

KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY

TRACKER

February 2020



Photo by Narinder Heyer See p. 13.

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➤Remember that every activity you participate in is contributing to the work of the National Museums of Kenya.

Note from your editor: I apologise for the long gap between *Trackers*. I shall try to do better!



KMS Upcoming Events

Feb – Dec 2020

By participating in KMS events, you are helping support projects of the National Museums of Kenya.

Day Outing – Sat 15 Feb	Guided Forest Walk, Brackenhurst, Tigoni (see p. 6)
Evening Talk – Wed 19 Feb	Dr. Richard Leakey – Tamambo Karen Blixen Coffee Garden (see p. 11)
Family Outing – Sat 29 Feb	Treasure Hunt (see p. 7)
Evening Talk – Wed 14 March	Lucy Vigne – Muthaiga Country Club
Safari - 20 – 22 (3 nights) March	A cultural trip to Mombasa, by Train (see p. 3)
Day Outing – Sat 28 March	Hike at Ol Doiyo Orok
Kids Day Out – Sat 4 April	Creativity and decorations design by Bonnie Donahue (see p. 9)
Easter Safari 10 – 13 April	Tsavo East (see p. 4)
Day Outing – Sat 17 April	Tour of Brown Cheese Factory, Tigoni – (see p. 8 - 10)
Evening Talk – Wed 29 April @ KCC	A Forest Restoration Project in Kenya, Karen Club – Mark Nicholson (see p. 10)
Evening Talk – Sat 16 May MCC	TO BE FILLED
Evening Talk – June 20th MCC	Dr. Donna Pido
Evening Talk – Sat 22nd or 29th Aug @ MCC	TO BE FILLED

Evening Talk – Sat 19 th Sept. @ MCC	TO BE FILLED
Evening Talk – Sat 10 th or 17 th Oct @ MCC	TO BE FILLED
Art Show 30 th Oct – 1 st Nov @ NMK	Annual Affordable Art Show
Evening Talk – Sat 14 th or 21 st Nov @MCC	TO BE FILLED

Trips and Events

Longer Trips

Amboseli – Kilimanjaro 21-23 February, 2020

Amboseli is one of the most beautiful parks in Kenya. It is a series of wetlands with some acacia forest. The looming mass of Kilimanjaro is visible from anywhere in the park. Amboseli is at its best during and after the rains. There is plenty of game and a lot of water birds. Migrant bird species should still be abundant as they prepare to fly to the northern hemisphere.

This is going to be a relaxing trip. We stay at Ol Tukai lodge in rooms facing the mountain. There will be 4 game drives in total. The rest of the time you can sit on the veranda and watch game on the plains opposite, do photography, swim or bird watch.

Route: Nairobi – Emali – Amboseli. It is all excellent tarmac and after Emali there is little traffic.

Costs: Park Entry: Citizens KShs 860 pp Residents KShs 1,030 pp

You can pay by Mpesa or credit card. No cash is accepted.

Cost: KShs28,600 pp sharing. Single supplement KShs 4,250 per day

Included: Two nights full board and four game drives

Not Included: Park entry and Transport

Transport: If you do not wish/are unable to self-drive, hired minibus cost per person will be Kes11,000

Kindly register and pay by 12 February (see page 4 for payment methods)

Madaraka Train Trip to Historic Mombasa, 20-22 March

Mombasa, Kenya's port city and one of the oldest in East Africa, is teeming with a blend of African, Indian, Arabian, and European heritage ready to for us to experience. We won't be able to explore all the sites, but we plan to hit the high points of the museums and the cultural points of interest during this three day trip.

Our itinerary includes a guided walking tour of Mombasa and guided visits to two of the National Museums of Kenya Museums: Fort Jesus, a World Heritage Site with entrance to the Butterfly House; and the Rabai Museum.

History buffs, this is your trip!

We'll stay at the Mombasa Club, the oldest club in Kenya, with a panoramic view of the Indian Ocean. The Club is located between Fort Jesus and Old Town and is an excellent location for restaurants and meandering through the streets of historic Old Town. Bring your swimming suit as there is a sea-water pool, and you may need to cool down in the hot and steaming temps.

We'll travel round trip on the Madaraka Express from Nairobi to Mombasa and back. No stressful Mombasa Highway! The Friday morning inter-county train will take us to Mombasa and our return will be on the Express train to Nairobi.

