

The Anne K. Taylor Fund

2023 Year-End Report

Table of Contents



I.	<u>A Note from Anne</u>	<u>p. 2</u>
II.	<u>Anti-Poaching</u>	<u>p. 3</u>
	I. Rescuing Wildlife	p. 4
	II. Deadly Weapons	p. 5
	III. Defending Habitat	p. 6
	IV. Local Knowledge	p. 7
III.	<u>Supporting Schools</u>	<u>p. 10</u>
	I. Protecting Students	p. 12
IV.	<u>Women's Health</u>	<u>p. 14</u>
	I. Empowering Women	p. 16
V.	<u>Collaborating With Others</u>	<u>p. 17</u>
	I. Nurturing Beauty	p. 18
VI.	<u>A.K.T.F. Leadership</u>	<u>p. 18</u>
VII.	<u>Gratitude</u>	<u>p. 19</u>

A Note from Anne

Dear Fellow Travelers, Generous Friends and Donors,

I firstly want to thank each and every one of you for your valued support in both the conservation and travel fields. We are so very grateful. We particularly love to welcome our safari guests to Kenya, my homeland, and to share what we love so much about this country.

I am now happily home in the sunshine, with birds singing, laughter surrounding me (the Kenyans' joy of life is legendary), and the animals fat and happy eating the verdant grasses and bushes after a healthy rainy season.

Regarding travel, I would like to quote my brother who has endless energy and curiosity as he traverses the world year after year. He says, "The challenge of wanderlust is the fact that the more destinations you see, the more you want to see." I am sure you will all agree! We are, I am sure, a family of "wanderers"! Thank you, as always, for allowing A.K. Taylor International to help you with your travel plans.

I hope you will enjoy reading AKTF's Year-End Report, which outlines what we have achieved in terms of conservation and community empowerment. With your most generous support this past year, we have continued enhancing the lives of the people and wildlife of Kenya's famed Masai Mara.

I feel so proud of our AKTF team for their dedication and hard work ensuring the safety of the wildlife. Poaching increased again this year, but so did our wildlife rescues and snare removals. Please do read what our team leader has to say about their work.

Building a bridge to Oliashire School, in partnership with Bridging the Gap Africa and the wonderful friends who sponsored it, was a huge achievement. It is hard for outsiders to understand the challenges people face in a "walking world". This bridge will save multiple lives as the children and community will no longer have to wade through a raging river to get to school or their homes. My gratitude is beyond words for this bridge to have been completed in a very timely manner.

I wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season and all the very best for 2024. I hope I will meet many of you here in Kenya so that I can share my passion with you for my country, its people and wildlife.

Thank you once more for standing by us and believing in our ability to make a difference with your help.

