



KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY

Tracker

APRIL 2011



REPRODUCTION OF THE
TURKANA BOY SKULL
CREATED BY THE NMK
CASTING DEPARTMENT.
STORY ON PAGE 6



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Annual General Meeting

Monday, 18 April 2011, 5:30 pm.

Louis Leakey Auditorium

Members will visit the casting department, a recipient of Kenya Museum Society grants awards, at 5.45 pm.

The meeting will start at 6.00 pm. Wine, juice and bitings will be provided.

Any member who wishes to nominate officers or other council members is encouraged to contact the KMS office by email or telephone.

Any member who wishes to submit a resolution to the Annual General Meeting must send it in writing by 31 March to the Secretary, Dr. Marla Stone, via the KMS email (info@kenyamuseumsociety.org).

Please **confirm your attendance on or before Friday, 15th April** by email (info@kenyamuseumsociety.org) or phone (020 3743808, 0724 255299, or wireless 020 2339158).

If your membership has lapsed or will soon lapse you may renew prior to the beginning of the meeting.

Though all categories of members are encouraged to attend, only paid-up members, exclusive of student members, visitor members, NMK special category members and KMS staff, will be able to vote on any issues.

The agenda for the AGM will be as follows:

1. Opening of Meeting
2. Approval of Minutes of 2010 AGM
3. Chairperson's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. New Business
 - a. Election of officers and other Council members
 - b. Appointment of auditor
 - c. Additional new business
6. Adjournment

Please mark your calendar now to attend. Thank you.

KMS awards museums more than 1 million shillings in 2010

The Kenya Museum Society gave grants totaling Ksh 1,399,644 to the National Museums of Kenya during 2010.

A large award went to the Casting Department for shelving. That grant was for Ksh 382,545.

KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY 2010 GRANTS AWARDS TO NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA

Recipient	For	Approved Ksh
Nairobi Museum	Shelving for Casting Department	382,545
Louis Leakey Auditorium	Additional works not funded by Safaricom grant	581,099
National Museums of Kenya	Donation of magazines Kenya Past & Present	81,000
Botanical Gardens at Nairobi Museum	Renovations	255,000
NMK Endowment fund	Donation	100,000
TOTAL 2010		1,399,644

A grant of Ksh 255,000 was awarded to the Nairobi Botanic Garden to enliven and enhance the visitor experience.

Finally, KMS made a Ksh 100,000 contribution to the Directorate of Corporate Affairs and Development as a contribution to the endowment fund.

KMS also made a donation of magazines *Kenya Past & Present* to the National Museums.

The total Grant Fund retains about Ksh 3.2 million, though some of that money is committed to continuing projects.

Thank you

... to Rupen Samani of Vivaproduct Line for their generous contribution to refreshments for the Evening Lecture Programs.

WEDNESDAY, 13 APRIL 2011

Rejuvenating The Karura Forest: Danger Spots to Green Haven

Speaker: Mrs Alice Macaire, Chair, The Friends Of Karura Forest

6:15 pm, Louis Leakey Auditorium, Nairobi National Museum

Donation: Ksh 500, Students Ksh 200

Refreshments at 6.00 pm

Doors open at 7.00

Where in Nairobi can you find...

...a 20-meter waterfall and Mau Mau caves, wetlands, a lily-strewn lake, antelopes and butterflies in grassy glades, bamboo groves, three rivers to explore, 50K of trails for bird walks or jogging, pleasant picnic grounds and ideal sites for teambuilding, exercising or a wedding?

Answer: The Karura Forest.

And it's 15 minutes from Nairobi's city centre.

The Karura Forest conservation project started in 2007 after the Forest was rescued from redevelopment through the actions of Prof Wangari Maathai. Since then, the Friends of Karura Forest has been working in conjunction with the Kenya Forestry Service, the local communities of Karura and Huramu, and the families who live within the forest to create a safe, secure and educational environment for all to enjoy. The Forest has transformed from a notorious "no go" zone to a "green lung," one of the largest gazetted forests in the world fully within a city limits.

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COMMON ANTIMALARIAL TREES AND SHRUBS OF EAST AFRICA

A description of species and a guide to cultivation and conservation through use

This guide describes a range of trees and shrubs that are used as antimalarial treatments in East Africa. The 22 species chosen for description have been determined by traditional medical practitioners, rural communities and scientists as among those that have potential for further study and development as tree and shrub crops. Ksh800.