There are a limited number of spaces available, and we must book the train tickets well ahead of the trip. If you are interested in the trip, book and pay in advance to be assured a place.

Tentative Itinerary

March 20 – We depart early at 6.00 am from the Museum lower parking lot by bus to catch the 8 a.m. Madaraka Inter-county train. We must leave on time to navigate Nairobi traffic and get to the station for on-time boarding after security checks. Bring your lunch or try out the dining car on the train. On our arrival in Mombasa at 1:55 p.m., we'll be met and driven to the Mombasa Club for tea and a short talk on the history of the Club. Dinner will be at a local restaurant. (Maybe a Dhow dinner trip, if we can. Price for this will be extra,)

March 21 – After breakfast, we'll start our museum visits. In the morning, we'll travel by bus to the Rabai Museum. After our return and a break for lunch, we'll visit the Fort Jesus Museum in the afternoon. Dinner will be at the Mombasa Club to enjoy the ocean views and ambience. You have the option of dining at your favorite Mombasa restaurant if you prefer.

March 22 – On our last day in Mombasa, we'll have a guided tour of Old Town in the morning, have lunch, and board the train for our return to Nairobi. Buy your food for the train, if you aren't planning on eating in the dining car. We'll leave the Mombasa

Club in time to catch the 3:15 p.m. train back to Nairobi. This means leaving the Club by about 1 pm. Arrival time of 8:15 p.m. in Nairobi. A bus will return us to the Museum.

Cost: Ksh 29,850

Single room supplement KShs3,750 per day on the first floor. 4,750 per day on the second floor with a sea view. Rooms will be allocated in order of registration.

Included: Transportation to and from Nairobi and Mombasa SGR termini, 1st class round trip train ticket, transportation to Rabai Museum, lodging with English breakfast at the Mombasa Club, guides for Museum and walking tour, and tips

Excludes: Lunch and dinner costs while in Mombasa. Bring your lunch for Friday or buy it on the train dining car.

Deadline: Book and pay early. A copy of your ID must be received by 15 February

Kindly note that:

1. **Due to high transport cost the price of the safari had to be adjusted slightly.**
2. **Departure from the Museum car park on 20 March is 6.00 am**

Easter Trip: Tsavo East - Taveta

9-13 April, 2020

The vast open spaces of Tsavo East are very appealing. It is a 135 sq mile wilderness of rolling plains and semi-arid areas. Cutting through the park is the Galana river, fringed with doum palms. Beyond the river is the ever present 300 km long Yatta plateau. The park has a lot of game, especially huge herds of elephants, rarer animals like gerenuk, oryx lesser kudu.....and many bird species.

We shall spend **two nights in Tsavo East.**

Day 1: Explore the area along the Galana River and then head south westwards. We shall visit Mudanda Rock, a gigantic rock overlooking a shallow lake where animals constantly come to drink. Picnic lunch will be either at Mudanda or Lugard Falls.

Day 2: Explore the extensive plains in the south-east of the park. Expect to see huge herds of elephants.

The first two nights we shall stay at **Voi Safari Lodge**. It is an old lodge, newly refurbished, built on a hill with awesome views of the plains below. It has an infinity

pool and nice gardens. There is always a lot of game at their water holes, including lion. There is a hide near the water hole from where you can watch animals up close.

Day 3: We drive to Taveta and enter Ziwani.

Day 4: Explore the area.

Day 3 and 4 we shall stay at **Ziwani Tented Lodge**. It is a most charming place, laid out around a river and wetlands. In the evenings there is a bonfire and you can sit here and watch the game in the wetland opposite. As it is technically outside the park we may not need to pay park entry for day 3 and 4.

There are several things to do in this area and we shall choose some:

1. Visit the old, colonial town of Taveta. See the British WW1 cemetery and one of the oldest churches in Kenya
2. Visit Colonel Grogan's castle
3. Visit the old baobab tree where a German sniper hid in WW1 and shot several British soldiers
4. Visit the enchanting Lake Chala, a deep circular lake reputed to be the third largest body of fresh water in East Africa
5. Have a guided tour of Ziwani farm. It was a part of Grogan's extensive assets. You will see trees grown by Grogan and remnants of his old machinery from the 1920's and 1930's.
6. Morning walk around the wetlands accompanied by an armed ranger. We shall see hippo, crocodile and possibly large flocks of sandgrouse
7. Night game drive at Ziwani

Route: Nairobi - Mtiti Andei - Voi - Taveta - Emali - Nairobi

Cost: 42,650 Kes p.p. sharing

Single supp at Voi Lodge 2,000 pppd, at Ziwani 4,500 pppd

Included: 4 days FB. Cost of guided walks and guides and tips at Ziwani

Not included: Transport and park entry

Transport: If you do not wish to self-drive we can hire minivans. Estimated cost will be 13,000 pp

Park Entry: Adults Resident 1030, Citizen 515

Children 515 215

Charges are per person per day. Mpesa or credit card only.