With love and gratitude,

Anne

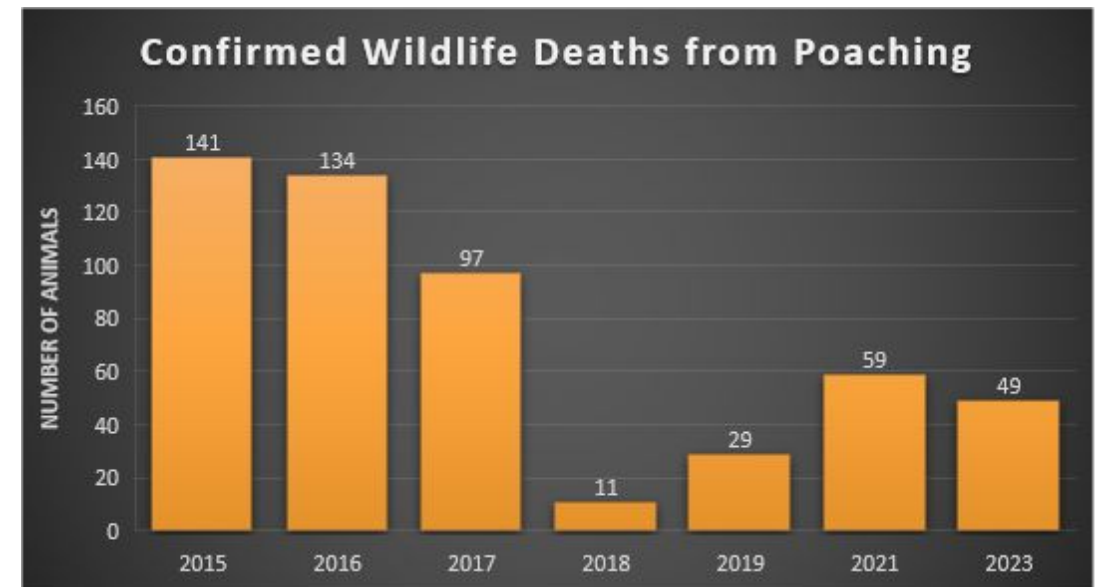
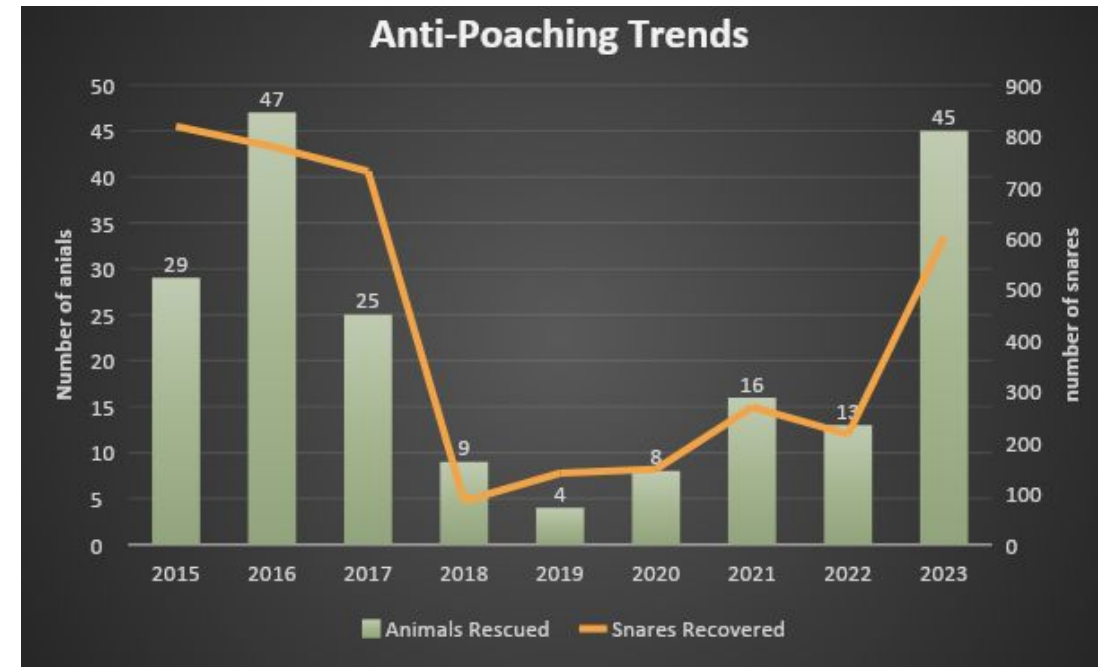
Anti-Poaching

Our AKTF team patrols with local authorities to rescue animals wounded by poachers, to disrupt poaching camps, and to arrest poachers. We work closely with the Mara Conservancy, Angama Foundation, Kenya Wildlife Service veterinarians, Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, General Service Unit, Oloisukut Conservancy, and Mara Elephant Project, and we are deeply grateful for our collaboration and mutual efforts on behalf of the people and wildlife of Maasai Mara.

We also search the bush for, and remove, the highly camouflaged wire snares that poachers use to trap and kill animals. The top graph illustrates how poaching with wire snares is on the rise again, though the bottom graph shows that we are still managing to limit the damage caused by poachers.

2023 Statistics:

- **45 animals rescued** (22 wildebeests, 10 zebra, 7 giraffes, 2 elephants, 2 warthogs, 1 cape buffalo, and 1 leopard)
- **602 snares** retrieved (totaling 8,339 since 2009)
- **39 poaching weapons** retrieved (spears, swords, pangas, & axes)
- **4 elephant tusks** recovered during patrols
- 49 animals confirmed killed by poachers
- The AKTF Anti-Poaching Team attended **4 community meetings** and made **15 visits to local schools** to advocate for wildlife protection



ANTI-POACHING PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

Rescuing Wildlife



The AKTF Patrol Team scans the Mara for wounded animals. Together with veterinarians from the Kenya Wildlife Service and Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, we locate, tranquilize, and medically treat wildlife that have been trapped in snares, shot with arrows or spears, poisoned, or otherwise injured.

Our goal is to make the Mara's habitats truly safe places for wildlife to roam. This year we **rescued 45 animals** including (clockwise from top left): a wounded juvenile giraffe, a large elephant with a snare around its leg, and a zebra whose leg had been sliced to the bone by a wire snare.

It costs **\$200/day** to run **Anti-Poaching and Wildlife Rescue Patrols**. If you would like to help us protect animals, please consider donating ([here](#)).



