



Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife

Partnerships for Education and Wildlife Preservation

Habari Gani?

May 2004

"Mzuri sana!" The news is *very good!* In just a short time, your contributions have given us the means to make a real difference for the students in the four schools we support, and interest in FKSW continues to grow. Our safari in January was extraordinarily successful and we have so many ideas about ways the project might grow in the future.

We are now providing scholarships to 10 students. Each year, we'll add two *additional* scholarships at each school and continue to support all of the children through 8th grade. Of course, as we add more schools, we'll add more scholarships, so the total number we give each year will increase over time. While on safari, we visited Kachuru, a town about two hours from the Waso School, and have agreed to help renovate their school and provide the assistance they need to reopen the school for classes. Scholarships will be part of the support there, too.

In this issue of the Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife Newsletter, we want to tell you how we're using the funds and items you've donated. We'll introduce each community and outline what we've done so far to address the needs they've identified. We'll tell you, too, some of our plans for the future. But first, a few words about...

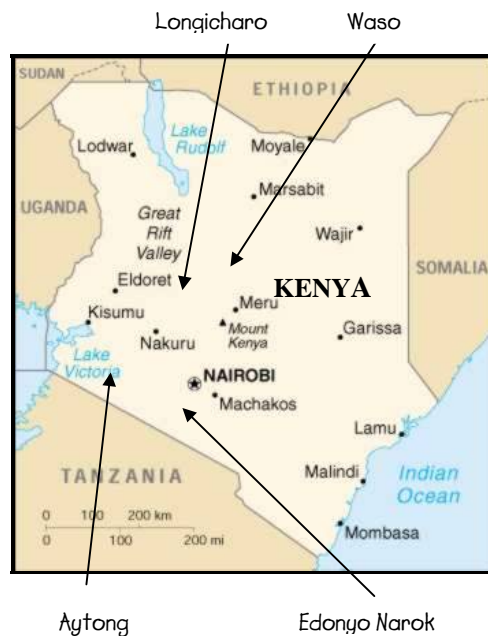
FKSW Safari # 1 - January 17- February 10, 2004

For three and a half weeks Mike Lawrence, our Kenyan partner, guided us through an adventure that we've found difficult to describe since returning home- words just don't capture the experience. We have thousands of photos and slides and hours of video footage, some of which we shared with about 150 people on Saturday, May 15 in the International Student Lounge at the University of Oregon. Co-sponsored by the International Student Resource Center and the African Student Association, the "show and tell" was a great way for us to share our *safari*- and to give a small taste of what we thought was the perfect balance of work and leisure, "roughing it" and luxury, time with our community partners and time on the plains viewing the wildlife for which Kenya is so famous. The two giant thunderstorms that thrilled and scared us at the same time weren't on the itinerary, but they, too, are tucked away in our memories of an experience that Mike called "the highlight of his 25 year career". His sentiments reflect the fact that this was a "first" - the combination of wildlife viewing and work at the schools- that was more successful than he had dreamed.

For us, this "new" safari provided opportunities not only to be just *feet* away from lionesses with cubs, a cheetah family sharing a kill, and a wildebeest mother giving birth, but also to visit the schools and to meet the children, their families and the elders in the villages of Aytong, Longicharo, Waso and Edonyo Narok. We began partnerships with the school committees and friendships with the people that grew as we worked together and celebrated the fruits of our joint efforts. We left each village richer than we had arrived and all of us were unexpectedly touched in ways that left us not quite the same.

Swahili/English

Habari gani?.....what's the news?
 Mzuri sana.....very good
 Safarijourney
 Asanteni sana.....thank you all very much
 Mabati.....corrugated metal
 Ugali.....maize, dish like polenta



The Schools



Party at Aytong School

Edonyo Narok School- Kipeto

In Maa, the language of the Maasai, Edonyo Narok means “black rock”. An hour southwest of Nairobi on the edge of the Great Rift Valley, the Maasai of Edonyo Narok tend their cattle sheep and goats in the arid, rocky hills that surround the school. Zebra, ostrich, gazelle, baboons and other wildlife share the land, and drought is a constant problem. The Maasai women create beautiful beadwork on belts, watchbands and necklaces but currently are having a difficult time finding a market for their work. There are few schools for the children, and many of them walk miles each day to the nearest primary or secondary school, returning home in the afternoon.