Book and pay by 17 March

Payment Options for trips:

Safaricom; Mpesa Paybill- 400800, Account No- 6571570019

Kenya Museum Society Bank Transfer Details;

Bank: NCBA Kenya PLC

Account Name: KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY

Branch: Westlands Branch **Bank Account:** 657 157 0019

Swift Code: CBAFKENX **Bank Code:** 07 **Branch Code:** 004

Day trips and events

Saturday, 15 February 2020

Day Outing – Guided Tree Walk at Brackenhurst, Tigoni, by Mark Nicholson

Are you looking into having a relaxing Saturday, away from Nairobi and yet not willing to travel too far?

Brackenhurst has got just what you need, away from the busy Nairobi, stunning landscapes of tea plantations and just by driving in this area itself is therapeutic.

You will be guided through the restored forest to see the tree collection on the inner compound comprising 650 species of indigenous trees and shrubs, some of them very unusual and rare.

What to bring/wear: Drinking water, extra snacks, comfortable walking shoes, sunglasses and a hat.

Cost:

KMS Member – Adult – Ksh 2,550 Child – Ksh 2,350

Guest – Adult – Ksh 2,650 Child – Ksh 2,450

Included:

- Transport from and return to Nairobi National Museum
- A guided tree walk of the indigenous forest
- Complimentary tea/coffee and a few snacks
- Guide fees

(If you have your own transport, please let us know)

Payment:

Safaricom: M-PESA Paybill, Business No: 400800, Account: 6571570019

Bookings: 0724 255299 or info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

For ease of planning, please book and pay by Wednesday 12 February

Why not follow this trip up by attending Mark Nicholson's talk on Brackenhurst on April 29th? See page 12.

MUSEUM TREASURE HUNT

Sat, 29 Feb 2020

10:00 am -12:00 pm, Nairobi Museum Entry Desk

Ksh 2,500 per team for KMS member families (up to 3 people)

Ksh 3,800 for non-KMS member families (up to 3 people)

The winning team will receive a Ksh 2,500 voucher to the

Kenya Museum Society Shop in the Museum

Work together to learn some interesting facts about various exhibitions in the museum while competing against other teams.

For teams of 2-3 family members, one of whom must be **an older teen or adult**. It's recommended that children be aged 7 or older. **Minimum 3 teams are required.**

Rules:

1. The family team must stay together. Don't split up and go to different exhibitions; all must work on the same exhibition at the same time. Be discreet when you find an answer so you don't alert other teams where the answer is. You do not have to answer the questions in the order on the sheet, i.e. you can start in any exhibition and work your way through all the exhibitions in any order you choose, but you must stay together.

Your start and end times will be recorded by a facilitator. Teams do not have to start at exactly 10:00, but they must finish by 12:00. When you finish you may visit other parts of the Museum.

2. Record all the answers you can find on the answer sheets provided. Turn in ONE completed answer sheet to one of the facilitators when you have finished.
3. Scoring will be based on the following:
 - *1 point for each completed and correct answer to each regular question. There are multiple parts to most answers; all parts of each answer must be recorded to be awarded the point.
 - *2 points for each completed and correct answer to each bonus question. There are multiple parts to each answer; all parts of each answer must be recorded to be awarded the points.
 - *Number of minutes to complete the answers – Your start time and finish time will be recorded by one of the facilitators and the number of minutes to answer all questions will be calculated. The team that finishes with the most correct answers in the fewest minutes will get 5 points, the second team will get 4 points, the third team will get 3 points, etc.

Bookings: 0724 255299 or info@kenyamuseumsociety.org

Payment: Safaricom – M-PESA PayBill Business no: 400800, Account no: 6571570019

Brown's Cheese Factory, Tigoni

Friday, 17 April 2020: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Brown's cheese founder was inspired by a passion for delicious, fresh, additive-free cheese. The farm was established in 1979. It lies among the beautiful tea plantations of Tigoni and is run on purely biodynamic and organic principles.

