

AFEW-KENYA LTD. EDUCATION DEPARTMENT
SUMMARY REPORT ON THE NORTHERN RANGELAND GAMESCOUT WORKSHOP
HELD IN NANYUKI, LION'S COURT LODGE ON MAY 7TH – 9TH, 2012

The Education Department hosted a 3 day National Game Scout Workshop at the Lion's Court Lodge in Nanyuki on May 7th – 9th 2012. This workshop brought together a total of 31 participants drawn from the Northern Part of Kenya, a majority of the participants coming from the NRT conservancies. The theme of the workshop was **“Integrated Wildlife Ecosystem Management for Sustainable Conservation and Livelihoods”**

The objectives of the workshop were:-

- To create awareness about the various conservation challenges within the Northern region.
- Find out the major challenges and scenarios arising in the Northern region and how they can be addressed
- To provide /strengthen the linkages between local communities, schools and other relevant stakeholders within the region by forming local networks and coming up with an action plan for addressing various environmental issues in the region.

The following were the expectations from the workshop participants:-

- To learn more about giraffe conservation in Kenya and conservation of biodiversity in general
- Learn more about the environment, wildlife and endangered animal conservation
- To acquire skills about wildlife conservation and apply the skills gained having a multiplier effect
- Get skills to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts
- To get certification
- Learn about environmental and wildlife awareness approaches and how to disseminate information to the community
- To learn how to deal with environmental challenges in their respective conservancies
- To gain skills and knowledge of the ecosystem approach in the Northern Region and apply it in their respective conservancies
- To network and create links with other people in conservation to share ideas on how to better the environment
- To gain knowledge on how to write a proposal

The workshop was officially opened by Mr. Nuur – Community Warden KWS – Laikipia, who highlighted the various wildlife and conservation challenges in the area and pointed out how vital the gamescouts/participants were in conservation work. We also had Mr. David Masere – LWF who gave a broad overview of the Northern Region relating it to the theme of the workshop thus helping the participants understand why the workshop was convened.

The major topics of interest that were covered during the workshop were:

- Overview of Northern Kenya
- Bush meat problem and Poaching
- Human Wildlife Conflicts and Co-Existence
- Community Education & Awareness
- Alternative ways of living/livelihoods(Community Empowerment)
- The role of using modern technology and data in Game Scouting
- Participatory Environmental Management
- Proposal & Report Writing

The tools used to convey and share information on the above topics included presentations, demonstrations, group discussions, film sessions and a field excursion to the Ol Pejeta Conservancy

Below is a tabular representation of the workshop evaluation.

Table1: Table showing percentage evaluation on the topics covered

Topics Covered	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Overview of the Northern Region	9.1	40.9	22.7	27.3
Alternative ways of livelihoods	9.5	14.3	42.9	33.3
Human Wildlife Conflicts & Mitigation	10.0	20.0	30.0	40.0
Field Trip to Ol Pejeta	9.1	9.1	22.7	59.1
Participatory Environmental Management	9.1	13.6	36.4	40.9
Bush meat & Poaching	10.5	15.8	36.8	36.8
Data Collection and technology in scouting	4.8	33.3	42.9	19.0
Film Session	4.8	4.8	28.6	61.9
Community Education & Awareness	9.1	9.1	40.9	40.9
Proposal & Report Writing	13.6	4.5	36.4	45.5
Group Discussion & SWOT Analysis	5.0	15.0	25.0	55.0

Table2: Table showing evaluation of the overall workshop in percentage form

General Workshop Organization	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
Timings	9.1	9.1	22.7	59.1
Presentations	4.5	9.1	9.1	77.3
Food	4.5	9.1	27.3	59.1
Accommodation	0.0	4.5	9.1	86.4

Table3: Table showing a summary of the SWOT analysis during the workshop

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Variety of wildlife ➤ Land ➤ Favorable climate ➤ Coexistence ➤ Skilled human resource ➤ Enhanced security 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Poor infrastructure (Roads, Communication) ➤ Corruption ➤ Inadequate funding ➤ Poor policy understanding
Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Many tourist ➤ Employment ➤ Increased Environmental awareness ➤ Good Network ➤ CSRs ➤ Establishment of eco-lodges ➤ Business opportunities ➤ Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Insecurity ➤ Ready markets for bush meat/ products ➤ Attractive incentives on wildlife products ➤ Human wildlife conflicts ➤ Political instability ➤ Rapid population increase ➤ Forest fires ➤ Deforestation ➤ Climate change ➤ Urbanization & development

Summary of workshop

The workshop had 77.5% turn out with 31 participants turning up, out of the initial 40 invited. From the evaluations, the workshop was a success. From table 1, it is evident that majority of the participants felt that the topics were covered well. The Director – LWF, also shared with the participants how human-wildlife conflicts are increasing in northern Kenya with new methods of poaching elephants being devised by the poachers in which cabbages are poisoned and put along elephant corridors. He went ahead to challenge the participants to pass information to their respective communities on conservation education, water and tourism opportunities and benefits. Mr. Ephantus Mugendi from LEWA went ahead to inspire the game scouts on the qualities or attributes of a good game scout and communication skills which proved a major setback experienced by many of the game scouts in performing community awareness tasks.

The workshop also provided the stakeholders and participants a good platform for sharing experiences and challenges in bush meat, human wildlife conflicts & coexistence, sustainable alternative livelihoods, participatory environmental management, importance of data collection and technology in conservation and proposal writing.

Table 2 also points out that the workshop was well organized, participatory and satisfactory. The participants were very optimistic that with continued support from AFEW and other stakeholders, they will be able to implement the knowledge gained during the workshop to improve the wellbeing of their communities and conserve the environment within their respective areas.

Mr. Nuur – Kenya Wildlife Service availed himself once again to give closing remarks in which he encouraged the participants to go and apply what they had learnt during the three day workshop. He more so told the participants to always consider their safety first while in the field.

Recommendations:

- There should be a lengthy topic covering wildlife policies especially clauses dealing with human wildlife conflicts, compensation, poachers and game scouts so as to help the participants understand the policies well.
- More workshops should be held and they should target more numbers as well as the number of days to be increased so that more topics can be in cooperated
- There is need for follow up Workshops. This will ensure that the various groups trained implement knowledge gained to assess the impact of the trainings.
- There is need to maintain a strong network between various stakeholders within the local areas that play a key role in mobilization and addressing local environmental problems.
- There is need to involve more Community Based Organization in environmental awareness.

Acknowledgement

Acknowledge to the Board of Directors and Management of AFEW (K) Ltd for their approval and support of the Northern Game Scout Workshop. To the organizations that partnered with AFEW to make the workshop a success: Kenya Wildlife Service, LEWA, Northern Rangeland Trust, Laikipia Wildlife Forum, Bush meat East Africa Network, Ngare Ndare Forest Trust, Ol Pejeta Conservancy and Lion’s Court Lodge. And finally to the participants and AFEW staff, the shared experiences and challenges will help define the way forward for a sustainable future intervention in Game Scouting and conservation.

Compiled By:

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