



THE EAST AFRICAN
WILDLIFE SOCIETY

www.eawildlife.org

MARCH – APRIL 2012

EAWLS NEWSLETTER

THE VOICE OF CONSERVATION IN EAST AFRICA

Letter to Kenya National Highway Association (KENHA)

The Southern by-pass around Nairobi is generating as much debate as the construction is dust. There is considerable disquiet in the Conservation community and further afield that part of it is being routed through Nairobi National Park, the only one of its kind in the world.

Here is where EAWLS stands on this matter:

WHY ARE WE CONCERNED?

1. The latest Southern By-Pass route is illegal in regard to:
 - 4kms being routed through Nairobi National Park in disregard of Condition 2.2 *The proponent shall not encroach on gazette parks (Nairobi National Park)* of the Environment Licence, issued by NEMA on 18th February 2011
 - The Southern By-Pass has been broadened into a corridor to accommodate 2 railway lines without following the procedures laid out in the relevant legislation, particularly the Environment Management and Co-ordination Act (EMCA)
 - Failing to comply with the requirement of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act that any excision from a National Park requires degazettement which only Parliament can approve
2. There appears to be a contradiction in the information regarding air safety needs
3. No proper cost benefit analysis has been undertaken

4. Excising part of Nairobi National Park weakens Kenya's objection to the construction of a highway through Serengeti National Park.

It is important to emphasise that these concerns do not mean that EAWLS is against the building of a Southern By-Pass.

WHAT DO WE SEEK TO HAVE DONE?

1. To get compliance with the Environment Licence and have the By-Pass returned to its original route alongside but outside of the National Park, even if this entails spending funds on removing encroachment into the original road reserve and having a 200 metre long cutting or tunnel to accommodate Wilson Airport Runway 14 concerns.
2. To have the 2 railway line element dropped from consideration and a commitment made to have a proper feasibility study done on the two lines and their possible options, followed by a proper EMCA process. This does not affect the construction of the By-Pass from continuing.
3. To get a recognition and

therefore a commitment from Government that failing to respect the integrity of Kenya's National Parks undermines Vision 2030 which expects Tourism to be a main driver of economic growth.

4. To have a Public consultation process that complies with the Constitution.
5. To have a proper recognition that any degazettement of a National Park or part thereof requires Parliament's approval.

Nigel Hunter

Executive Director, EAWLS

If you have any thoughts or ideas do send them to:
info@eawildlife.org

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Kenya's Wildlife Bill – an update

Since the advent of the new Kenyan constitution in August 2010, work has continued to bring constitutional requirements and rights into the draft wildlife bill. This activity has been undertaken by a technical committee under the co-ordination of the Ministry of Forestry and Wildlife. A draft was released into the public domain last August and a stakeholder meeting was held to discuss this draft in late August.

In general, the bill was seen as an improvement on previous drafts, but the stakeholders took the opportunity to state that the bill could still be improved and requested reasonable time for their comments to be provided in writing. The Ministry agreed and waited until December before holding the next technical meeting at which stakeholders representing the bulk of the comments attended the first day and provided further input. The technical committee then continued with looking at all comments and deciding how best to consider them. This review needed a second meeting, which was convened just before Christmas, which in turn paved the way for a small drafting team to be formed. The team was mandated to provide a revised draft by end January.

This was achieved and the draft has been presented to the Ministry for taking forwards. This draft has a better structure and has addressed many of the concerns that had been expressed during the consultation phase. We now await the Ministry's guidance as to what they see as the next steps. EAWLS will continue to play a full and active part in these deliberations.

Nigel Hunter
Executive Director



Lamu Plans Get Off The Drawing Board

Long talked about, plans to build a port and oil refinery in the UNESCO heritage site of Lamu finally took shape this month heralding the start of one of the biggest infrastructure developments in the history of Africa. The groundbreaking ceremony for three offshore berths was attended by the leaders of Kenya, South Sudan and Ethiopia, Mwai Kibaki, Salva Kiir and Meles Zenawi and trumpeted as a major development for regional economic cooperation and job creation.

"I have no doubt this day will go down in history as one of the defining moments, when we make a major stride to connect our people to the many socio-economic opportunities that lie ahead," President Kibaki said.

Conservation, community and environmental groups are concerned about the impact of the development on the physical and security environment as well as the absence, to date, of any Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) or involvement of the community in drawing up and implementing the plans.