Included

1. A guided tour of the factory and overview of how cheese is made
2. Cheese tasting session for the group. Discover flavour differences and cheese families with 8 cheeses including some seasonal cheeses kept just for group tastings.
3. A three course lunch made with 100% homegrown ingredients, set in green and tranquil surroundings
4. A tour of the biodynamic vegetable garden, after lunch
5. An opportunity to purchase products at reduced prices



BOOK READING & MAKING DECORATIONS

FORD HALL
10 am -12 PM

Price:
Ksh 800 – member's child
Ksh 1,000 – guest child

Included:
Art materials
Water/juice & biscuits

Payment:
M-PESA PayBill, Business no:
400800, Acct/no: 6571570019

Bookings: 0724 255299 or
info@kenyamuseumociety.org

CHILDREN'S DAY OUTING NAIROBI NATIONAL MUSEUM Saturday, 4 April 2020

Do you have kids who love art and creativity?

Sign them up for this guided, artsy-craftsy, thought provoking event which will encourage your child to explore their artistic skills and feed any passion they may already have for art and recycling.

They will also get a chance to participate in a book reading session - *Life's Little Magical Formulas*, by Zoya (the author). This amazing book also makes for a perfect gift for the young ones. Get it at a reduced cost of Ksh 950, on the day.

#FunEngagingLearning



Cost in KShs

	Adults	Teens 12-18	Kids 5-11
KMS members incl transport	4,450	3,150	2,000
Members excluding transport	3,300	2,000	800
Non-members incl transport	4,650	4,350	1,950
Non-members excluding transport	3,450	2,150	1,000
All kids under 5	Free!		

Note: There are only 16 spaces for this trip, please sign up & make payments to confirm your booking. For booking see p. 6.

At the Museum Shop

Surprise your loved ones with assorted Valentines special gifts from KMS Gift Shop

All items at 5% Discount!!



Animal farm book @1200

Beaded Suede Pencil pouch @1600

Sapiens: A brief History of Human kind @1800

Maasai beaded necklace @ 2800

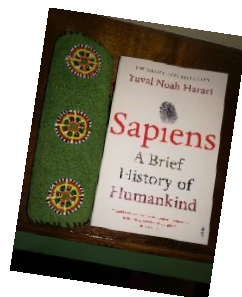
Kids suede shoes @ 1100

Ladies wallet @2500

Assorted soaps @300

African necklace@8700

Cotton Kikoy @1200





Kenya Museum Society

Presents

MY VIEWS ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND TRENDS TO A DIFFERENT KENYA



DR. RICHARD LEAKEY, FRS

Prof. of Anthropology at Stony Brook University,
New York and Founder, Chair of the Turkana Basin
Institute, Former Chair of KWS

WEDNESDAY, 19 FEBRUARY 2020

TAMAMBO KAREN BLIXEN COFFEE GARDEN

Welcome drink 6.30 pm, Talk 7.00 pm

Tickets and Reservations:

Ksh 1,500 Talk and drink

Ksh 3,500 Talk, drink and dinner

Payment Options:

- M-PESA Paybill no: 400800, Account no: 6571570019
- Cash

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Kenya Museum Society and Karen Country Club



Present

A Forest Restoration Project in Kenya: The 20-year Case History of Brackenhurst

Wednesday, 29 April 2020
Karen Country Club, 7pm

Mark Nicholson

Director, Plants for Life, Brackenhurst Botanic Garden

Mark has planted 120,000 East African trees and shrubs of over 650 species, many on the IUCN Red List



Why are so few indigenous trees and shrubs grown in Kenya when there are more than 1,500 species to choose from?

Can society plant its way out of climate change and is the Amazon forest really the lungs of the earth?

Mark will talk about the problems and successes of restoration and will address some global issues of forest creation and protection.

