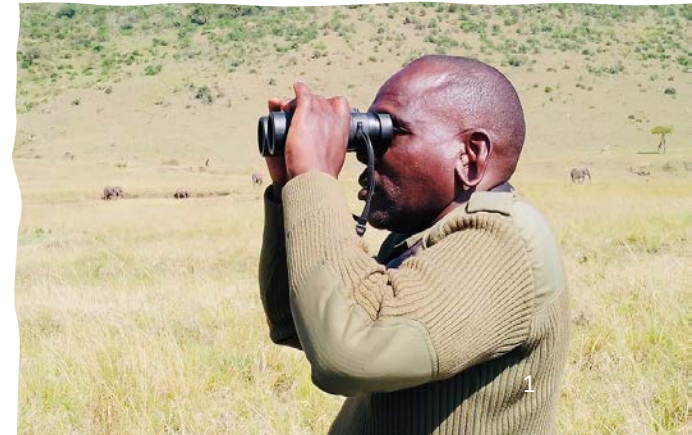
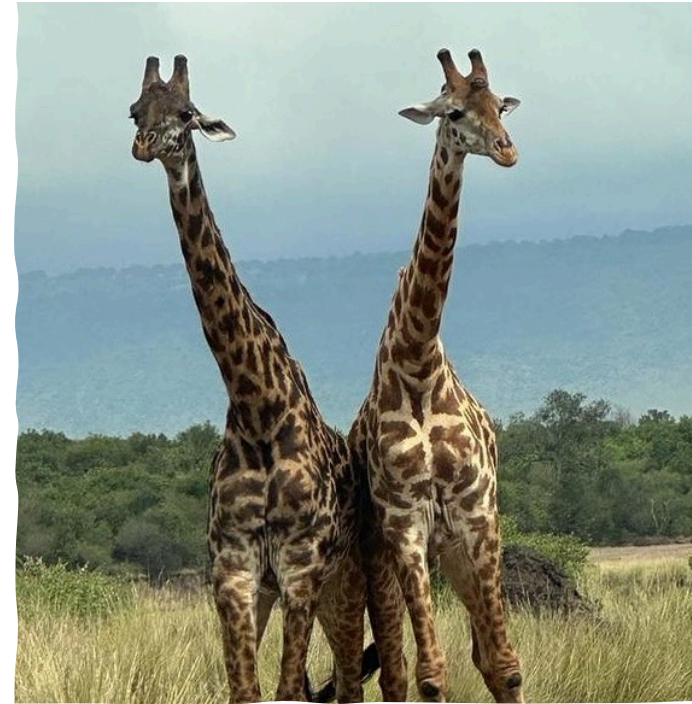


The Anne K. Taylor Fund

2023 Mid-Year Report

Table of Contents

I.	<u>A Note from Anne</u>	p. 2
II.	<u>Anti-Poaching</u>	p. 4
	I. Rescuing Wildlife	p. 5
	II. Deadly Weapons	p. 7
	III. Defending Habitat	p. 8
	IV. Local Knowledge	p. 9
III.	<u>Supporting Schools</u>	p. 10
	I. Protecting Students	p. 11
IV.	<u>Women's Health</u>	p. 12
	I. Empowering Women	p. 15
V.	<u>Collaborating With Others</u>	p. 17
VI.	<u>A.K.T.F. Leadership</u>	p. 18
VII.	<u>Gratitude</u>	p. 19



A Note from Anne

Dear fellow travelers, wildlife lovers, & generous supporters,

I hope that you are all enjoying the summer. I have been in the amazing Masai Mara for the past month greeting very special friends visiting Kenya under our auspices ([A.K. Taylor International](#)). It makes me so happy that all have expressed a love for my country and its wonderful people and animals. I was also working hard on our AKTF projects, about which we have many exciting developments to report.

The animals in the region in which we work face serious challenges from human encroachment. People from far afield are moving into the Mara, where land has recently been demarcated and privatized. Electric fences have proliferated to exclude wildlife from what have historically been both open grazing lands and critical habitats for sheltering and rearing young animals. Many of the local Masai community are selling off their parcels of land to outsiders, who care nothing for the wildlife and, in fact, would prefer that the animals disappear. The inevitable result is an increase in human-wildlife conflict.

For example, a very angry bull elephant attacked schoolchildren on their way to school. (Imagine, if you can, going through this as one walks to school!) Fortunately, the children narrowly escaped, and none were injured. There is no knowing exactly what had upset the elephant, but I would imagine it is the fact that he can no longer follow his traditional migratory route to the forest, which he needs for protection and sustenance. He is blocked at every turn by the electric fences with currents strong enough to harm or kill.

