



The Anne K. Taylor Fund

2nd QUARTER REPORT
(April - June 2019)

MISSION STATEMENT

Working to protect Kenya's wildlife and to enhance the lives of the local communities who share their space.

A NOTE FROM ANNE

Dear friends and supporters,

Since our last Report I have covered a lot of ground and every one of our AKTF team members has been extremely busy and productive. It is that time of year with the annual wildebeest migration flooding the Mara!

I spent a wonderful few months in Kenya welcoming several delightful families to my homeland and I am now back in the Madison Valley, Montana, on the other side of the world!

I can honestly say there is nothing I like better than to share the beauty of Kenya with our safari guests, especially our young travellers. Africa, particularly Kenya, changes lives forever.

Particularly enjoyable was sharing our AKTF work in the Mara with our guests. The Illaramatak Women's Group's business of making liquid soap is proving to be very successful and the women are excited to be earning their own money for the first time ever under Carol's watchful eye and guidance. This is how futures change.

The Esidai Women's Group, supported by AKTF, continues to sew sanitary pads, which we distribute to hundreds of schoolgirls allowing them to stay in school for the entire month. Along with distribution of pads Carol runs Health and Hygiene workshops in many of the local schools so that the girls - and boys - can learn more about their bodies in an attempt to prevent very early pregnancies.

Our patrol team, under Elias' leadership, continues to keep poachers at bay and the wildlife safer, working day and night towards this end. We thank them sincerely for their dedication, bravery and hard work.

The boma protection team, with Felix at the helm, also has their hands full constructing new livestock enclosures with generous support from, and partnership with, Angama Foundation, with additional support from National Geographic and Eden Wildlife Trust. We are proud to once again be included in the National Geographic family of Explorers. It is thrilling to know that our boma protection has contributed greatly to the survival of both livestock and lions with a 99.6% success rate in preventing predation and the resultant revenge killings of predators.

We continue to support and improve the two primary schools we have built—Ooolmongi and Nailepu, along with Oliashire, to which we have provided considerable support. The children and the teachers have made us proud with their achievements.

Thank you to each and every one of you who have supported us and who have made it possible to take on as many initiatives as we are currently undertaking! Without your generous help we would not be able to make as much of a difference.

Thank you so much and I hope you will enjoy what remains of the summer.

With gratitude and warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Anne Kent Taylor". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Anne Kent Taylor
Founder and Director
Anne K. Taylor Fund
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ANTI-POACHING PROJECT

One of the main ways we protect Kenya's wildlife is by combatting poaching. Poaching in Maasai Mara takes three primary forms: bush meat hunting, illegal ivory poaching, and retaliation for human wildlife conflict. Bushmeat poachers typically set wire snares to trap and kill animals whose meat can be sold for food. Illegal commercial poachers target animals with valuable body parts - such as elephants for their tusks or rhinos for their horns. Retaliatory killing happens when predators such as lions and leopards kill livestock, and these predators are then poisoned or speared.

The AKTF Patrol Team



The AKTF Anti-Poaching Team and Mara Conservancy Rangers, clockwise from top left: Ole Saitoti (AKTF), Benjamin Maripei (MC), Ole Sirere (AKTF), Team Leader Elias Kamande (AKTF), Oleloorki (MC), Ole Kilonga (AKTF), Nashipae (MC), and Oloito Kinanda (AKTF).

In order to halt these destructive practices, the AKTF Anti-Poaching Team regularly patrols the protected lands and community areas around Maasai Mara, looking for snares to remove and rescuing the wildlife caught in them, as well as acting on tips from concerned community members to track and ambush poachers intending to

harm animals. We operate in conjunction with local law enforcement agencies that have the authority to arrest and prosecute any poachers we help them capture.

We have been doing this work since 1999, and in the last ten years we have removed over 7,000 snares, saving countless animals from suffering and death.

The team patrols with local authorities, specifically the Mara Conservancy, Kenya Wildlife Service, Mara Elephant Project, WWF and Kenya Forestry Service, as well as local General Service Units.

Anti-Poaching Activities

This Quarter, the Team spent considerable time patrolling the Mara's rivers expecting to find and disrupt hippo poachers. Due to the rains and increased water levels, this is typically the time of year that poachers target the hippos that congregate in the Mara's waterways. We were fortunate to find that the rivers were devoid of any poaching activity aimed at hippos.