Dr. Kyongo and the new metal shelves

Protecting a 60-year investment in world-rekknowned replicas

KMS funds shelving for the NMK Casting Department

*By Benson Kyongo
Casting Department head*

The Casting Department was established in 1963 as an answer to a pressing need at the museum. The National Museums of Kenya have the finest collection in the world of hominid fossils, along with many other examples of African flora and fauna. There is a tremendous demand from researchers around the world to study these artifacts. But original fossil skulls and bones are both too valuable and too fragile to handle frequently. So the Casting Department produces precise casts—or replicas—of these fossils that can be sent to other researchers for study.

These casts are not “counterfeits,” but precise, detailed, scientifically accepted replicas.

KMS GRANTS

The Casting Department is an investment by the museum, because it generates revenue from cast sales. Clients across the globe include museums, universities, individual researchers and other related institutions.

The department also provides exhibition replicas to NMK galleries around Kenya. Some of our recent work is included in displays on human evolution and large mammals in the Nairobi Museum.

In 1967, the first two Kenyan casting trainees were recruited, Mr. Simon Kasinga and Mr. Kasilu. In 1977 they were both sent to the U.S. for specialized technical training. After training, they became internal trainers at the department.

The department is expecting new technology donated by the Japan International Cooperation Agency to assist us in the many activities we undertake.

To produce a cast, one begins by making a mold. Every cast produced has a mold. Once it is made, the mold will be used to reproduce subsequent casts without reusing the original specimen.

All the molds are catalogued with accession and shelf numbers. Over the years, we have built many thousands of molds for various purposes.

One of our challenges has been the safe-keeping of these important objects. Dust reduces the life of a mold. With our wooden shelving from the 1960s, it was very difficult to keep out the dust. By 2010, dust and wood breakage were regular visitors to the department. We feared that this would be a continuing routine.

But after touring the facility, the Kenya Museum Society stepped in with a



Some casts

grant to provide new metal shelving, protecting the nearly 60 years of investment in molds and casts that NMK has made. I cannot forget energetic KMS Chair Pat Jentz who, despite her busy schedule, spent time with me in the lab, taking floor measurements, marking the areas, looking for a company to do the work and getting bids. I'm very grateful for her hard work.

The project has two phases. The first is complete, and the second is now underway.

I'd also like to thank all the KMS committee officials, members, staff and others who contributed in so many ways. We are very grateful. We also had the full support and blessing of NMK Director General Dr. Idle Farah, who took time from his busy schedule to help with fundraising. We also had great support from the Directorate Director Connie Maina. On behalf of the casting department and NMK as a whole, we are honored. Again I say, "Thanks."

KMS, keep the spirit.

SAFARI REPORT

SHABA, SAMBURU AND JOY'S CAMP, 10 – 13 FEBRUARY 2011



The KMS safari-goers

Tales of Joy

*Magado Crater, Nyambeni Hills and Joy's Camp
in the Shaba Nature Preserve*

by Barbara Steenstrup

Three high points of this trip: there are no baboons or annoying monkeys at Joy's Camp; we celebrated Narinder's birthday; and Narinder told us of the life and loves of Joy Adamson, along with her contribution to the conservation and documentation of Kenya's tribes and flora. Joy's Camp, a Cheli and Peacock property situated at the site of Joy Adamson's original camp, was a delight in every way.

It was a six-hour drive from Nairobi to our first destination, the Sarova Shaba Lodge. Sadly, the high standards at the lodge experienced during previous trips have fallen—lunch was fine, but the recycled leftovers for dinner were not a hit. Breakfast, with rock-hard croissants, was not a success either. There was also an oversupply of monkeys.

Thereafter, the wildlife, including a magnificent cheetah in plain view for a long time, during a half-day game drive in Samburu, the doum palms, the accommodation at Joy's Camp at the other end of Shaba, the Italian influenced

SAFARI REPORT



The magnificent cheetah stayed in view for some fine photos

meals, and the ambience were outstanding. Our twenty participants filled all ten tents. Some of us did game drives in the mornings and walks in the afternoons. Some did game drives and lounged by the pool in the afternoon. Many napped during the heat of the day.