The development is known as the Lamu Port South Sudan Ethiopia Transport Corridor (Lapsset) and is expected to be completed within four years, giving South Sudan a vital alternative outlet for its crude oil exports, which traditionally went to Port Sudan in Khartoum-ruled northern part of the country. The two countries were at war until a peace accord six years ago but have yet to work out how to apportion oil revenues.

The plan foresees the construction of the port, railway and a road linking Lamu to South Sudan and will also give Ethiopia an alternative port to its lifeline, Djibouti. Oil prospecting is under way in Ethiopia's Ogaden region and Lamu could be its export route.

aboutlamu

Lamu town is also the headquarters of Lamu District and a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The town was founded in the 14th century and it contains many fine examples of Swahili architecture. The old city is inscribed on the World Heritage List as "the oldest and best-preserved Swahili settlement in East Africa".

Once a center for the slave trade, the population of Lamu is ethnically diverse. Lamu was on the main Arabian trading routes, and as a result, the population is largely Muslim. Due to the narrowness of the streets, automobiles are not allowed - the city is easily explored by foot, bicycle, or, as many locals favour, donkey.



Kenya launches 10-year plan to conserve elephants

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By Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) has launched a national elephant conservation and management strategy that provides a road map for conservation and management of elephants in Kenya for the next 10 years.

Speaking at the launch, the Minister for Forestry and Wildlife Noah Wekesa noted that the world was witnessing increased illegal killing of elephants and that the sophistication and the level of organisation of illegal traders in ivory were also worrying.

"In the light of these worrying trends, we would be calling on

the international community to support total ban in ivory trade in the coming Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and listing of African elephants on Appendix I of CITES," Dr Wekesa said.

The Minister noted that Kenya lost 278 elephants last year to poachers compared to 177 in 2010. At the same time, over 8 tonnes of illegally acquired ivory were seized in Kenya over the last three years. He added: "As the Minister for Wildlife I have noted with great concern the magnitude of the escalating poaching and its effect on elephants.

Therefore, I want to send a strong message to the poachers that they shall be dealt with severely according to the law. We will ensure the current penalties for wildlife offenders are quickly reviewed and made more punitive to discourage poaching," Dr Wekesa said.

The elephant strategy seeks to maintain and expand elephant distribution and numbers, enhance security to elephants, reduce cases of human-elephant conflict and increase the value of elephants to people and habitats.

It outlines strategies KWS and other conservation partners will use to

protect the species, particularly in key strategic locations, such as dispersal areas, migration corridors and in the human-elephant conflict hotspots.

The strategy seeks to address emerging problems and threats facing elephant conservation in the country. It aims to achieve this by engaging communities living adjacent to protected areas on the importance of protecting the species through education and awareness.

The document also stipulates the offering of incentives and provision of tangible benefits directly linked to the presence of elephants, which will increase tolerance and custodianship of elephants among people who own and use land

outside protected areas. This is designed to encourage landowners and local communities to protect and accommodate elephants. The strategy targets an annual elephant population increase growth of three per cent per year. Elephant population in Kenya is estimated at 37,000 up from 35,000 in 2010. The increase has largely been attributed to renewed and sustained efforts by KWS and other conservation stakeholders to curb poaching and trade in illegal ivory. Effective law enforcement and the CITES ban on international ivory trade has also led to a decline in poaching resulting in elephant population recovery in Kenya.

The function at the Ivory Burning Site Campsite in Nairobi

National Park was attended by conservationists, including representatives of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Wildlife Fund for Nature (WWF), African Wildlife Foundation (AWF), International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Save the Elephants (STE).

Others were representatives from the Northern Rangeland Trust (NRT), Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF), David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust (SWT), African Conservation Centre (ACC), universities and other research institutions, communities from different conservation areas and county.

www.kws.org/info/news/2012/21_feb_2011_elephant.html

Ivory poaching in Kenya



I have been in a meeting all day to discuss elephant poaching across Laikipia and the north. The data collected over the last 24 months shows a massive escalation in the rate of illegal killing of elephants. The situation is now so bad that by most measures it can be considered out of control and certainly beyond the limits of what elephant populations can sustain.

Crime syndicates are involved and demand (primarily from China) has now reached such a high level that the price payable to the poacher for raw ivory is reported to be as high as KShs 20,000 per kilogram - or KShs

400,000 for a 20kg tusk. The KWS and other law enforcement agencies are trying their best to contain the situation but are being overwhelmed.

They are frustrated by the ridiculously light sentences being handed down by the courts - in the same court on the same day poachers caught in the act of killing an elephant in west Laikipia were fined KShs 15,000, whilst a cattle thief was sentenced to 7 years imprisonment for stealing one sheep!