Bitings & bar 6.30 pm, Talk 7.00 pm

Ksh 2,000 Talk and drink

Ksh 3,200, Talk, a drink and dinner

Bookings: 0724 255 299 OR info@kenyamuseumociety.org

Payment: Cash or Credit Card at Karen Country Club

Account of a Trip by a KMS Member

Samburu and Shaba 26th December 2019 to 1st January 2020

Written by new member, Cara Spencer

(First photo by Narinder Heyer, others by Anand Madhvani))

We set off early on Boxing Day arriving in good time in Nanyuki for a coffee and rest stop at Cedar Mall in Nanyuki. We reached Samburu Lodge in time for a late lunch and were warmly welcomed by the delightful manager and staff. A siesta was in order in our comfortable rooms facing the very full Ewaso Nyiro River. What a glorious setting that is! We set off on a late afternoon game drive, not seeing much game due to the lush, overgrown bushes – thanks to the recent very heavy rains experienced by the whole country.



Friday 27th – After a good night's sleep in that wonderfully fresh air and a leisurely breakfast we set off on a morning game drive. This time, we came across a large herd of elephants near the river. We were all entranced as we watched this big, contented, playful family enjoying all the fresh new grass and foliage, with two very young ones to delight us even further.

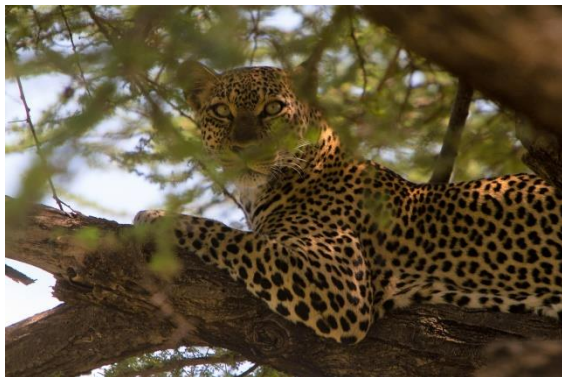
Throughout this safari we saw so many elephants, which is

heartwarming and encouraging. We also saw more and more reticulated giraffe and Grevy's zebra. The birdlife was, as usual, prolific in that normally very arid region, although we had to wait several days before finding a lilac breasted roller! I was under the impression this had been designated as Kenya's national bird but there was some debate on this!

Saturday 28th – After a leisurely breakfast, we left for a full day of game viewing. It was a long drive to Shaba Game Reserve and the roads there are rather confusing, being mostly unmarked! We saw very little game and were equally disappointed with Elsa's Camp, the previous bush home of Joy Adamson. Some of it had been washed away during the recent heavy rains but one could see signs of interesting Arabic architecture in some of the buildings. We left our cars on one side of the river and walked across as it was impassable by car. There, we were kindly welcomed by the personnel looking after the camp and made comfortable in their dining room, where

we tucked into our picnic lunches. We then made our way back, first stopping at Joy's Memorial, which was a rather disappointing lump of concrete with an inscription on top.

Sunday 29th – There was a pre-breakfast game drive – during which a leopard was spotted (or was it striped?!). This was some welcome excitement on another rather game-free drive. We returned for breakfast and then the most informative and lively talk by the charming Dr. Shivani Balla on her Ewaso Lions Project. We learned so much about her – and an ever-increasing circle of local



Samburu men and women's – valiant efforts to educate local people and help them to co-exist with lions. Dr Balla overwhelmed us with the amount of incredible work they all do and how much enthusiasm is also being shown by the people of the area to engage with several different mini projects within the main project. One of these is a short course for local boys and girls in human/lion co-existence. The children enjoy the live-in course so much that some of them succeed in enrolling for it again – under another name! And so, the word and work spreads in influence.

There was a further game drive in the afternoon, but some people opted out in favour of a swim, siesta or walk around the lovely gardens and riverside instead. I watched a huge crocodile move slowly out of the river onto the far bank. A group of them were seen below the Crocodile Bar permanently resting, including one massive one with a chopped-off tail.

Monday, 30th - We made another full day of it to visit Buffalo Springs Reserve, as it meant we had to go all the way around to as a result of the bridge – just ten minutes



from the lodge – being badly damaged by the recent floods. While it was nice to see the actual Buffalo Springs, whose crystal clear water was very tempting to jump into, we saw little in the way of game or birds. We did, however, see a nice group of Oryx and our first lilac breasted roller! The roads were pretty bad again but we stopped for a refreshing drink at Simba Lodge. We then headed for the broken bridge where lions had last been seen –

and our picnic there! Tempting as we were, no lions appeared. As it was possible to walk across the bridge, some of us decided by then we had had enough and found a vehicle on the other side to take us back to the lodge. A few others returned in the minibus, giving our driver, Michael, some company!