The Edonyo Narok school building is actually the community’s church. The building doubles as the school during the week. One of the two teachers is also the minister of the church. This is not unusual in rural communities, where community buildings serve multiple purposes. The teachers, Moses Parkire and Josephat Nasieku teach 34 children in the one room. Because it is crowded and because it is inconvenient to remove all of the educational materials and aids before the regular church services each week, they would like to have a dedicated school building with two classrooms—one for the older children, and one for the younger. The community has also asked that we help drill a borehole to provide a regular source of water. They currently collect rainwater in the tank at the school, but due to the infrequent rain, the tank is often empty. We have agreed to consider these requests for the future. To date, FKSWS has provided:

- Materials and labor for repairs to the water tank and concrete step into the classroom
- Salary support for two teachers for one term (ks4500 per teacher per term)
- Curriculum texts, exercise books, wall charts, (ks2500)
- Teacher table and chairs
- Blackboard, chalk and erasers
- Desks and benches (ks9300)
- 2 student scholarships (ks3200)
- Soccer uniforms and ball (ks2000)

1000 Kenya Shillings = \$13.00 US



Waso- Teacher and children singing a welcome

Waso Complex Nursery School-Archer’s Post

Just north of the town of Isiolo in central Kenya, Waso Complex Nursery School sits on the edge of the arid Northern Frontier. The region is inhabited by Boran, Turkana and Samburu people, some of whom are nomads, moving with their flocks of sheep, camels, cattle and goats in search of food. There is a strong Muslim influence from Somalia. The CBS show, *Survivor Africa*, was produced in the Shaba National Reserve, just minutes away, and meeting wildlife on the way to school is not an uncommon occurrence for the children.

Luiginia Akiriu teaches a class of 35. She has created many of her teaching aids herself, including a little store where children learn to use money, a science corner and a math corner. The committee would like another classroom to accommodate the increasing number of students, many of whom have outgrown the pre-school program and need primary instruction. They will need a second teacher and more desks and benches. To date, FKSWS has provided:

- 5 months teacher salary (ks7500)
- Materials for a waterline project to bring water to the school from the well and materials for a fence around the school yard to keep the wildlife out (ks7000)
- 4 student scholarships (ks12800)
- New uniforms and shoes for 2003 scholarship recipients (ks1600)
- Curriculum texts, exercise books, wall charts, chalk, erasers (ks2500)
- Soccer uniforms and ball (ks2000)

Student Scholarships

(ks 3200 each)

Siranka ole Parsumari

11 year old Maasai boy

Mashipei ene Sankan

9 year old Maasai girl

Student Scholarships

(ks 3200 each)

Isak Abdi Karim

9 year old Boran boy

Kulmia Mohamed

9 year old girl

Amina Adan

9 year old girl

Napanu Lesasa

10 year old Samburu girl

Where there are no specified amounts, the work is either not yet complete or we haven’t received the final figures.

Longicharo Nursery School- Lake Baringo

Longicharo Village sits at the edge of Lake Baringo on a peninsula that, during the rainy season, becomes an island when the water in the lake rises to cut it off from the mainland. The lake is home to crocodiles, hippos and the largest variety of birds in the country. The Njemps people of Longicharo Village are Maasai who became fishermen when a drought killed their cattle. Like the Maasai, the Njemps build their circular, thatch-roofed homes from sticks, mud and cow dung. They cross the lake in small boats made from the buoyant wood of the ambatch tree. The region is very hot and dry. Nevertheless, mosquitoes are numerous, and malaria, a major health problem for children and adults, is often untreated for lack of medication.

For two days, we worked with the people to construct the new school. Small rocks collected by hand by all of us, even the tiniest children, fill in the spaces between the larger rocks which form the base of the 12 x 24 foot foundation. Dirt and cow dung, placed on top of the rocks, stomped smooth by many feet and covered with concrete finish the floor. Eight poles support the roof trusses that the men built from lumber provided by project funds, and then *mabati*, corrugated metal, covers the trusses for the roof. A low rock wall surrounds the structure and horizontal poles provide walls on two sides. New benches and desks, also built on the site, replace the rocks that the children sat on before. All of the materials, except the rocks, came across the lake in boats. We celebrated our cooperative effort with a party, enjoying goat stew that had been cooking all afternoon, ugali and watermelon. After we ate, the warriors and the women danced and sang, and then we *tried* to dance at their invitation. If you listen closely to the video, you can hear the children laughing at our efforts. To date, FKSWS has provided:

- School construction- materials (ks29565)
- School construction- labor- mason and contractor (ks4725)
- Teacher salary support for 6 months (ks6000)
- Desks and benches (ks9300)
- Malaria medication (ks500)
- 2 student scholarships (ks6400)
- Curriculum texts, exercise books, wall charts, chalk, erasers (ks2500)
- Blackboard and erasers
- Soccer uniforms and ball (ks2000)

Aytong Nursery School- Masai Mara

Located near the Kenyan border with Tanzania, the Masai Mara is one of the most spectacular game parks in Africa. An astonishing variety of wildlife live together on the plains and in the valleys, hills and rivers of the Mara. Lions, leopard, cheetah, elephant, zebra, giraffe, wildebeest, hyena are just a few of the animals. Hundreds of varieties of birds and spectacular scenery make the Mara a highlight of any trip to Eastern Africa. Aytong Village, a Maasai community in the Mara, is the location of our fourth school. Although we were expecting about 35 children, ninety six students sang and danced their welcome. Some of the children had come from the primary school to join in the excitement. Mercy Nampaso and Jonathan

Sankuya share the teaching in one room for 60 students. The committee would like a new classroom to accommodate the overflow. To date, FKSWS has provided:

