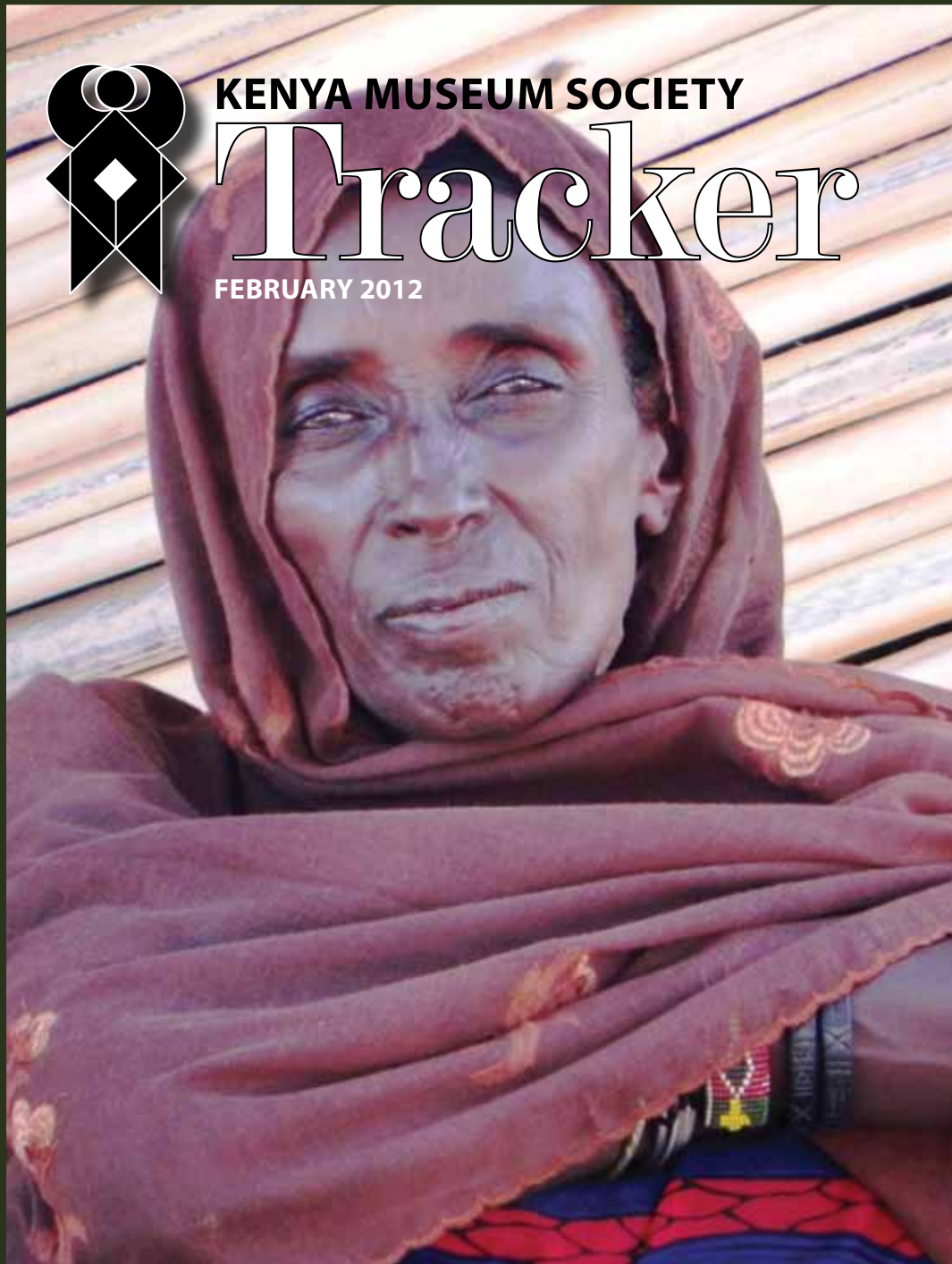




KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY

Tracker

FEBRUARY 2012



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About the series

Know Kenya More through Film takes place on the last Wednesday of each month, January through May, 2012, at the Louis Leakey Auditorium, Nairobi National Museum.