New Year's Eve – For most of us I believe this day was the highlight of the whole safari. Although it involved a lot more driving: one hour of good road and then one hour of truly terrible road to reach Reteti Elephant Sanctuary outside Sereolipi. The Sanctuary is the first community-based wildlife orphanage in Africa. It rescues orphaned and abandoned young elephants with the goal of releasing them into the wild herds adjoining the site. The Sanctuary is a community-driven project with Kenyan and international partners. The project started with a commitment on the part of the local community and their wish to keep the orphaned elephants within the elephant's home range. (<https://www.retetielephants.org/who-we-are/>) There is a Wildlife Warriors segment on the Reteti Sanctuary. Check it out. Here is the trailer from Facebook.

https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=468215657445322&external_log_id=27a7f1f991193b16ae9006e8f4705095&q=wildlifedirect

We were first shown the dairy where all the milk is specially prepared (each one different depending on the orphan's requirements) and given fascinating information about it. We then proceeded to watch the orphans come running into an enclosure to be fed. What pure joy that was! Again, we were given an excellent talk by one of the keepers as she told us about their different personalities, how some of them had come to be there, how they stay until they are three years old and are then moved to a bigger area with more mature elephants before they are finally released back into the wild. We were all very impressed with the sanctuary and I couldn't resist 'adopting' one of the orphans, but was disappointed when they wouldn't let me take her home..... (!).

On the way back to the lodge, we made a stop at Save the Elephants camp. The organization had moved back into their camp after the flooding of the Ewaso Nyiro River during the heavy rains. Their numerous projects include: real-time monitoring of collared elephants, elephant protection, human-elephant co-existence, and education programs to spread awareness. (<https://www.savetheelephants.org/about-elephants-2-3-2/>)

It being New Year's Eve, we all brought some special drinks and snacks with us and had our pre-dinner cocktail party in front of our rooms by the river. Dinner was a jolly affair, with the dining room full of celebrating families etc. After dinner there were games for the children so most of us crept off to bed!

Wednesday, 1st January 2020 – The first day of the New Year brought elephants to us near our rooms, crisscrossing the river where it had gone down a bit. What a lovely way to start the New Year! There was some concern that one of the elephants had

gotten stuck in the river and was caught in some underwater hazard. The herd helped him navigate the hazard although it took some time. We stayed to make sure he was safe which gave us a late start home, but we saw interesting herd behaviour.

In Nanyuki we stopped at Le Rustique for a delicious late lunch – and to see a new exhibition there of some of my late father’s photographs. He was a photo-journalist with the old Time-Life magazines and covered a wide variety of stories, from wars to pop stars. And then back to Nairobi.

About the National Museums of Kenya

Lamu World Heritage Site under the International Spotlight

Lamu, which faces a number of threats, from boda-bodas and from major development projects, has attracted attention outside Kenya. You can find a short video on the Voice of America website at <https://www.voanews.com/episode/kenyas-world-heritage-town-worries-development-will-dilute-culture-4116441>. One of the major current issues is the proposed coal-fired power plant. In June last year the National Environmental Tribunal (in *Save Lamu v National Environmental Management Authority* [2019] eKLR) decided that the Environmental Impact Study carried out was “never subjected to proper and effective public participation” and it set aside the decision to grant an environmental impact licence on the basis of it. In late 2019 the African Development Bank said it would not fund the plant.* In December, however, one investor said the project was still on.†

Elephant with huge tusks dies: destined for NMK

An elephant in Amboseli with some of the largest tusks of any elephant in the world has died. “The body is on the way National Museum of Kenya in Nairobi. It will be prepared for preservation for education and exhibition purposes,” said Paul Udoto, KWS communication director.‡

Relics of independence struggle crumbling

In November the *Nation* reported that buildings in Lodwar occupied by the Kapenguria Six are in a poor state, despite being a responsibility of NMK.

“Only the house Mzee occupied has been fenced. The rest are unsecured. A visitor is unlikely to recognise the importance of the place since there are no sign boards.

** See statement by Decoalonize at <https://tinyurl.com/AfDBCoal>.

† <https://tinyurl.com/centumlamu>.