One morning, we all drove to the Magado Crater in the Nyambeni Hills. It was an amazing outing, a soda lake that some of us viewed after climbing to a panoramic view while others went down to the lake floor itself. At the bottom of the crater is a small lake that evaporates to form a soda salt crust. “The Meru people apparently have been collecting soda in this crater for thousands of years,” according to Volcano World researchers at Oregon State University. “In recent years, the Meru as well as the Boran and Somali people have shared the crater. During the rainy season, the people water their cattle in this natural collecting

SAFARI REPORT

basin. During the dry season as the full lake recedes, the soda that remains behind is collected.” (Photo at left from volcano.oregonstate.edu/vwdocs/volc_images/africa/magado_crater.html)

I met Joseph, an elderly Meru soda gatherer. He showed me his cache of soda wrapped in dried banana leaves. He explained that he spends three days at a time in a shelter of branches he builds in the crevices of the hills. He watched as I, a bit stiff-kneed, climbed in the rocks. To ease my progress, Joseph very kindly brought me a walking stick he had stored in his shelter.

Some members continued to Chanler’s Falls, named after the young American adventurer who first recorded them. The water originates in 24 springs (now fenced) and crashes over a black lava flow where it has dug a deep gorge. Some young men offered to take us to view crocodiles but due to time constraints we couldn’t.

JOY ADAMSON

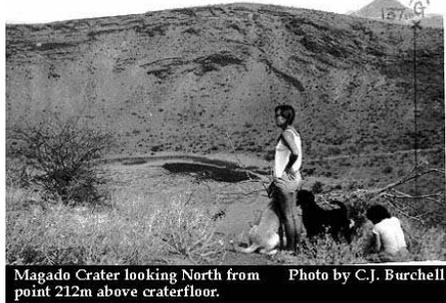
Joy Adamson’s maiden name was Friederike Victoria Gessner. Her second husband Peter Bally gave her the nickname Joy, which stuck with her considerably longer than Peter did. Adamson was her third husband, George. The 100th anniversary of her birth was celebrated in 2010. Joy is credited with having Shaba gazetted as a national reserve.

Adamson came to worldwide attention as a result of her 1960 book *Born Free*, chronicling Joy and George’s efforts to reintroduce the orphaned lioness Elsa back into the wild. The book was made into a hit movie in 1966.

The Adamsons pioneered techniques for reintroducing big cats. Elsa is believed to be the first successful lion reintroduction.

Narinder’s tales were both informative and amusing, spiced with comments about Joy’s affairs. Two participants on the trip had known her personally and added their own, little known anecdotes. We also learned from Francien van de Vijver, our charming host at Joy’s Camp, that Paul Ekai, the man who was imprisoned for the murder of Joy Adamson, visited the area recently accompanied by a journalist from the Daily Nation. There is still doubt as to whether or not Ekai is guilty.

On the trip back on Sunday, several of us stopped for lunch at the Trout Tree, 13 kilometers south of Nanyuki town. It is a lovely place. The trout is fresh from the fishponds below the restaurant.



Magado Crater looking North from point 212m above craterfloor. Photo by C.J. Burchell

13-15 May 2011

Lake Turkana Festival

Loiyangalani, a small town at the southern tip of Lake Turkana, is tentatively planning its cultural festival in May of 2011 under the auspices of the National Museums of Kenya and the German Embassy. The museum is planning a multi-day event for this celebration. The schedule is below. For more information, contact NMK or the German Embassy.



DAY 1

Depart from Nairobi
 Lunch stop at Nyahururu or wherever
 Bunduz stop
 Night stop at Maralal

DAY 2

Breakfast 7am
 Visit Kenyatta House Maralal 9am
(Talk by Dr. Wario)
 Tour of Museum
 Depart for Loiyangalani 10am
Lunch stop at Baragoi
 Night at Loiyangalani

DAY 3 & 4

Rock Art Tour 6:30am
 Breakfast
 Museum Tour 9am
 Tour of El molo village
 Tour of shrines
 4 x 4 challenge/races
 Swimming
 Camel rides
 Fishing with locals
 Lunch
 Cultural dance 4pm
 Local Market/crafts
 Sundowner at the museum and local food
 tasting 6pm

DAY 5 AND 6

Return to Nairobi

DRIVER AVAILABLE

David, a Kenyan citizen, is looking for a job as a driver. Family man, over 10 years of experience; 10 years working for expatriates. Available to work immediately. For more information Contact David: 0722 995 445. Thank you. (advertisement)

Wajir Museum Opening

April 19, 2011

The Wajir museum, whose official opening is April 19, 2011, shows the commitment of the National Museums of Kenya to its mandate of safe guarding Kenya cultural and natural heritage.