Doors open at 6:45; screenings at 7 pm.

Ksh 500 non-members // Ksh 400 members // Ksh 200 students

29 FEBRUARY 2012



2010. Director: Hawa Essuman.

14 year-old Abila lives with his parents in Kibera, one of the largest slums in East Africa. One morning the teenager discovers his father ill and delirious. Someone has stolen his soul, mumbles the father as he sits huddled in a corner. Abila is shocked and confused but wants to help his father and goes in search of a suitable cure. Supported by his friend Shiku who is the same age as him, he learns that his father has gambled his soul away in the company of a spiritual woman.

The teenager doesn't want to believe it and sets about looking for the witch. When he finally discovers her in the darkest corner of the ghetto, she gives him seven challenging tasks to save his father's lost soul. Abila embarks on an adventurous journey which leads him right through the microcosm of his home town.

MORE FILMS >>>>

HOW TO USE YOUR KMS MEMBERSHIP CARD

Please note that when using your KMS membership to gain entry to NMK Museums and archeological sites, you must also provide other identification. Corporate members using membership cards should provide their organization job identification. KMS membership is not transferable.

UPCOMING EVENTS

28 MARCH 2012: DOUBLE FEATURE

Kimya (Quiet)

2010. Director: Willie Owusu.

The story, revolving around two people in a room, delves into the dark history of Kenya dealing with the issue of torture.

The Roadside

2009. Director: Willie Owusu.

About an odd couple trying to find each other. They decide to go for a picnic to mend their relationship when the story unfolds ...

25 APRIL 2012

The Captain of Nakara

2011. Director: Bob Nyanja.

Afraid of losing the woman of his dreams, a young man with a criminal record pretends to own a profitable market stall. Wearing a stolen military uniform, he succeeds in defending his rights and his happiness.

30 MAY 2012

Monica Wangu Wamwere—The Unbroken Spirit

2010. Director: Jane Murago Munene.

Indefatigable efforts of Mama Koigi, mother of human rights activist and politician Koigi wa Wamwere, who was detained as a political prisoner.

16TH JANUARY - 20TH APRIL 2012

GRASSROOTS UPGRADED

Nairobi Gallery

The exhibition focuses on the daily life in Eastlands through photos taken by young members of the media collective Slum TV. The work challenges stereotypes about life in the marginal areas of Nairobi revealing a dynamic and bustling urban life. The exhibition is made possible through the collaboration of Goethe Institute and National Museums of Kenya.



THURSDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2012

Sheltering the Poor: Innovative Housing Financial Solutions for Slum Dwellers

Ms Jane Weru, Executive Director, Akiba Mashinani Trust

Slum life is a reality in Kenya. In these very slums (Kibera, Korogocho, Mukuru & Laini Saba, among others), lack of basic social amenities is almost a norm, which literally endangers the lives of many Slum dwellers.

For over half a century Kenya has been staring at a number of negative factors in the face, these factors include; poverty cycle, breakout of diseases (water and air-borne diseases), prostitution and inadequate access to basic formal education.

Ms Jane Weru, the recipient of the Annual Innovation Award of The Rockefeller Foundation in 2011 will speak about how they provide sustainable and affordable shelter, infrastructure, and innovative financial and technical solutions to urban and rural poor through community led processes.

Louis Leakey Auditorium, Nairobi National Museum

Refreshments: 6:15 p.m

Doors Open: 7:00 p.m.

Donations: Members Ksh. 400; Non members Ksh. 500; Students Ksh. 200

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 23, 2012

Drawing Safari at Nairobi Arboretum

Artists and amateurs alike will enjoy this opportunity to use the Nairobi Arboretum as inspiration for creating artwork. Note the light flickering through the leaves, zero in on a flower, or maybe you'll work fast enough to capture some monkeys. We will start out the adventure by taking a walk around, and discussing what inspires us. Then we will break into smaller groups, to draw and paint as desired.