‡ <https://www.standardmedia.co.ke/article/2001359535/big-tim-africa-s-largest-elephant-finds-new-home-in-a-museum>

In the houses are mostly pictures of the former occupants affixed to the doors. Inside Kenyatta House is a fairly well done portrait of him, with his trademark fly whisk. But it needs greater maintenance. Mr Justus Kikuvu, the curator, hopes they will be allocated funds to refurbish the house.

‘We don’t have a facility for exhibiting items at the museum, so if I don’t talk to, or refer visitors to Internet sources, they never get information on the people who fought for our independence. That explains why we receive slightly more than 100 visitors per month,’ Mr Kikuvu says.

He adds that the fact that only Kenyatta House is fenced sends a wrong signal to keen visitors. ‘Most people who come here want to visit the house where freedom fighters from their tribe stayed, but they all visit Kenyatta House, he says.’**

Kenya goes to China

NMK announced in their website that “National Museums of Kenya will in 2020 exhibit 200 Kenyan Museum artifacts in the National Museum of China. They will be seen by 80 million Chinese visitors who visit the museum every year.”

A possible new national monument?

The *Nation* reported that “Kisumu County Government working with the National Museums and local community have recently been on an overdrive to market the [Kit Mikayi site – see last issue of the Tracker] named as national monument.” But “It’s recent elevation in 2019 by Unesco to be a world cultural heritage site has given the spot an impetus with local and international tourist now trooping to the site in numbers.”†

The World of Museums

Slavery Museum

The Greenfield Record had an interesting report on this museum in Liverpool. It says, “Founded in 2007 on the bicentenary of the abolition of the British slave trade, the museum sits just a short walk from the dry docks where slave trading ships were repaired and fitted out in the 1700s. (And it’s close by the The Beatles Story, the world’s largest permanent exhibition purely devoted to the hometown band.) Once a major slaving port, Liverpool grew thanks to merchants’ financial ties to the enslavement of people to the Americas.

* <https://www.nation.co.ke/lifestyle/travel/freedom-fighters-former-houses-lie-derelict-Turkana/1950822-5338248-2ty0rez/index.html>

† <https://tinyurl.com/KitMikayi>.

Today, the building tells the story of the enslavement of people from Africa and how this British city benefited from human bondage. ... Inside, visitors immediately are taken on a meditative experience focusing on Africa before European contact. You are greeted by quotes of American abolitionists and civil rights leaders etched into stone walls before you see traditional masks from present-day Sierra Leone and Mali. There are vibrant textiles from Ghana, intricate headdresses from Cameroon and samples of Igbo wall painting from Nigeria. You can listen to samples of drum signals from the Republic of Congo or a Mbuti hunting song. The messages are clear: before enslavement, Africa was a diverse and complex continent with long artistic and religious traditions.”*

A new Migration Museum

“The German Parliament has recently pledged a budget of €22 million (\$24 million) to create a new museum dedicated to migration; the same amount will be provided by the state of North Rhine-Westphalia. The City of Cologne is contributing to the project by providing the former "Hall 70" of the engine manufacturer Klöckner-Humboldt-Deutz.

...[The managing director of the association Documentation Center and Museum of Migration in Germany] the museum is to represent how Germany is a society of immigrants, and one that allows the voices of migrants to be heard. The historian hopes to change the understanding of history in Germany. "We want to create a critical space," and not present things through rose-colored glasses, said the project organizer.”†

Museums and Disability

Museums can be hostile places for disabled visitors, with buildings that are hard to navigate by wheelchair and exhibits presented with few concessions to those with sensory or cognitive impairments. But a handful of European institutions have conducted access studies that promise to transform this dispiriting experience, drawing on expert advice from participants with diverse lived experiences of disability.

Through Arches, a three-year European Union-funded research project , more than 200 disabled people have helped design digital technologies to guide visitors with different access needs around the collections of six participating museums. A conference at the Thyssen-Bornemisza last month presented the results: multimedia tactile reliefs of works such as Pieter Bruegel the Elder’s *The Peasant and the NestRobber* (1568), forthcoming iOS and Android apps that chart routes through the museum galleries, and a game that invites users to create their own collages from

* <https://www.recorder.com/Slavery-museum-in-Liverpool-aims-to-confront-painful-legacy-31419406>

† <https://www.dw.com/en/ambitious-migration-museum-planned-for-cologne/a-51447190>

collection highlights. All come with customisable access settings, including sign-language videos, audio descriptions and easy-read texts, prototyped and tested by participants with a mix of visual and hearing impairments, and learning difficulties.