Richard Vigne,
CEO of Ol Pejeta Conservancy,

This was posted on Kenyans for Wildlife Facebook page
- [kenyansforwildlife@groups.facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/kenyansforwildlife)

Illegal ivory trade blooms in Egypt's upheaval

The illegal trade in elephant ivory is flourishing in Egypt due to a lack of law enforcement, combined with the entrance into the market of a major new consumer—the Chinese buyer, according to a new investigation by TRAFFIC, the wildlife trade monitoring network.

The new report, *Illegal ivory sales in Egypt*, published in the latest issue of the TRAFFIC Bulletin states “Egypt remains one of Africa’s largest markets for illegal ivory items,” adding “No ivory items—old or new—can be sold legally in Egypt without a special permit, and none has ever been issued.”

According to senior government officials interviewed by the report’s authors, Esmond Martin and Lucy Vigne, since 2009, only two ivory seizures had taken place in Egypt, both at Cairo airport, while there had been no confiscations of ivory items from retail outlets since 2003.

During the latest survey carried out in March and April 2011, the authors counted 8343 ivory items openly for sale in Cairo, a city described as the “carving centre of the country”.

Despite the recent political unrest almost all outlets and workshops were open in the old market—Khan al-Khalili—Cairo’s main centre for the manufacture and retail sale of ivory products. A further 918 ivory items were seen in Luxor. 3000 of the ivory pieces were estimated to have been produced in the last five years, the rest mostly carved in Egypt in the 1990s and early 2000s. Previous TRAFFIC surveys of Cairo and Luxor, the two main Egyptian ivory markets, in 1998 and 2005



found an overall 43% reduction in the combined number of ivory objects for sale, but this figure had only dropped by a further 10% in the 2011 survey, mostly in Luxor.

“The encouraging demise of Egypt’s illegal ivory markets between 1998 and 2005 has now lost all momentum. Government regulators have faltered and Egypt retains its unenviable position as a leading ivory retailing offender,” said Tom Milliken, TRAFFIC ivory trade expert who commissioned the study. “Tourists buying ivory are potentiating this illegal trade, making a mockery of CITES and fuelling the poaching of Africa’s elephants.”

The report found that while Spanish, Italians and Americans were the main buyers in 2005, more Egyptians and Gulf Arabs were now buying ivory rosaries and walking sticks, but the Chinese have become the principal buyers, reportedly purchasing over half of all worked ivory sold.

One ivory vendor told the investigators that Chinese buyers would sometimes spend \$50,000 on ivory during one bargaining session. Others claimed there was no problem in bringing ivory out of Egypt, with some even offering to write a receipt indicating that a piece was an antique or made of camel bone.

The Egyptian Wildlife Service is mandated to prevent illegal wildlife products from coming into and out of the country and from being displayed in shops, but there have been few ivory seizures since 2005, while inspections of retail outlets have failed to find ivory.

Meanwhile, ivory continues to be openly carved and displayed in Cairo’s markets without any prosecution ensuing. In May 2010, the Egyptian Management Authority for CITES (the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora) held seven training courses involving wildlife officers, Customs, police officers and tourist workers, to identify products from endangered species, and produced posters to help officials identify elephant tusks.

“It is time these newly learned skills were employed to confiscate raw and worked ivory, in order to bring this flagrant trade to an end,” said Esmond Martin, the lead author on the report, a member of the East African Wild Life Society and an Editorial Board member of SWARA, the society’s quarterly magazine.

AJH



World Wetlands Day – a school celebrates and hopes

By Catherine Yaa, Kenya Wetlands Forum

A school in Western Kenya hosted celebrations marking World Wetlands Day (WWD) on February 4, hoping that the government will seize the opportunity to conserve the nation's wetlands and use them to develop tourism.

It was a hope shared by many across Kenya as WWD was marked by speeches, bands and speakers at Ombaka Primary School in Kisumu County. The event began with youths leading a procession marching to the melodies of a band with banners reflecting this year's theme for WWD- "Wetlands and Tourism".

It calls for the delivery of Vision 2030, the nation's blueprint for the future, as far as tourism development is concerned. Like many relationships the one between tourism and wetlands is very complex and it entails understanding these intricacies to effectively plan, develop and manage wetlands.

The Nyando District Commissioner, clearly seeing beyond the horizon, echoed that wetlands need to be demarcated and boundaries made clear to prevent encroachment, otherwise there will be no more wetlands in the country that may contribute to the delivery of Vision 2030.