ANTI-POACHING SPOTLIGHT:

Deadly Weapons

Poachers use deadly wire snares (pictured here held by AKTF team members), along with poisoned arrows and spears to kill wild animals.

So far this year, we have recovered **39 hunting tools (bows, spears, etc.)** in addition to a staggering **602 wire snares**. We work with KWS/Sheldrick Wildlife Trust veterinarians to treat animals' wounds and return them safely to their herd.

This year, **teachers from Oliashire and Oloolmongi Schools visited Maasai Mara National Park**, sponsored by the AKTF Team, to celebrate World Ranger Day (center image). These teachers have furthered the AKTF mission, often providing critical information leading to arrests of poachers, removal of wire snares, and wildlife rescues. They certainly have gone above and beyond their teaching duties, and we were honored to host them in the Park.



ANTI-POACHING PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

Defending Habitat

The Mara Triangle protects critically important grassland habitat for wildlife. However, that habitat is threatened by herders and their millions of livestock that also want to eat the Mara's grasses, since the grass in the community areas has been grazed away by sheep and goats – and now fenced off by private landowners. Each night, and sometimes brazenly during the day, herders illegally try to sneak tens of thousands of cows into the protected grasslands of the Mara Triangle to eat as much grass as they can, and then cross back into community areas before dawn.

Not only does this deplete the food that is available to wildlife, but it also makes attacks from predators on livestock more likely. Since herders who lose cows that were illegally trespassing are not allowed to ask for compensation from the Mara Conservancy, they often feel their only recourse is to retaliate against predators by spearing or poisoning them.

As our Team patrols the Mara for snares, they are also looking for herds that have trespassed (top image). Herders are then arrested and fined by the Mara Conservancy (bottom image).

This year, we have helped detain **46 herds of livestock, owned by 46 different individuals, illegally grazing** in the Mara's protected grasslands.





ANTI-POACHING PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

Local Knowledge

The AKTF Team is comprised primarily of Maasai elders, like Ole Saitoti (pictured here). Because of their respected, trusted, and influential role in the community, we are often the first to receive news of wildlife hunts, injured animals, and human-wildlife conflicts. We have worked together since 1999!

When it comes to finding snares, and tracking and rescuing wounded animals, no one is better than the Maasai people who have a deep connection to the Mara. It is their ancestral home. Their knowledge and expertise is what makes AKTF successful when working with both humans and wildlife. The mere presence of our patrol team is a major deterrent to poachers which cannot be quantified.

In Their Own Words...

“Only the strong-willed survive. This is not an easy job, sometimes it’s a life and death situation when you come into confrontation with the dangerous animals or poachers while on foot patrols during the day and at night. To prepare to be a ranger, the most important task is to learn about animal behavior and even poachers’ tactics. I and the other rangers we work with have had our fair share of dangers protecting the wildlife, but what has rescued us is the fact that we know the behavior of all the animals... Our saddest moments are when we see wildlife hanging dead in a snare. It devastates us.”

- Elias Kamande, AKTF Patrol Team Leader



ANTI-POACHING PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

Traveling Well

We are beyond grateful to the Minara Foundation and the Pappas Family, whose generous donations allowed us to replace our old Land Rover with a Toyota Landcruiser in excellent condition. Our mission necessitates transport to where the animals, poachers, and communities are. Without transport, we could not do our job.

After many years of hard travel over the Mara's roadless and unforgiving landscape, patrolling for poachers, and even transporting wounded animals, our battered old truck was retired.

The new truck is more reliable, easier to repair in the field, and cheaper to operate – all of which means we can spend more time saving animals and less time in the garage.

Thank you, so very much, Minara Foundation and Pappas Family!



Supporting Schools (pt.1)

AKTF has built and equipped three rural schools in Maasai Mara, serving 1,000 students in total. We continue to support them by providing school lunches (top), building desks (bottom), installing sanitary rainwater collection systems, distributing school supplies, digging sanitary latrines, and clearing playing fields, among many other projects. This year, in partnership with Angama Foundation, we even built new teacher housing to better accommodate the growing demand for passionate and committed educators.

A student lunch costs only \$0.11/day. For just \$55, we can feed all 500 students at Oloolmongi and Oliashire Primary Schools (top image). **Building a desk costs \$52,** and they can make learning far more comfortable and therefore more sustainable for the 1,000 students we support (bottom image).

Please consider giving to these projects ([here](#)).