Begun more than 100 years ago with small natural collection in a building that is now Nairobi city centre, NMK has expanded its mandate in the years since. There are now more than 20 regional museums as well as many sites and monuments throughout the country.

NMK has been focusing recently on conserving the heritage resources in the northern Kenya districts. In 2007, NMK conducted a preliminary survey to document and assess natural and cultural heritage in the larger Wajir district. This survey recommended—among other things,—the establishment of a museum and heritage coordination office in the district, as well as preservation of Quarey Wells

Wajir museum has already been established. On August 2009 an exhibition was installed and was fully completed recently. The exhibition reflects the traditions and customs of the community living in northern Kenya and North Eastern province. The theme of the exhibition is “A Window to Northern Kenya.”

The launch of this museum will open the region to tourist circuit. Wajir has a well established airport. The museum will boost the economy of the region. This is the first museum in North Eastern Province. Another will be opening in Garissa. A gazette notice has already been published and part development plan for the Quarey site prepared.

Wajir town host several sites and monument among them Wagalla Massacre site, Yahut Dam , Shalety Wells, historic buildings, British bunkers and tunnels, and Quarey. These are some of the significant heritage resources to be developed and safeguarded.

We at the museum recognise the vitality of active participation of all stakeholders in heritage management. We established good rapport between NMK and the local community. This launch is a true indicator that our efforts have



NMK EVENTS

born fruit.

The April 19 launch is the official opening of Wajir Museum. It has already received its first objective through installation of exhibition. There is a lot of enthusiasm and support both from the local leaders and the people of Wajir. This community support coupled with expertise and support from the stakeholders will mean a successful future for this museum.

WAJIR MUSEUM OPENING PROGRAM

9:30am

Guests arrive

10:00am

Guest of Honor Arrives

Entertainment

Welcome Remarks:

NMK Director General Dr. Idle Farah

Remarks:

Board Chairman Mr. Issa Timamy

Permanent Secretary, Ministry of State
for National Heritage & Culture Dr. Jacob
ole Miaron

Entertainment

Speech:

Minister of State for Development of
Northern Kenya and other Arid Lands,
Hon. Mohammed Ibrahim Elmi EGH,
MBE, MP

Official Opening of Wajir Museum

Tour of exhibition

Vote of thanks: Director Development &
Corporate Affairs Ms. Connie Maina

12:30pm

Lunch

Entertainment

Tour of Historical Sites:

1. Old homes build by Italian Prisoners
2. Old Court House
3. British/Italian War Bunkers
4. Quarey Wells

4:00pm

Shopping at local market/relaxation

6:00pm

Sundowner/bush dinner at Yahut dam

Entertainment

Cultural Talk

MC: Director Museums, Sites &
Monuments, Dr. Hassan Wario

ENTRANCE TO NATIONAL MUSEUMS OF KENYA USING YOUR KMS MEMBERSHIP

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.

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

For more information, please contact tel: 2725471/0727 300933

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.

For more information contact tel: 3749957/3746090

Email: office@naturekenya.org

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

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.

For more information contact tel: 3749957/3746090

Email: fona@naturekenya.org

DONATE BOOKS FOR THE 2011 SECOND-HAND BOOK SALE

The dates for the upcoming second-hand book sale will be announced in a future Tracker. But it's not too soon to begin culling your library.

The Kenya Museum Society welcomes donations of used books, tapes, DVDs, children's books, games, magazines, dictionaries, and so on ...

Please drop your donation to the KMS office between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays.

Time Magazine selects Fairview Hotel as the place to stay in Nairobi



📖 *Most of the international chain hotels in Nairobi manage to be both shoddy and extortionate. Independent and family-run, the Fairview is half the price of the competition (with rooms from \$135) and several times as good... The gardens, the pool and the breakfasts are huge, the wi-fi is fast and free and the staff among the friendliest and most efficient in Africa. All this, plus a classy brasserie and wine bar and some of the best sushi in the city.* 📖

— Time Magazine, 22nd March 2010. Pg 55 —

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: _____