Other initiatives reflected the interests of the individual research groups, such as tactile maps now available at the Kunsthistorisches Museum, free life-drawing classes for blind and partially sighted people at the Wallace Collection and orientation videos of the Madrid museums that will be published on their websites.*

This Art Was Looted 123 Years Ago. Will It Ever Be Returned?

The Benin Bronzes are not actually from the country of Benin; they come from the ancient Kingdom of Benin, now in southern Nigeria. They're also not made from bronze. The various artifacts we call the Benin Bronzes include carved elephant tusks and ivory leopard statues, even wooden heads. The most famous items are 900 brass plaques, dating mainly from the 16th and 17th centuries, once nailed to pillars in Benin's royal palace.

Benin City has been calling for the return of its artifacts for decades. But a key moment came in the 1970s when the organizers of a major festival of black art and culture in Lagos, Nigeria, asked the British Museum for one prized item: a 16th-century ivory mask of a famous oba's mother. They wanted to borrow the work, to serve as the centerpiece of the 1977 event, but the British Museum said it was too fragile to travel. Nigeria's news media told a different story, reporting that the British government had asked for \$3 million insurance, a cost so high it was seen as a slap in the face. That incident is still fresh in some Nigerians' minds.

In the 1950s, the British Museum sold several plaques to Nigeria for a planned museum in Lagos, and sold others on the open market. But those were not the free, full-scale returns people call for now. Pressure for those types of returns has grown recently. In 2016, students at Jesus College, Cambridge University, campaigned to have a statue of a cockerel removed from the hall where it had been displayed for years. In November, the college announced that the cockerel must be returned. (It has yet to say when or how.) In the US, students have protested the presence of a Benin Bronze at the Rhode Island School of Design Museum. The museum has said it is looking to return the item, but was struggling to find out whom to actually work with.†

* <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/how-to-make-museums-more-accessible>

† New York Times <https://nyti.ms/37mhspQ>

Kenya Museum Society's Mission, Benefits and Annual Rates

Kenya Museum Society is a non-profit members' organization founded in 1970. Our mission is to support and promote the National Museums of Kenya, the custodian of Kenya's natural and cultural heritage that manages seven World Heritage sites, twenty museums and over a hundred sites and monuments across the country.

Membership

By supporting KMS with your membership, you are helping to preserve and promote Kenyan history, culture and artifacts. At the same time you'll have fun learning about Kenya in the company of people who enjoy the same interests as you.

Become a KMS member and enjoy:

- Free entry to all NMK managed museums, prehistoric sites and monuments
- Bird walk with Nature Kenya at KShs200, reduced rates in tree walks with Friends of Nairobi Arboretum
- KMS day and weekend outings, evening lectures, films and other programmes
- Entry to the Oloolua Nature Trail at half price
- *Tracker* magazine (10 months a year) to keep you abreast of KMS and Museum news and activities
- Email updates on KMS and Museum activities
- Annual magazine *Kenya Past and Present*
- 5% discount on books on the KMS shop at the Nairobi National Museum
- Free borrowing of books from KMS library
- Free reading privileges at Nature Kenya/NMK library
- Reduced advertising rates in the *Tracker* and *Kenya Past and Present*

Single resident	KShs 1,750	One membership card
Resident family	KShs 2,500	Including children below 18
Students (Kenya resident_	KShs 300	One membership card
Up country	KShs 1,200	One membership card
Non resident	US\$ 50	One membership card
Visitors (valid one month)	KShs 800	One membership card
Business membership (Kenya)	KShs 6,000	Eight membership cards

Contacts: info@kenyamuseumsociety.org OR 0724 255299

www.kenyamuseumsociety.org

Tracker February 2020 20

To join: submit this form to the KMS office, the museum shop or at an event, or go online at <https://www.kenyamuseumsociety.org/kms-membership/> and pay by Mpesa.

KMS Membership Registration Form

Please use BLOCK letters

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Dr/Prof (*please circle one*)

Type of membership: Single resident/ resident family/Kenya resident student/up-country/Non resident/visitor(one month)/Business (Kenya) (*please circle one*)

Family name.....

First/given name

Name of spouse (for family membership)

Names of children (under 18) for family membership:

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P O Box with Code Email address

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Please send *Tracker* by EMAIL/POST (please circle one)

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