Supporting Schools (pt.2)



2023 Successes:

- **School lunch programs** at both Oloolmongi and Oliashire Primary Schools continue to provide daily nourishment **for 700 students**.
- Sponsoring sports and music teams to **travel to National competitions** (Top image: Oloolmongi Choir)
- Providing **classroom supplies and sports equipment** to Oloolmongi, Oliashire, and Nailepu schools (bottom)
- Protecting all three schools and children by **installing security fences**. (These schools are outside of wildlife areas; the fences are to deter livestock.)
- **120 desks** built and distributed to local schools
- **2 blocks of teacher housing and latrines** were built





SCHOOL PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

Studying Sustainably

Thanks to very generous donations from the Love Family and the Woodward Foundation, we were able to build comfortable and sturdy desks for schoolchildren in Maasai Mara and to further other education and women's empowerment projects.

The student population at our partner schools has increased so much that the number of desks we had previously provided was no longer sufficient. Because of our wonderful donors, schoolchildren will have more room to sit comfortably and keep their textbooks and materials organized while in class.

We know these desks will support our communities' youth on their academic journeys. Thank you, to those of you who have made these possible.



SCHOOL PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

Protecting Students

This year, we partnered with Bridging the Gap Africa to build a bridge to Oliashire Primary School. It crosses a dangerous river in which several students have drowned recently. It is a heartbreaking reality that some students risk their lives to get to school each day.

Thanks to donations in memory of a loved one from a generous family, we coordinated the construction of a bridge that allows children, parents, teachers, and the entire Oliashire community to get to school each day without losing their footing in the rushing river. See the following page for a heartwarming statement from the Oliashire School leaders.



In Their Own Words...

“Your noble gesture has deeply moved us, and without a doubt we will ensure her legacy continues living on and making an impact in the Oliashire community through this bridge project.

“In the past, our community has unfortunately witnessed tragic losses of lives due to the perils of this river, including schoolchildren and cherished community members. So please know this bridge to us represents more than just a construction project. It is an emblem of hope and safety for our people, offering a ray of optimism and security for our people.

“This bridge will not only save lives of the community here, but it will also give us much-needed access to, education and medical services. In particular, during the rainy period, our mothers and wives have been unable to access critical maternal health services leading to detrimental consequences. This bridge was a project we have been striving towards for many years with no success. But today, we are beyond grateful. Your contribution has made a difference for many lives and generations to come in our community. Thank you for making Oliashire community a better place and inspiring us to do the same for each other.”

- Oliashire Primary School

Women's Health (pt.1)

Because menstruation is a taboo subject in Maasai Mara, young women are not taught how to safely manage their periods each month. As a result, female students end up missing a lot of school out of shame or fear of bleeding in class, and they fall behind their male peers.

To address this, the Esidai Women's Group, sponsored by AKTF, have been sewing washable, sanitary pads for girls and women in order to discreetly manage their bleeding. This protection allows girls to attend school all month long and keep up with the rest of their class, and for women to manage their periods in a healthier way. The group has also begun including two pairs of underwear in each kit, due to the lack thereof among girls.



Women's Health

(pt.2)

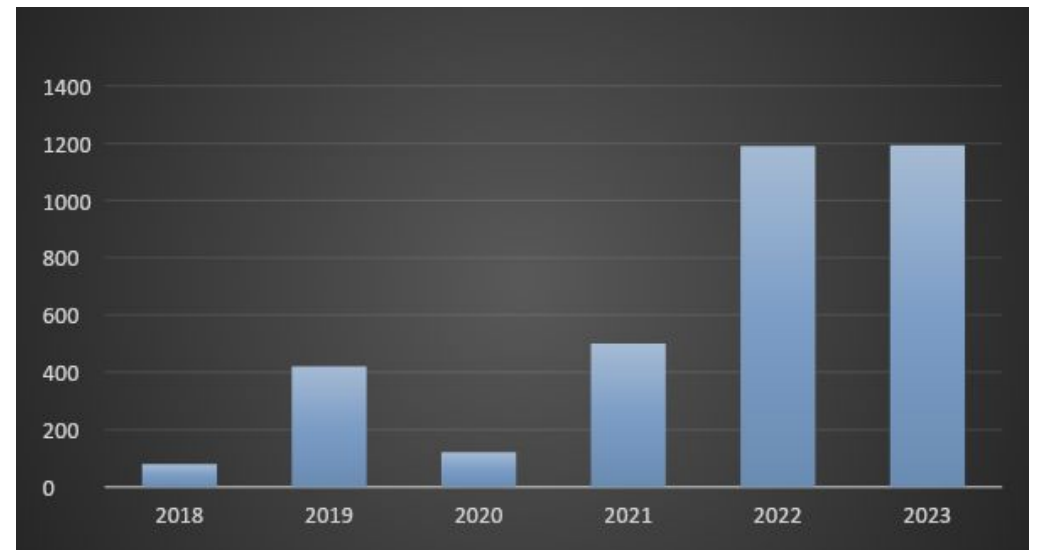
Over the past five years, we have provided an increasing number of menstrual health kits to young women in the community. This year we delivered 1,193 kits to women at six local schools and Africa Mission Services' (AMS) Birth Centre clinic in Maasai Mara.