Artist Lena Sands from New York will travel between groups to answer questions and make suggestions. There will be a small prize for the group's favorite drawing from the day.

Paper and pencils will be available, as will crayons for any kids but please feel free to bring your own supplies if you would like to use something special.

Cost for members: Adults 400, Children 200

Non Members: Adults 500, Children 300

Notes: Bring clipboards or large books from the museum to use while drawing. We will meet at the KMS office at 9.30am or meet us at the Nairobi Arboretum gate at 10.00am (for those going directly there).

More day outing plans

Please let us know which trip you would like to sign up for!

Brown's Cheese Farm

Kuona Trust Day

Tour of a newspaper press

Ngong Racecourses

Kiambethu Tea Farm in Limuru

Kazuri Bead Factory tour

Behind the Theatrical Scenes

Tour of Cadbury Kenya factory

We want your feedback:

KMS sent members a questionnaire via e-mail about the 2011 evening programs. Your response will help us refine our offerings. We appreciate your filling it out and returning it to the KMS office e-mail account at info@kenyamuseumsociety.org. Thanks for your help!

UPCOMING SAFARIS

FEBRUARY 11-12

Seven Forks/Masinga Dam

Seven Forks is northeast of Nairobi, beyond Thika. There are several dams on the Tana river. The largest is Masinga Reservoir which is a good sized lake. It is rather a dry region but the reservoirs give it a tranquil atmosphere. The area is controlled by Power and Lighting Company and has a good tarmac road network.

We shall stay at the Masinga Dam Resort. The resort has seen better days but it is still not bad. It overlooks Masinga Dam, has well laid out gardens, a swimming pool and spectacular sunsets. We shall have dinner around the pool.

Saturday—Depart from Nairobi at 8 a.m. We drive to Thika and from there to Kangonde (a further 71 kilometers). Here we turn left into the Seven Forks area. We drive to a point on Masinga Reservoir and have a picnic lunch under some trees.

We check in. Swim. Early evening walk to another section of the reservoir. Sundowners and dinner by the pool.

Sunday—After breakfast a leisurely drive to the different reservoirs. Picnic lunch enroute. We can return via Embu.

Mwea National Reserve is in this area. It has poor roads, is overgrown and is not worth a visit. But the reservoirs have hippo and crocodile.

Cost—6,700ksh There may be a single room supplement of 500ksh.

Included—HB at Masinga Dam Resort.

Not included—Transport. Saloon cars can easily do it as all roads are tarmac. Book now. Full payment by Tuesday 7 February.

FEBRUARY 24-26

Laikipia

A visit to Ol Pejeta Sanctuary which has quite a lot of game. We shall stay at Pelican House. It is a beautiful thatched cottage with electricity, a covered veranda, gardens and lawns. It sounds like a very elegant place. There is only space for three couples and two singles with their own transport.

Ol Pejeta is 14 km from Nanyuki and Pelican House is a further 8 km after the gate.

Cost—12,300Ksh pp

Included— Two days full board

Not included—Park entry, transport

For additional information about safaris, contact the KMS office at 374 3808; 233 9158; 374 2131/2/3/4 ext 2311; 0724 255 299; or info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

SAFARI REPORT: TURKANA

22 DEC – 2 JAN



Touring Turkana

Wild, warm and wilderness

by Narinder Heyer; photos by Sasha Cimperman

We set off from the Museum car park on 22nd December. There were seventeen of us, the youngest only ten years old. We spent our first night at a campsite at Archer's Post, run by the Umoja Women's group. Set next to the banks of Ewaso Nyiro River, it has lovely views but lacks shade.

DAYS 2 AND 3

We continued on the wonderful tarmac road to Merille. Then rough road to Laisamis where we turned off the main road toward Ngurunit. There had been long and heavy rains in the north. The landscape was all green and the roads

SAFARI REPORT: TURKANA

all bad. Several culverts had been washed away and there was endless excitement and walking up and down looking for alternate routes.