During the last month, we had reports of several injured animals – elephants, giraffe, and zebra – with spears and arrows in them, as well as a zebra with a leg almost severed by a wire snare. We did four rescues in as many days, and thankfully these individual animals are now out of pain and will hopefully continue to live a full and happy life.

Thanks go to Joel and Emmanuel in Siria Camp, and another local community member who was herding his cows and spotted an injured zebra, for alerting us to the plights of these animals with human-induced injuries. As always, the Sheldrick/KWS veterinarians immediately responded to our calls for help. They were able to remove the deadly missiles causing so much pain and suffering. Working as a team is critically important for the wildlife who are under such threats – I am so grateful for the vets' quick response and the great working relationship that we have. Thanks also to Dr. Asuka Takita for her part in hastily removing an arrow from a zebra. The Mara is large, and we have to rely on great teamwork and collaboration in order to protect our wildlife.

The AKTF patrol team has been kept busy with these wildlife rescues, as well as patrolling, setting ambushes, and trying to keep large herds of cattle out of the Mara Conservancy. Without these preventative measures, the wildlife areas would be overrun. Cattle and predators don't mix, and should predation occur, the predators always end up losing – they will generally be speared or poisoned. Preventing this kind of human-wildlife conflict is a VERY important job that we at AKTF take very seriously.

A Note from Anne (continued)

On a more positive note, I have some very exciting news. Great friends of mine, a wonderful family, will be helping protect the schoolchildren at the AKTF-supported Oliashire Primary School by funding the construction of a suspension bridge across the Siteti River. This project, in memory of a loved one and in partnership with [Bridging the Gap Africa](#), will allow students to safely cross the dangerous river. It will also allow community members to reach medical help and other facilities in the closest town of Lolgorien, without the fear of drowning. Several children have drowned trying to get to school, which is utterly heartbreaking. I am beyond excited about this incredible gift to the children and local communities. The project will begin construction in September 2023. Thank you!

The report that follows further illuminates the work we have been doing protecting wildlife and supporting schools, as well as empowering students and women. Read on to discover how our two women's groups continue to be effective and successful as they expand into new entrepreneurial territory.

I thank all of you who have been so generous in helping us to reach our goals to better the lives of Masai Mara's wild animals and the local communities who live with them.

In closing, if you are in a position to help support AKTF at any level we would be incredibly grateful. Your donations are what allow us to keep

going and make a difference. We accept payments by check or on PayPal, to make it as easy as possible. We can also accept gifts of securities. Please find more information on our website ([here](#)).

Thank you so much in advance for any help you may be able to give, and once again I thank those of you who have helped us so generously.

With warm regards,

Anne

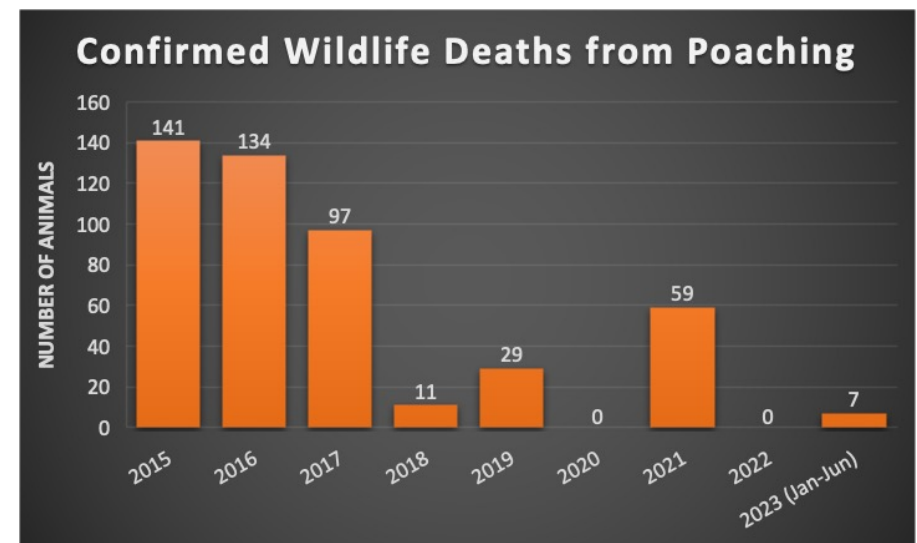
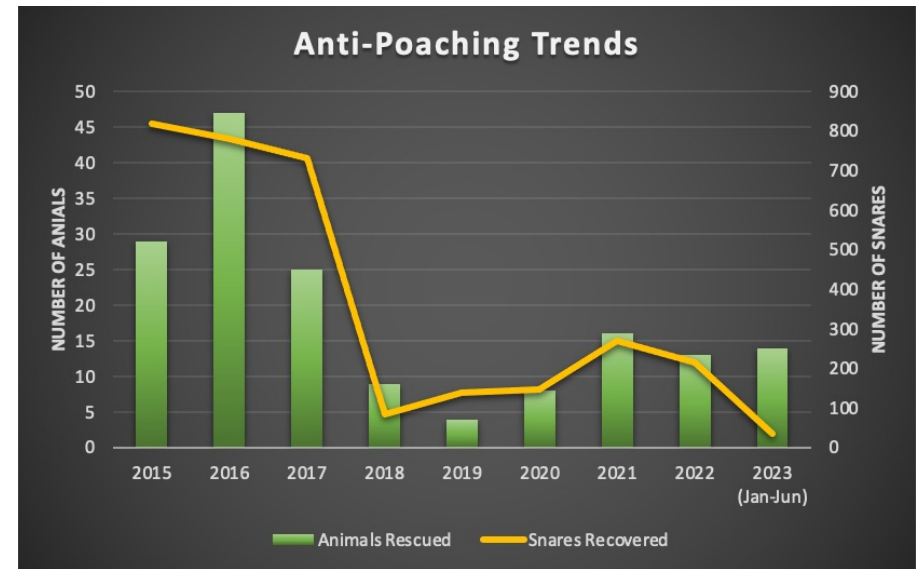
Anti-Poaching