Hopefully, with the directive that the Water Resources Management Authority (WRMA) was given



in March 2011, more wetlands will be identified, demarcated and protected. WRMA has so far done this for 20 wetlands through Water Resource Users Associations (WRUAs). The WRMA rules are very instrumental in the implementation of this initiative as they consider wetlands as water sources with riparian areas.

Speaking of riparian areas, the Director General- National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) urged farmers to respect these areas and keep from farming within riparian zones and inside wetlands. There are penalties to this; imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months, or a fine not exceeding 500,000 Kenya shillings or both according to the Environmental Management and Coordination Act, 1999. Some question whether this penalty is enough for the level of destruction of wetlands in our country.

To add to this, more sentiments were shared on the quality of water

getting into our wetlands. It is true that over the years, priority has been given to water supply. Higher priority needs to be given to waste water treatment as measure to curb the free flow of waste water into our water bodies; a factor that has clearly destabilized the functionality of wetland ecosystems.

The need to explore sustainable activities in collaboration with relevant government agencies, parastatals and Nongovernmental organizations was called for in a bid to improve livelihoods at the same time conserve wetlands. The relevant agencies have made an effort to allocate budgets to the tune of over 64 million Kenya Shillings to see to it that they work with communities to develop and implement sustainable programmes for wetland areas, hopefully in an attempt to deliver Vision 2030, create awareness as well as focus on Integrated Coastal Zone Management (ICZM). The NEMA board has already approved ICZM policies which are awaiting cabinet approval.



www.kenyawetlandsforum.org

EAWLS helps pilot natural resources monitoring in four Counties

By Celline Achieng, EAWLS

The East African Wild Life Society (EAWLS) is helping to set up Natural Resource monitoring forums in four of the newly-formed Kenyan counties to empower local residents and stakeholders to take part in any decision-making surrounding their life-giving natural habitat.

With funding from Act Change Transform (ACT!), the four bodies will be set up in Samburu, Laikipia, Nakuru and Kwale, all of which are rich in biodiversity and potential for development.

The development of this project emanated from concern that although the Constitution of Kenya 2010 stipulates some devolution of power to County level, Kenya as a country does not have any experience in running County Governments.

As a start-up to the project, an analysis of organizations thought likely to want to become members of these forums was done in January and February 2012. Stakeholders from the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Private Sector and the Government have received the idea positively and are willing to be members of these forums.

The level of stakeholder engagement in running county governments remains a new area to many stakeholders and hence the need for them to monitor and actively participate in formulation and implementation of National Legislation and more importantly - County level Legislation. This stakeholder involvement at County level is lacking in all



A stakeholders meeting outside the premises of World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) in Kwale County to discuss the formation of the County Natural Resources Management Forums.

established counties since in most counties, no stakeholder mechanisms have been established to serve this purpose.

Because of little or lack of experience in management of counties and county assemblies, there is a likelihood of some counties copying other county legislation disregarding the county diversity that exists and which should be considered. Such diversity includes people, culture and natural resources.

To address this, and in particular natural resource management (NRM), this project will support a process that will ensure Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Private Sector and Government participation in county legislation on natural resources through formation of CSOs platform known as "County CSOs/Private Sector Natural Resources Management Forums/ Networks". Working through the County Senators at the national level, the CSOs and private sector platform will advocate for laws and

policies that are formulated in a participatory, open and consultative manner to address key county NRM issues that would lead to sustainable management of natural resources and alleviate poverty.

The project will also provide an opportunity to address the following challenges and problems: lack of experience at the national and county level in the two tier devolution levels, limited CSO and private sector capacity to participate in development matters at county level, inadequate public consultations in formulation of development plans, laws, policies and strategies.

The EAWLS will implement this project at County level by applying her experiences from the Kenya Forests Working Group, the Kenya Wetland Forum and the Kenya Wildlife Conservation Forum. These three forums are sub-committees of the EAWLS, two of which have served as platforms for advocacy for over ten years. The approach to this project, therefore, will be to work

within the 4 counties and engage natural resource management stakeholders to form active natural resource management networks/forums, learn from them, and replicate and scale up activities in the other counties. Success from this model would provide a good opportunity for other counties stakeholders to form demand driven networks.

The birth of these forums, however, does not mean the nullification of the already existing sectoral forums in management of natural resources like water, forests, wildlife, minerals and land but rather a holistic approach of addressing all issues concerning the management of all natural resources; a platform that would bring together diverse conservation initiatives and stakeholders.