We passed the dreaded Milgis. It is a five-kilometer flood plain which cannot be crossed if wet. We stayed two nights at Ngurunit Campsite – yet another campsite run by a women's group. At the foot of the Ndoto Mountains, it is well shaded with a river and waterfalls nearby to bathe in! Golden breasted starlings kept us company in the camp.



DAY 4

We continued along the Ndoto Mountains, a dramatic range covered on the lower slopes with acacia forests. These were also good views of Mt. Nyiro, the holy mountain of the Samburu. The Samburu inhabit this whole area. The men with their traditional, elaborate hairstyles and the women with their many beaded necklaces look like colourful butterflies. Overnight was in South Horr—an interesting small town running along the river. Run by a gentle Samburu and his wife, the camp has camping facilities and bandas. There is a tree platform where the steadier members of our group held a midnight party.

DAY 5

The tall acacias are gradually replaced by bushes as it gets drier. Nothing prepares your first view of Lake Turkana—turquoise blue waters shimmering in the sun with South Island looking mysterious. The campsite in Loyangelani was windy, noisy and congested. The area is inhabited by the Turkana and a small tribe called the El Molo.

DAYS 6 AND 7

From Loyangelani to Koobi Fora is a long drive. We left behind giant Mt. Kulal and entered a wild dry area with rolling hills, gullies and badlands. After hours of monotonous driving Karsa Gate at last appears like a mirage. We paid a short visit to Alia Bay, which has a nice guest house. The petrified forest is nearby. Surely 20 years ago I saw a lot more petrified wood. I wonder where it has all gone.

Now we were accompanied by dozens and dozens of kestrels. The museum site at Koobi Fora is near the lake shore. We walked to the museum which is set a

SAFARI REPORT: TURKANA



few kilometers from the camp. The museum staff fished in the crocodile-infested waters to provide us with fish. Some of our group also entered the lake.

DAYS 8 AND 9

The journey from Koobi Fora onwards was perhaps the most fascinating. It is a desolate area with hardly any transport. At Karsa Gate I was asked to provide a lift to North Horr for two rangers.

Well, if anything happens to them we are not responsible, I said.

Don't worry, madam. They have KWS insurance.

The area between Sibiloi, North Horr and Kalacha is inhabited by the Gabra. Numbering about 30,000, they are a very elegant, "civilized" nomadic people. Their women look very vivacious. The men wear white turbans. Their huts have cosy interiors lined with bright kangas.

Dusty and dry North Horr is a wild outpost. It is an oasis town. The water in the oasis was blue and inviting, surrounded by palm trees. There were numerous herdsmen with goats. Our guards were not keen for us to walk and explore the oasis. The guards were armed with only AK 47's whereas the herdsmen, they said, had Hechler & Koch G3's.

We dropped the rangers in North Horr where we rushed to a shop advertising "cold sodas." Then we got a request for a lift for a woman. By the time we set off, the woman came with a baby, a blind grandmother and a young man.

The landscape between North Horr and Kalacha is almost frightening. There

SAFARI REPORT: TURKANA

is mile after mile of stunted bush. In this desolation one still came across a few huts.

Our next destination, Kalacha, is a pleasant town with many acacia trees. In the evening we drove to the edge of the Chalbi desert for sundowners. It is flat and empty. The sky was truly amazing. We visited a rock art site and a church with paintings done by an Ethiopian artist.



When we left Kalawe there was another request for a lift for a woman who “had stomach problems.” She feigned weakness when I looked at her but the next morning she looked very happy and healthy and she was not alone. She was accompanied by another woman, a man.... or was it two men? Never mind, there were plenty of empty seats.

DAY 10

On the road again. Beautiful views of the Huri Hills in the distance. The landscape was green and there were hundreds of European white storks. We knew we were approaching “civilization” when we encountered mountains of garbage. Marsabit! A dusty, dirty town of plastic bags. We dropped our last “liftees” here. We were now in Rendille country.

We camped at a lovely campsite run by the Borana wife of a Swiss who has settled in Marsabit.