Carol, AKTF's Community Programs Leader, runs health and hygiene workshops for girl and boy students to eradicate shameful taboos and prevent early pregnancies. In addition to 593 girls trained, Carol also trained 730 male students in menstrual health awareness.

This year, we partnered with Cottar's Wildlife Conservation Trust and Cottar's Camp to train the students in six of their local schools, and with Cora Blue and Janyne Preston to reach women through AMS's Birth Centre. We continue to provide the pads for free as the community cannot afford them. **Each kit of three washable pads costs just \$10 to produce.** Please consider donating ([here](#)) to help girls attend school throughout their cycles.

2023 Successes:

- **593 schoolgirls at six schools and 600 new mothers at the AMS Birth Centre** (top image) received menstrual health kits along with health and hygiene workshops.
- **1,193 menstrual health kits** (4 washable pads, waterproof bag, panties, and package) were distributed



BEHIND THE SCENES WITH WOMEN'S GROUPS

Empowering Women

Economically empowered women have better chances of negotiating and safeguarding their choices regarding the basic household and health needs of their families.

We initiated and fund two Women's Groups in Maasai Mara: the Esidai Group's successful sewing (menstrual health pads and school uniforms) and the Esongoyo Group's soap-making initiatives have enabled these women to break through cultural barriers, gain essential skills to be self-reliant, and inspire a new generation of girls.

We are proud to report that the Esongoyo soap-making project (pictured here, with AKTF's Carol Kiugo in black in the top image) is virtually self-sufficient now. The women have re-invested their profits into a herd of 29 sheep.

2023 Successes

- **1,830 liters of soap** produced using locally available materials and sold to Mara Conservancy and its Rangers, Mara Elatia Camp, Kiini Mara School, Ololomog'i School, Parata Kilat School, Sanctuary Olonana lodge staff, Kichwa Tembo lodge staff, and the community at large
- **29 sheep** purchased by the Esongoyo Group as a re-investment of profits



Collaborating with Others

AKTF works closely with the Mara Conservancy, Angama Mara, Mara North Conservancy, Mara Elephant Project, David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, Kichwa Tembo (&beyond), Africa Mission Services, Cottars Wildlife Conservation Trust, and Kini Kenya, as well as Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forestry Service, and many more, such as Jim Nyamu and Elephant Neighbors Centre. We are extremely grateful for the support and partnership we enjoy with these organizations and individuals, and of course from all our private donors as well.

Your contribution makes an enormous impact on the livelihoods of women and girls in the Masai Mara. With the support of Cora Blue and others this year, we have reached 593 young women with AKTF washable menstrual health and hygiene kits and workshops.

Our goal by the end of 2023 is to raise **\$16,000 from individual donors to reach 1,600 young women next year** with our sustainable menstrual hygiene kits. Every contribution makes a difference. **With \$10 you can help keep a girl in school for 1 year!**

If you would like to support the work of the Anne K. Taylor Fund, please [use our PayPal portal \(here\)](#) or send a check to Anne K. Taylor Fund 501 (c) 3 2724 Arvin Road, Billings, Montana 59102. You can find more information about [how you can help on our website](#).



BEHIND THE SCENES IN MAASAI MARA:

Nurturing Beauty

Each year, the Angama Foundation graciously includes AKTF as a beneficiary in “Greatest Maasai Mara Photographer of the Year” fundraising competition, which they sponsor. And each year, many world-class photographers submit stunning images in support of AKTF. We are so grateful to these incredibly talented photographers for supporting us – and to Angama for such a brilliant initiative. We wish you the best of luck!

Here are just a few of those world-class shots that capture moments of the natural wonder we strive to preserve in Maasai Mara.



A.K.T.F. Leadership & Team



Counterclockwise from top left:

- **Anne Kent Taylor**, Founder/Director & National Geographic Explorer
- **Elias Kamande**, Patrol Team Leader
- **Felix Masaku**, Special Projects Coordinator
- **Caroline Kiugo**, Community Programs Leader
- **The AKTF Anti-Poaching Team** (along with Mara Conservancy Rangers)

Thank you!
Asante sana!
Ashe oleng!

- The Anne K. Taylor Fund

