to each of you.

Anne Kent Taylor

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In 2010 the following donors contributed generously to the Anne K. Taylor Fund 501(c)3. We are so grateful for this generous support and we thank each and every one of you. Without your support nothing would be possible.

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