

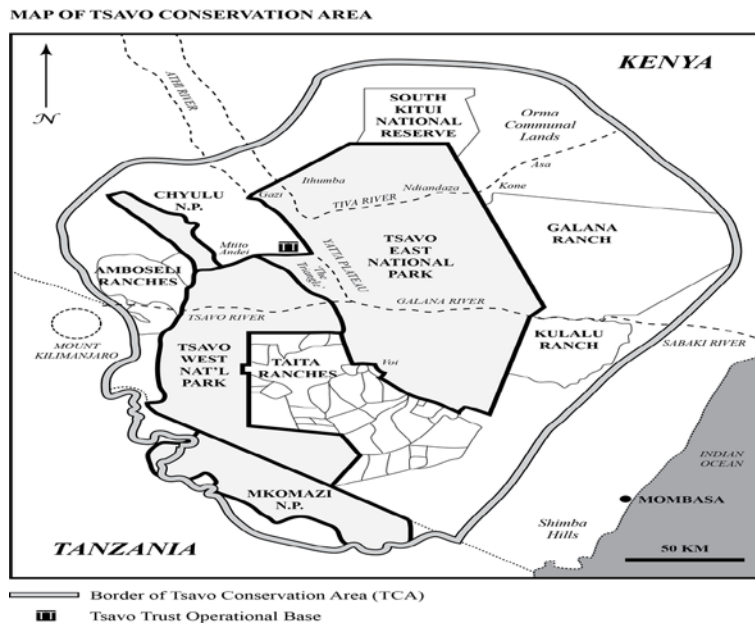
**AFEW-KENYA LTD. – GIRAFFE CENTRE  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

**SUMMARY REPORT ON THE TSAVO CONSERVATION AREA GAMESCOUT WORKSHOP  
HELD AT THE TSAVO LODGE HOTEL IN VOI TOWN ON SEPTEMBER 26<sup>TH</sup> – 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2013.**

**Introduction**

The Education Department hosted a 3 day Tsavo Conservation Area (TCA) Game Scout Workshop at the Tsavo Lodge Hotel in Voi Town on September 26<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013. The Tsavo Conservation Area (TCA) is Kenya's largest continuous Protected Area Complex accounting for 50% of the country's Protected Areas. It comprises of 42,000 square kilometres of wildlife dispersal areas, including the Tsavo East, Tsavo West and Chyullu Hills National Parks, and their adjacent areas including the surrounding ranches, private and communal lands. The TCA holds significant wildlife populations, and diverse range of ethnic groups including the Taita, Kamba and Maasai people, with differing ways of life, customs and beliefs.

*Figure 1: General Map of Tsavo Conservation Area*



## **A Summary of the Workshop**

This workshop brought together 37 Participants drawn from the Tsavo Conservation Area. The theme of the workshop was *“Our Wildlife Our Heritage Our Responsibility.”* The objectives of the workshop were:-

- To have a better understanding of the TCA ecosystem in terms of resources, stakeholders, challenges and future conservation opportunities.
- To share value, knowledge and perception about conservation in TCA.
- To strengthen our networks and partnerships for sustainable wildlife conservation and local livelihoods within the TCA.

The workshop was officially opened by the Mr. Wellington Gathungu, the Kenya Wildlife Service Community Wildlife Warden, Tsavo East National Park. In his opening remarks he highlighted the broad overview of TCA in terms of the region’s exceptional and complex resource, rich biodiversity, diverse habitats/landscapes and rich cultural diversity. He reiterated about the various stakeholders and their key roles in promoting integrated ecosystem management for sustainable biodiversity conservation and local livelihoods. He concluded his speech by appreciating the participants for their important role they play as Community game scouts. Finally, he challenged the participants to undertake other conservation activities during their regular de-snaring and patrol exercises for effective human wildlife conservation and community based security.

The following were the expectations from the workshop participants:-

- To come up with coherent ways of dealing with conservation challenges.
- Learn more about conservation activities.
- Learn more about tourism.
- Learn more about how to conserve our wildlife.
- To get a change/paradigm shift in ideas and approach to conservation.
- To exchange ideas with fellow participants and come up with better ways of conservation.
- To learn more about wildlife and acquire some experience.
- To learn better ways to deal with Human Wildlife Conflicts.
- To get acquainted with challenges in other conservancies and how to handle them.
- To share views with fellow Game Scouts.

The workshop took the format of presentations, demonstrations, group discussions, film sessions and field excursions to the Tsavo East National Park. Participants were taken through various presentations by different facilitators drawn from AFEW Kenya, KWS, NEMA, Care for the Wild, Amara Conservancy and Kuruwitu Community Marine Association. Topics covered included; broad overview of TCA and the role of the KWS Community Wildlife Conservation. the Role of using Environmental Education and Awareness in Game Scouting, Environmental legislation in sustainable wildlife conservation, Participatory Environmental Management, Case Studies based on field experiences in Community game scouting in both terrestrial and marine ecosystems especially in TCA, Mara Conservation Area and Marine Ecosystems.