A synthesis of the findings from the analysis is on-going and will be shared at a workshop planned for March 2012 where representatives from the four counties will come together to formulate modalities of operating the forums as well as setting a criteria for identifying host institutions at county level for the forum's secretariats.

NEW STAFF



Meet Alex Ngari, the newest member of the EAWLS team. He has been working in the conservation and natural resource management field for the past eight years and will be coordinating the implementation of the County stakeholder plan outlined here. Welcome Alex!

Can anyone help us identify this plant?

We know it's a member of the OCHNA family, but which one? Its yellow flower lasts about a day but the plant blossoms fairly frequently. Your help would be appreciated.



The Marabou and the Lion



Early one morning I was tracking a lioness near Eland Dam Nairobi National Park. She met up with 2 other lionesses heading towards the dam to drink. A Marabou was facing away from the approaching lionesses, as always with cats it was an opportunity that was too good to pass. It was too late for the Marabou before it became aware of their presence. The two younger lionesses grabbed the bird, and as they proceeded to have a snack the older lioness rushed in to claim the prize.



FOR COMMUNITIES BY COMMUNITIES

Community monitoring of marine and coastal resources

By Joy Juma, FFI International

The following are images of a recent socio economic survey and livelihoods assessment that was undertaken by Kilimanyika Consultants along the south Coast of Kenya under a project that is piloting Community Conservation Areas (CCAs).

To ensure that monitoring is sustainable and to engage community members, the project team trained 14 community monitors in 7 villages on data collection methods and supported them in conducting their first joint survey. It is expected that the exercise will be undertaken every two years to monitor changes in livelihoods so as to support decision making processes by the communities.

Fauna & Flora International (FFI) and the East Africa Wildlife Society (EAWLS) have been working with local communities and other stakeholders including Kilimanyika Consultants to establish CCAs, which seek to improve livelihoods and conserve biodiversity. The CCAs are jointly managed by the Fisheries Department and Beach Management Units (BMUs) along the south coast, which were established under the Fisheries Act that devolves many aspects of marine resource management to local communities. The project is supported by the Darwin Initiative.

www.darwin.defra.gov.uk

www.fauna-flora.org



Traditional Fishing Dhows in Wasini.

Photos by: James Laiter/Kilimanyika



Project Team member undertaking a community interview.



Trained community monitor undertaking an interview.



IMRE

LOEFLER LECTURE

BY NIGEL HUNTER

ORGANISED BY
EAST AFRICAN
WILD LIFE
SOCIETY

VENUE
KAREN
COUNTRY CLUB
AT THE UPSTAIRS LOUNGE

Wednesday 11th April

6.30 p.m
Welcoming glass of wine

7.00 p.m
Lecture starts

8.15 p.m
Dinner

Lecture and Dinner
2,200/-

Lecture only
1,000/-

Booking
For more info contact:
Rose Chemweno: 3874145/0722202473
Email: rose.events@eawildlife.org