Joint patrols are organized to sweep the Mara Triangle, looking for signs of poaching and rescuing wildlife.

We are expecting to see a spike in poaching activity as the annual migration of over a million wildebeest and zebra gains momentum in July until September. This is typically when it is easiest and most profitable for poachers to catch and kill multitudes of wildlife crossing from the Serengeti to the Mara. By setting out dozens of snares along known routes, poachers often kill more animals than they can carry and many are left to rot in the snares that caught them. We aim to prevent or reduce this terrible slaughter.

To combat this, the AKTF Team will continue our practice of facilitating joint patrols with the Mara Conservancy and Kenya Wildlife Service. On these joint patrols, the participating law enforcement and conservation agencies send as many rangers as they can spare to sweep vast reaches of the Mara's protected grasslands for snares and any signs of poaching activity. Additionally, these joint patrols also design ambushes to surprise poaching camps, arrest any poachers found there, and confiscate all of the deadly tools used to kill wildlife.



The KWS/David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust veterinarians, along with Mara Conservancy Rangers and the AKTF Team, treat this elephant's arrow wounds.

One of the major wildlife rescues we supported this Quarter was for an elephant. These are always harrowing missions because wounded elephants are not only enormous, frightened creatures who are suspicious of humans, but also because they travel in large family groups that do not want to abandon one of their own. Once an elephant is tranquilized, it is difficult and dangerous to keep the rest of its family away while the veterinarians go to work.

This particular elephant had four arrow wounds in it, with two arrows still stuck in its hide. Since arrows are not the preferred way to kill elephants for their tusks, we suspect that this was a case of human-wildlife conflict, probably from the elephant being too near a homestead or eating crops out of a farmer's field. Unfortunately, now that the Nyakweri Forest is demarcated and being fenced, elephants are forced to look elsewhere for food, and this kind of conflict is likely to keep occurring.

Dr. Limo and the KWS/David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust veterinarians removed the arrows and treated the wounds while the AKTF Team helped keep its family a safe distance away. Once it was treated, the elephant rejoined its family.



Once the arrows were removed and the elephant's wounds were treated, it was able to return to its family and hopefully live a long, peaceful life.

HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT MITIGATION

In addition to combatting active poachers, the AKTF Anti-Poaching Team also proactively responds to conflicts that could lead to wildlife deaths. These conflicts arise when wild animals intrude on or damage crops or livestock. To protect their livelihoods, humans sometimes feel the need to retaliate against the wildlife they feel were responsible for their losses - often by spearing or poisoning them.

Lion Hunts Averted

When we learn of livestock attacks or crops damaged by wildlife, our team responds by meeting with the landowner who suffered the losses. Since our team is comprised of local Maasai who also own livestock and who also have to watch out for predator attacks, we are able to demonstrate compassion and understanding to the landowner, and to talk them down from using deadly force against wild animals in retaliation. We also help the landowner seek compensation from local conservancies who offer it as repayment for lost livestock.

In some cases, when the wildlife is still in the area, we help keep watch on them and prevent them from engaging further with humans, usually by herding them back towards the protected Mara Triangle. This tactic was necessary this Quarter, since heavy rains have made the lowlands that comprise the Mara Triangle wet. This causes lions to head for higher ground in the community areas along the Oloololo Escarpment. Landowners lost 13 animals this Quarter, but our Team was thankfully able to respond to all of these incidents and prevent any retaliatory hunts from taking place.

| 2 nd QUARTER TOTALS | Cows Killed | Sheep & Goats Killed | Successful Retaliation Hunts |
|--------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------------------------|
| | 13 | 15 | 0 |

Halting Illegal Grazing

Human-wildlife conflict also arises when people illegally take herds of livestock into the Mara Triangle. This, of course, is also home to lions and hyenas that find cows to be easy prey. Once herders lose livestock to these attacks, they are not legally allowed to get compensation (because they were trespassing), so sometimes they give in to their anger and return to the scene of the attack with poison to leave for predators to find.

The AKTF Team also patrols with the Mara Conservancy Rangers to arrest herders who have illegally taken their livestock into the Reserve. They confiscate the herds until the owner pays the fine.



Cows that are brought into the Mara Triangle illegally are confiscated and kept corralled at the Olololo Gate until their owner can pay a fine.