The field trip to the Tsavo East National Park was an eye opener of how different ecosystems or protected Areas are closely linked to their adjacent areas. This was presented in the Case of Galana River and Aruba dam which are seriously threatened by human activities such as deforestation on the catchment areas, pollution of the rivers, introduction of new land use practices which are compatible with wildlife conservation taking place outside the Tsavo National park with serious repercussions on not only the park but the entire TCA. A field experiences on Game Scouting from TCA, Mara Conservation Area and Coastal Marine Ecosystem were very motivational to the participants. These experiences offered great insights on how to overcome challenges during their daily work schedules and how to use data collected to improve their work.(See the table below)

**Table 1: Evaluation on the Different Topics Presented**

	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>fair</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Presentations</b>	<b>%age</b>	<b>%age</b>	<b>%age</b>	<b>%age</b>
1.1	Introduction to TCA & community wildlife conservation	0%	8%	44%	48%
1.2	The Role of EE&E in Game Scouting	0%	8%	28%	64%
1.3	Film Session	0%	29%	29%	42%
1.4	Environmental Legislation wildlife Conservation	4%	16%	44%	36%
1.5	Field Trip	0%	4%	8%	88%
1.6	Participatory Environmental Management	0%	4%	44%	52%
1.7	Case Studies from Mara , TCA and Marine Ecosystem	4%	8%	28%	60%

From the evaluations the participants pointed out that, workshop was well organized, participatory and satisfactory as their expectations were met. 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.

**Table 2: General Workshop Evaluation**

<b>Item no.</b>	<b>Item Description</b>	<b>Poor</b>	<b>fair</b>	<b>Satisfactory</b>	<b>Excellent</b>
		<b>%age</b>	<b>%age</b>	<b>%age</b>	<b>%age</b>
2.1	Presentations	10%	5%	29%	57%
2.2	Timings	5%	33%	19%	38%
2.3	Food	0%	0%	19%	81%
2.4	Accommodation	0%	5%	33%	62%

### **Outcome**

The workshop had 93% turn out with 37 participants turning up, out of the initial 40 invited. Key outcome of this workshop was the development of a data collection sheet to be used by the game scouts during their patrols and formation of the Tsavo Conservation Area Game Scouts Association. The workshop also provided the stakeholders and participants a good platform for sharing experiences and challenges in bush meat, human wildlife conflicts & coexistence, sustainable energy alternatives, community education & awareness and the importance of data collection and technology in conservation.

### **Recommendations:**

- There is need to formalize the newly formed Tsavo Community Game Scouts Association as a platform for better community scouts operations through better information exchange and resource mobilization.
- Kenya Wildlife service should play a great role in enhancing the Community Game scouts work through providing platform for sharing intelligence information and formal training of the game scouts from TCA.
- The wildlife policies should be reviewed especially clauses dealing with human wildlife conflicts, compensation, poachers.
- There is need for follow up localized Workshops in different parts of TCA for enhance multiplier effect and great impact of the trainings.
- There is need for a follow up activities through regular trainings and meetings.
- There is need to maintain a strong network between various stakeholders within the TCA in order to address local environmental problems.

- There is need to build the capacity of the locals and learning institutions on sustainable wildlife conservation and management through promoting environmental education and awareness.
- Other interested wildlife conservation organizers and stakeholders within TCA should be brought on board for future sustenance of the TCA and game scouts operations.

### **Conclusion**

The conservation of biodiversity is crucial because it provides several goods and services necessary for human survival. However, the loss of biodiversity due to changing land use patterns is one of the major threats facing the many wildlife ecosystems. Sustainability of key wildlife ecosystems can be effectively addressed if the existing Protected Areas are complemented with adjacent areas management plans that allow for integrated conservation strategies. These management plans are to be successful it is critical to make adjacent community members active stakeholders in addressing human wildlife interactions.

### **Acknowledgement**

Acknowledgment to the Board of Directors and Management of AFEW (K) Ltd for their approval and support of the TCA Game Scout Workshop. To the facilitators and mobilizers, Mr. Jacob Dadi – Amara Conservancy, Mr. Evanson Kariuki – Care for the Wild/Bush meat East Africa Network (BEAN), Mr. David Ogiga – Kasigau Conservancy, Mr. Lenjo of Wildlife works, Mr. Mlamba of Kasigau Conservancy, Victor Mutumah – Born Free, Mr. Mombo of Taita Taveta Wildlife Association and Mr. Nicodemus Kivindyo formerly of the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust and currently working with Kuruwitu Community Marine Association. Much appreciation for the participants without whom the workshop could not have taken place and who together with the AFEW staff representatives shared experiences and challenges that will help define the way forward for a sustainable future intervention in future Community Game Scout operations, trainings and conservation.

*Compiled By:  
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