DAY 11

After Marsabit there is more transport available. Requests for lifts ceased. Our last night was at the Bomen Hotel in Isiolo, where we had comfortable beds and showers. We were even given a place for the truck to park and to do our cooking. Many members opted for the cold beers and the elaborate dishes being served at the Bomen Hotel, but the hotel manager joined the few of us for the truck dinner.

DAY 12

Our truck was good, the driver calm and experienced. Our cook regularly churned out the most amazing dishes with ease. There is hardly any game left in the north, but it is a wonderful place to meet the different tribes and enjoy spectacular landscapes.

Birds are numerous. The highlights were several glimpses of Heuglin’s bustard, white-headed vultures and three African skimmers near Lake Turkana.



DECEMBER 9-11, 2011

Moon over Murera Springs

After a coffee and gallery stop at the Lily Pond in Nanyuki , twenty safari-goers headed up the road to Mery National Park. Twenty of us filled every tent at the Murera Springs Eco Lodge, set between two streams in a cooling patch of jungle. The hospitality was warm though, especially for the brunch in a clearing ringed with swings and hammocks.



Game drives yielded lions, rhinos, reticulated giraffe, oryx, hippos, Somalis ostrich, elephants and the usual zebra and friends. Birders sighted steppe eagles, palm nut vulture, Jacobin's cuckoo, eagle owls, a Hines babbler and dozens of hornbills, kingfishers and bee-eaters.

The Meru Self Help Group danced to traditional music by lantern light around the pool one night. Previously, those who stayed until dusk in the park were treated to a lunar eclipse.

ACTIVITIES



MORNING BIRD WALKS

Every Wednesday morning at 8:45. These three- to 3.5-hour walks are organized by Nature Kenya. Participants meet at the upper Museum carpark off Kipande Road. Members who have books or binoculars they no longer use are urged to donate them to Nature Kenya.

Cost: Ksh 200 per person; free to KMS members

Email: office@naturekenya.org

SUNDAY BIRD WATCH OUTING

Every third Sunday of each month. Meet in the upper staff carpark off Kipande Road at 9:00 a.m. Bring binoculars, water and a picnic lunch.

Email: office@naturekenya.org

MORNING TREE WALK

Every last Monday and every second Saturday of each month. The walks, which start at 9:30 a.m., focus on trees and shrubs. They are offered by Friends of the Nairobi Arboretum (FONA). Participants meet at the FONA tree centre. A hat, drink and tree books are recommended equipment.

Cost: Ksh 100 per person; free for Nature Kenya and FONA members.

Email: fona@naturekenya.org

Contact Nature Kenya for more information:

020-353-7568 // 0739-200-216 // 0750-149-200 // 0751-624-312

NGONG ROAD FOREST WALKS

The Ngong Road Forest Sanctuary Trust nature walks are held on the first and third Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. Meet at the stairs leading to the restaurant at the race course.

For more information contact Simon Ng'ang'a at tel: 0729840715

Email: office@ngongforestsanctuary.com

KMS Membership Registration Form

Please use BLOCK letters

Mr./Ms/Mrs/Dr/ Family Name _____

First Name _____ Spouse _____

Names of children (under 18) _____

P.O. Box _____ Code _____ City _____

Tel: Home _____ Office _____

Mobile _____ Email _____

I am a NEW/RENEWING member (please circle one)

I prefer to receive the *Tracker* by EMAIL/POST (please circle one)

Membership Rates

(Please circle one)

Resident: Family Ksh 1,700

 Individual Ksh 1,200

 Student Ksh 300

Non-resident US\$ 50

Corporate (Kenya) Ksh 15,000

(For office use only)

Family name: _____


Receipt no: _____ Date: _____

Type of membership: _____ Nos: _____

Amt. paid: _____ Cash/Cheque _____

Cheque no: _____ Bank: _____

Posted/Collected date: _____ Added to database by: _____

A photograph of a modern conference room. A long, light-colored wooden conference table is set up with several black ergonomic chairs. On the table are white papers, pens, and glasses of water. The room has yellow walls, a large flat-screen TV mounted on the wall, and a whiteboard. A large window is covered with heavy, patterned orange curtains. The ceiling has recessed lighting.

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