HABITAT PROTECTION

Land Demarcation, Illegal Logging, and Charcoal Burning

When they are not patrolling for snares, the Team is working to save the remnants of the Nyakweri Forest that have not yet been fenced off for private landowners or cut down for timber and charcoal. Unfortunately, the forest is disappearing faster than we can help save it, and its absence will likely be environmentally catastrophic for the region's water cycles, wildlife, and human populations.

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 2 nd | Charcoal Kilns Destroyed |
| QUARTER TOTALS | 55 |



Our Team patrols the forest with law enforcement authorities, such as the Kenya Forestry Service, ambushing illegal harvesting operations (left), arresting perpetrators, and destroying the kilns constructed to turn trees into charcoal (right).

FORTIFIED BOMA PROJECT

If we can keep wild animals like lions, leopards, and hyenas from attacking livestock, then much of the human-wildlife conflict will never occur in the first place. Our strategy for doing this is to fortify the enclosures, called *bomas*, which keep livestock safe at night so that predators cannot break in.

The AKTF Boma Team constructs sturdy, predator-resistant bomas using chainlink mesh, high tensile wire, metal corners, and treated wooden posts. These are considerably more durable than the traditional bomas made of branches and thorns, and they are also more sustainable since they do not rely on cutting local trees. As a result, AKTF-fortified bomas decrease losses by 99% compared to pre-fortification.

The AKTF Boma Team



The AKTF Boma Team, clockwise from top left: Simon Miyion, Alfred Ngisa, Douglas (formerly of AKTF), Samwel Kitur, and Team Leader Felix Munyao.

AKTF began boma fortification work in 2008, and since then we have built or refurbished 820 bomas. Recent projects have focused on building bomas for herders that moved out of wildlife corridors in the new Pardamat Conservancy, and for herders who have lost livestock to attacks. Currently we are focusing on the Oloololo Escarpment near Mara Angama Lodge, in partnership with the Angama Foundation, which is directly in the path that many lions take when leaving the protected Mara Triangle to hunt in the human-dominated uplands.

| Service Provided | Number of Bomas | Number of Livestock Protected |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Boma installations | 7 | 1,540 |
| Bomas refurbished | 3 | 660 |
| TOTAL | 10 | 2,200 |

In addition to support from the Angama Foundation, we are also grateful to Eden Wildlife Trust, National Geographic, and many other generous donors for making the Boma Project possible.



A herd of cows leave through the gate of an AKTF boma, as the owners and his family look on.

EDUCATION PROJECT

Both the wildlife and human communities in Maasai Mara will need to lean on the youth of today to solve the ever-growing challenges the future will bring. However, many schools struggle to train students with the few resources provided by the government. Without the necessary school supplies, bright young minds lack the tools they need to thrive academically. And without an educational path that leads to productive opportunities, too many of these bright young minds with high potential will turn to destructive means of providing for themselves and for their community.

Thanks to our generous donors, AKTF works to support Maasai youth in their academic training by equipping schools with textbooks, desks, classrooms, uniforms, clean water, school lunches, sanitary latrines, playing fields. We also offer menstrual health and hygiene workshops and provide reusable sanitary pads for young women. We currently work mainly with Oloolmongi Primary School, Nailepu Junior Academy, and Oliashire Primary School.



Students and teachers at Nailepu Junior Academy receive boxes of school supplies and textbooks donated by AKTF from Felix (in red) in their new tracksuits.



Nailepu students and teachers line up with Felix (fourth from left, in red) in their new athletic gear, in front of the school building that AKTF built for the expanding student body,

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

Menstrual Hygiene Management

Narok County, which contains Maasai Mara, has one of the highest dropout rates for female students in Kenya. Poverty is one of the main contributing factors, as girls are married off for dowries, and these child marriages often result in early pregnancies, sexually transmitted infections, and poor menstrual health.

For those that are not married young, the onset of their period can lead to them dropping out of school. Menstruation is a taboo subject in Maasai Mara, and, as such, even women do not discuss it with each other nor do they train girls to safely and hygienically manage their periods. Thus, attending school during one's period is difficult and embarrassing. Girls will miss school each month during their period and fall farther and farther behind their male peers.



These participants of one of AKTF's menstrual health and reproductive management workshops smile and show off their new reusable sanitary pads.

AKTF addresses this by facilitating workshops in which Carol Kiugo educates young women about menstrual health, breaking taboos around women's bodies and hygiene. She also distributes reusable, sustainable, sanitary pads for girls to wear during their periods. These reusable pads are free, which alleviates a family's

financial burden of buying disposable pads from the store (where they are generally unavailable anyway as well as being terrible for the environment). Moreover, these pads allow girls to attend school during their “time of the month” without anxiety.