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, the Kenya Wildlife Service veterinarians, Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, and Mara Elephant Project, and 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 graphs illustrates how poaching with wire snares has decreased over recent years and how poaching activity has decreased but not disappeared. Poachers are turning to alternative tactics, such as using motorbikes to chase targeted animals and kill them with spear or sword thrusts.

January – June 2023:

- **14 animals rescued** (3 giraffes, 6 zebra, 2 warthogs, 2 elephants, 1 cape buffalo)
- **36 snares** retrieved (totaling 7,773 since 2009)
- **17 poaching weapons** retrieved (spears, swords, pangas, & axes)
- 7 animals confirmed killed by poachers
- 4 elephant tusks recovered during patrols





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. So far this year we have **rescued 14 animals** including (counterclockwise from top left): a cape buffalo with a snare around his leg, a zebra with a snare around her neck, many giraffes who have been speared, and a baby elephant that we had to transport back to his family after treatment.

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](#)).

In Their Own Words...

“Poaching has become a modern war, unlike years back. We have armed rangers, but also each ranger has a pair of binoculars, which is vital equipment to aid the operations... We go out for day and night patrols. Anything can happen.”

- Elias Kamande, AKTF Patrol Team Leader

ANTI-POACHING SPOTLIGHT:

Deadly Weapons

Poachers use poisoned arrows (top right, held by Team Leader Elias), spears, and wire snares (top left, and bottom right) to kill wild animals.

So far this year, we have recovered **17 hunting tools (bows, spears, etc.)** in addition to **36 snares**.

Treating wildlife that have suffered these attacks means extracting the poaching weapon, cleaning the wound (bottom left), and injecting medicines to help fight infection. Fortunately, wild animals heal quickly with this medical attention and return to their herds after treatment.



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. Herders are then arrested and fined by the Mara Conservancy.

This year, we have helped detain **8 herds of livestock illegally grazing** in the Mara's protected grasslands.



ANTI-POACHING PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

Local Knowledge

The AKTF Team is comprised primarily of Maasai elders. Because of their respected, trusted, and influential role in the community, we often are the first to receive news of wildlife hunts, injured animals, and human-wildlife conflict. 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.



Supporting Schools

AKTF has built and equipped three rural schools in Maasai Mara, serving 1,000 students in total. We continue to support them by building sanitary water collection systems (top right), providing school lunches (bottom), distributing school supplies (top left), digging sanitary latrines, clearing playing fields, and building desks, among many other projects.

A student lunch costs only \$0.11/day. For just \$55, we can feed all 500 students at Oloolmongi and Oliashire Primary Schools. **Building a desk costs \$52**, and they can make learning far more comfortable and therefore more sustainable for the 1,000 students we support. **Please consider giving to these projects** ([here](#)).

January – June 2023:

- **School lunch program** (bottom) at both Oloolmongi and Oliashire Primary Schools continues to provide daily nourishment for students.
- Providing **classroom supplies and sports equipment** to Oloolmongi, Oliashire, and Nailepu schools (top left)
- Protecting all three schools and children by **installing security fences**. (These schools are outside of wildlife areas; the fences are to deter livestock.)
- Sponsoring sports and music teams to **travel to National competitions**





SCHOOL PROJECT SPOTLIGHT:

Protecting Students

This year, we are partnering 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 are coordinating the construction of a bridge that will allow children, parents, and teachers to get to school each day without losing their footing in the rushing river. Construction on the bridge will begin in September 2023.