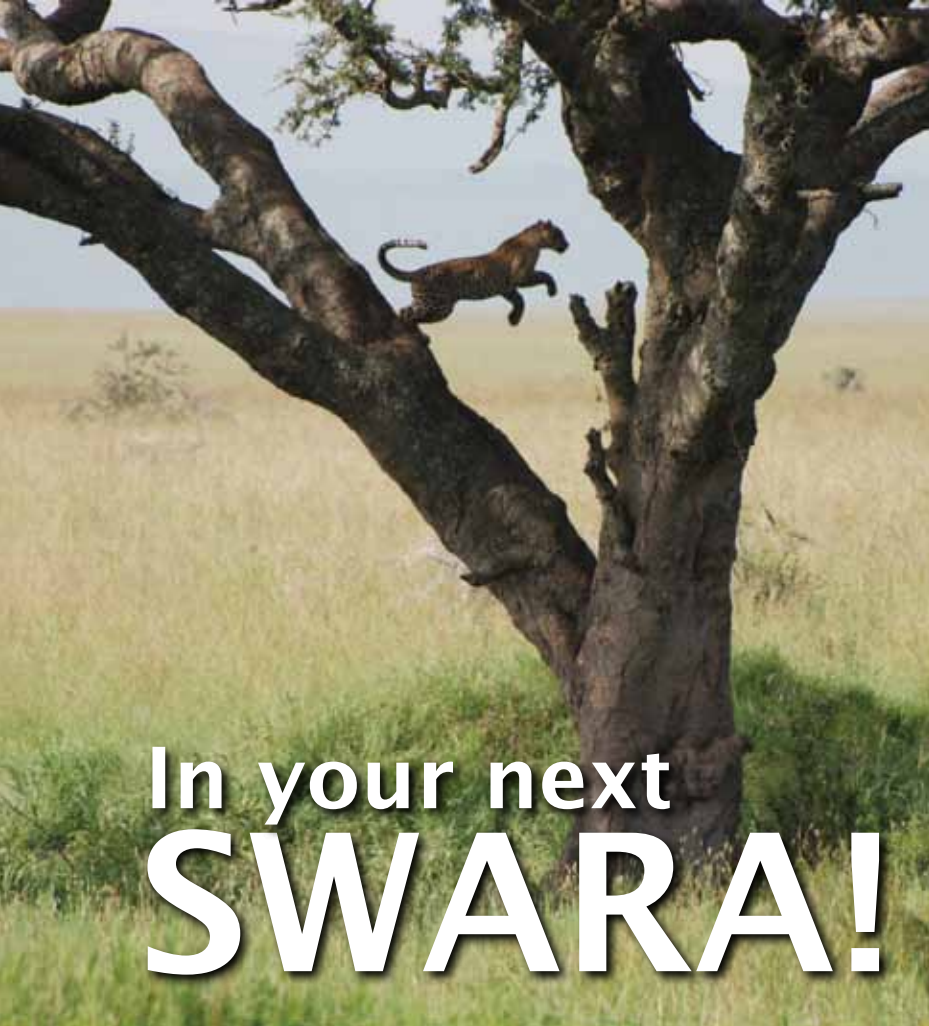


The state of the East African Wild Life Society – An update

How is the EAWLS, the region's oldest conservation organization, dealing with the challenges that confront our environment in the 21st Century?

Nigel Hunter, EAWLS, Executive Director, gives his state-of-conservation report and takes questions in the latest Loefer lecture, dedicated to the memory of Imre Loefer, writer, conservationist and former EAWLS Chairman.

Hunter will give an overview of the work EAWLS is currently doing both on the ground and in the field of advocacy and share some of the present thinking about the conservation challenges in the region in modern times.



In your next **SWARA!**

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Environmental Impact Assessments.

Do they work? EAWLS and other experts look at the concept, the reality and the history of this increasingly important yardstick.

The Power and the Glory.

Kenyan scientist Dino Martins brings us images from Central Island in Lake Turkana, an amazing treasure trove. We also examine how Ethiopia's plans to build a mega-dam on the OMO river to generate electricity might affect the lake and the people of Turkana.

The dusty midwives of Amboseli.

Astonishing pictures by Paolo Torchio of an elephant giving birth and her many attendants.

Sunday School for Samburu warriors.

We go back to school with a group of Samburu morans who are learning their alphabets in the name of conservation.

SWARA 2012-02 will be published in the first week of April and will be available at newsagents in Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Join EAWLS and get your SWARA free and mailed to you: Contact Rose Chemweno on: 3874145/0722202473
Email: rose.events@eawildlife.org

EAWLS SENDS CONDOLENCES TO GRIEVES-COOK FAMILY

EAWLS staff offer their condolences to the Grieves-Cook family after the untimely and tragic death of their son, Charles, in March. Charlie Grieves-Cook was a camp manager as well as a noted and successful photographer whose work graced many magazines and billboards in East Africa.

His father, Jake, is a member of the EAWLS Council, a pioneer of the Porini conservation concept in the Maasai Mara and a tireless champion of Kenya, its people and its natural heritage. Our hearts go out to the family, and to Charlie's many friends.

IMRE LOEFER LECTURE Muthaiga Country Club

The South African Conservation Success Story

In 1652 the first Europeans landed in Table Bay from three small ships, led by Jan Van Riebeeck. Within 300 years, large wildlife in what is today known as the Republic of South Africa, had been reduced to around half a million head. Yet within the next 70 years, from the 1950s to today, wildlife numbers had risen to an astonishing 19 million.

Why and how this astonishing recovery has been achieved is described in this 40 minute video by the lawyer and conservationist Peter Flack, the Canadian wildlife biologist Shane Mahoney and the CEO of South African National parks, David Mabunda.

After the video we can discuss whether there are lessons for elsewhere in Africa, perhaps even for Kenya where over this same 50 year period over 80% of large wildlife have vanished.

**Thursday 19th April 2012
By Mike Norton Griffiths**