We have reached 700 young women so far with our menstrual health and reproductive management workshops, and **we look forward to continuing to increase this impact with your help.** Thank you, so much, to those that have contributed to this project already.

Cultural Empowerment & Expression

This Quarter, girls from the Oloolmongi Primary School presented a musical number titled ‘Olkonoi Tapalaki Maisumayu’ (“Hyenas, Let Us Learn”) during the Kenya National Drama Festival. The message of the poem is about Nankiti, a girl who grew up with higher hopes of going to school to get education. After starting school, she starts getting challenged everyday as she goes home. The “hyenas” (men and boys) follow her home from school and threaten her hopes of completing her education, enticing her with money to turn away from her path. In the end, she pleads with community leaders to protect girl students from the “hyenas” in the community, and with the other schoolgirls to not let anyone cut short their educational path and steal away their dreams. The choir reached the semi finals and was commended for their outstanding and moving performance.



The girls of the Oloolmongi student choir called for an end to child marriages, early pregnancy, and limited educational opportunities for women in their performance at the Regional Drama Festival where they reached the semi finals in the National Competition

Soap-Making Project

Economic independence is the foundation of women's empowerment. Without it, women will remain under the control of men, which is not always "healthy"! The Illaramatak Women's Group, founded and sponsored by AKTF, runs a soap-making project that empowers rural Maasai women to make liquid soap used for laundry, hand washing, and dish washing. By selling these soaps to local lodges and the community, the women have created a new livelihood for themselves for the first time ever.



The AKTF Boma Team takes a break after finishing construction of the main soap-making workshop (above). Shortly after this picture was taken, we added gutters to keep the women dry when it rains and to collect water in the tank we provided. The women of the Soap Making Project create different soaps for different uses, and sell them to lodges and community (below).

To support the Illaramatak Women's Group, this Quarter AKTF built them a workshop where they make the soap and can safely create and store their equipment and products. We owe many thanks to the AKTF construction experts and Boma Team for helping make this soap factory a reality!

However, now that these women have established this soap business, they need training to run a successful business. So, AKTF's Women's Empowerment Team Leader is committed to bringing in experts on business management to train Illaramatak Women's Group to ensure that their soap products are created with consistent quality and distributed in a timely and reliable manner.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The work we do would not be possible without the incredible support of our major sponsors and partners, such as the National Government, and Narok County, sponsored Ushanga Kenya Initiative, which empowers pastoral women through their beadwork; National Geographic, Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (through USAID), Mara Angama Foundation, Eden Wildlife Trust that continue to fund our Fortified Boma Project along with our Maasai partners. We also owe thanks to those many other institutions, individuals and families, who continuously support the Anti-Poaching and Education projects. These incredible and thoughtful supporters continue to make donations throughout the year - year after year. We will list all our generous supporters in our year-end report. Thank you.

Special thanks also go to Brian Heath, CEO, and the Rangers of the Mara Conservancy, KWS and WWF in the Nyakweri Forest; Governors and Little Governors Camps for help with our patrol vehicles; Sanctuary Olonana; Kichwa Tembo; Bernie Githigi and the vehicle workshop at Abercrombie and Kent for administrative support and vehicle maintenance assistance, respectively; Matthew for manufacturing boma materials and school desks, and Angama lodge for hosting him; and of course the Maasai communities for partnering with us.

Thanks to Angama Lodge and Angama Foundation for including AKTF as one of the beneficiaries of their 2018 and 2019 Greatest Maasai Mara Photographer of the Year Competition. We also thank all the photographers who supported AKTF through their entry fees. The quality of the work is absolutely beyond first class and has been a wonderful showcase to let the world know what our beautiful Maasai Mara consists of. I look forward every day to seeing these beautiful photos of wildlife, people, landscapes, and skies – everything that the Mara has in abundance. An incredible initiative!

We would also like to express our gratitude to the AKTF Team members on the ground, and the rangers who work with them in the field, who often work around the clock for weeks at a time to protect the wildlife.

Once again, [please consider donating to support our work by using this link](#). Your contributions make a huge difference to the people and animals of Maasai Mara! Thank you in advance!



Thank you From Elias, Anne, Felix, and Carol (clockwise from left) and our entire AKTF team