Women's Health

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

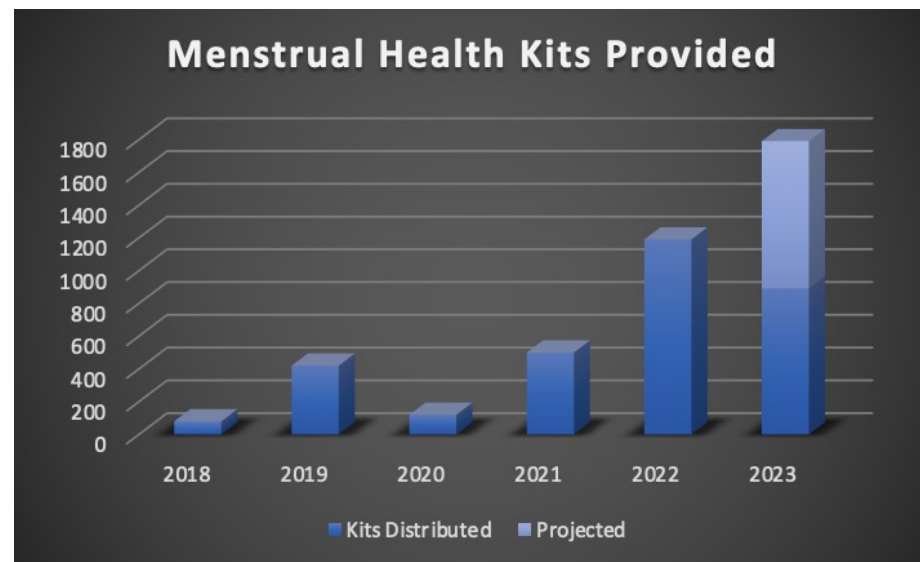
Over the past five years, we have provided an increasing number of menstrual health kits to young women in the community. This year is projected to surpass the 1,200 kits we delivered in 2022.

Carol, ATKF's Community Programs Leader, runs health and hygiene workshops for boy and girl students to eradicate shameful taboos and prevent early pregnancies.

We recently partnered with Cottars Camp to train the students in six of their local schools. 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.

January – June 2023:

- **541 menstrual health kits** (4 washable pads, waterproof bag, panties, and package) were distributed to **young women at schools**, along with health and hygiene workshops.
- **350 menstrual health kits delivered in local clinics** in collaboration with Africa Mission Services, with direct support from Cora Blue and Janyne Preston.



In Their Own Words...

“We fear going to school during the period because boys laugh at us. That’s why we miss school during our menses.”

- Anonymous female student, Oloolmongi Primary School

“Providing these girls with underwear and sanitary pads increases her chances of staying in school. Keeping girls in school is important to health and development-not only for the girls’ sake but also for their communities.”

- Teacher, Paratakilat School



Empowering Women (pt.1)

We initiated and fund two Women's Groups in Maasai Mara. The groups' successful sewing (pads, masks, and uniforms) and soap-making initiatives have enabled these women to break through cultural barriers and to inspire a new generation of girls.



Pictured here are images of the women at work designing and sewing pads and underwear and providing menstrual health kits to women in the community.

BEHIND THE SCENES WITH WOMEN'S GROUPS

Empowering Women (pt.2)

Economically empowered women have better chances of negotiating and safeguarding their choices regarding the basic household and health needs of their families, especially during this time when women have born the economic brunt of the pandemic.

We are proud to report that the women's soap-making project (pictured here) is virtually self-sufficient now. They are investing their profits into a herd of goats, from which they can collect milk.

AKTF continues to empower the women by providing the necessary skills, including economic ones, and knowledge for them to become self-reliant.

January – June 2023

- **820 liters of soap** produced by our women's groups using locally available materials and sold to local lodges, schools, hospitals, and community



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 so far this year, we have reached 891 young women with AKTF washable menstrual health and hygiene kits and workshops.

Our goal for the second half of 2023 is to raise **\$16,000 from individual donors to reach 1,600 young women** 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](#).

Finally, we want to extend gratitude to the wonderful photographers who enter Angama Foundation's "[Greatest Maasai Mara Photographer of the Year](#)" competition in support of AKTF. We wish you the best of luck!



A.K.T.F. Leadership

Clockwise from top left:

- **Anne Kent Taylor**, Director & National Geographic Explorer
- **Elias Kamande**, Patrol Team Leader
- **Caroline Kiugo**, Community Programs Leader
- **Felix Masaku**, Special Projects Coordinator



Thank you!
Asante sana!
Ashe oLeng!

- The Anne K. Taylor Fund