- Curriculum texts, exercise books, wall charts, chalk (ks2500)
- 2 Student scholarships (ks6400)
- Materials and labor to construct a toilet building
- Materials to build a fence around the compound
- Desks and benches (ks9300)
- Soccer uniforms and ball (ks2000)



Grace Koinale teaches a lesson in the new school

Student Scholarships (ks 3200 each)

Elijah Lerima
10 year old Njemps boy

Loice Lemukot
11 year old Njemps girl

Student Scholarships (ks 3200 each)

Lepish Tinka
8 year old Maasai boy
Aytong Primary School

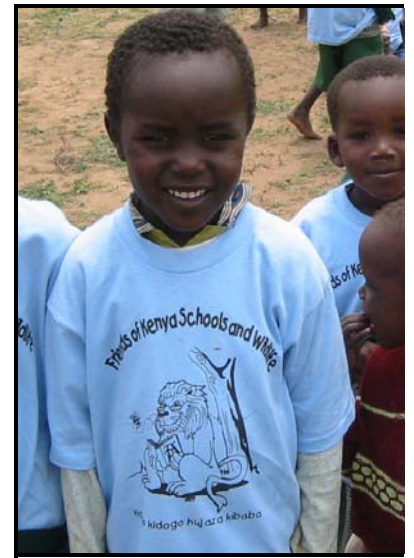
Naipante Ntokoiwuan
9 year old Maasai girl
Aytong Primary School



Aytong School

In addition...

We arrived in Kenya with hundreds of pounds of donations from friends, family and local businesses. Toothbrushes and toothpaste, 100 soccer uniforms, a case of crayons, 4000 ball point pens, Frisbees, school supplies of all kinds, t-shirts and ball caps for adults and “official” Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife t-shirts that we designed and printed in Eugene for the children. We took watches, children’s books, handknit sweaters from a local knitting group, sewing kits, flashlights, bubbles, used eyeglasses, balloons, puzzles, jump ropes, clocks and bandanas. The hammers, saws and chisels we used to build the school were donated, as were the t-shirts we wore during construction. With project funds, we bought additional school supplies at an educational supply store in Kenya: wall charts, exercise books, chalk and approved curriculum materials. We purchased medication for malaria and respiratory infections and food for parties for the children. (FKSW Safari #2 is scheduled for September 2004, Safari #3 for January, 2005).



Aytong student with his new FKSW T-shirt

The Green Belt Movement

One of our stops was at the offices of the Green Belt Movement (GBM) in Nairobi. The GBM was started in 1976 by Professor Wangari Maathai, who is now Assistant Minister for the Environment, Natural Resources and Wildlife in Kenya’s 9th Parliament. Through the GBM, Maathai has assisted women to plant more than 20 million indigenous trees on their farms and on school and church compounds. Maathai is internationally recognized for her work for democracy, human rights and environmental issues and has addressed the United Nations several times on behalf of women.



Roz and Paul Slovic present a windchime to Prof. Wangari Maathai

Prof. Maathai welcomed us to the GBM offices and gave us a tour of the grounds and the tree nursery. We took part in a ceremony in the garden created by the GBM staff in memory of Dan Slovic, the son of Roz and Paul Slovic. The Slovics gave Prof. Maathai a wind chime with a glass bead that Dan had made, and then watered the tree that the staff had planted in Dan’s name. During a reception that followed, we had a chance to visit with Dr. Maathai and the GBM staff.

We deeply appreciate Prof. Maathai’s offer to provide FKSW with trees for each of our schools and to provide assistance from the GBM in planting and maintaining them. We hope to give each child a tree to care for and we are honored to have the opportunity to contribute in this way to the important work that this organization is doing. For more information about the Green Belt Movement: <http://www.greenbeltmovement.org>

Asanteni Sana! A special thanks to all of you who so generously supported our efforts on this trip...

Ron and Judi Cameron
Janice and Aaron Kaufman
Roz and Paul Slovic
Scott McNeeley and Mary McKrola
Nathan and Tiffany Meyer
Erich and Diane Kaufman
Judith and Arthur Garwood
Toby Deemer

Paul Cameron, Southeast Soccer Club
Courtney Cook- Oregon Community Credit Union
Jim Williams – University of Oregon Bookstore
Dave Wilson- Red Robin Restaurant
Mary Lee Donley and Andy Smith
U of O Museum of Natural History
Sarah McArthur
Sandra Hicks

Dr. Don Dexter, DMD
Dr. Michael Lacey, DMD
Patti and Efrain Limardo
Dr. Firas Salhi, DDS
Sonja Fields- Mr. Logo
Margie Malsch
Bonnie Severson
Anna Houpt

...and to all of you who have made the work we did possible through your contributions in the past.

Kidogo kidogo hujaza kibaba!

A little here, a little there fills the can!

If you’d like to make a contribution, checks can be made payable to Friends of Kenya Schools and Wildlife and sent to the following address. If you’d like more information about the project or about our next trip, please contact Gwen Meyer or John Neumeister at:

We are currently applying for tax exempt status!

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Our website will be up very soon!