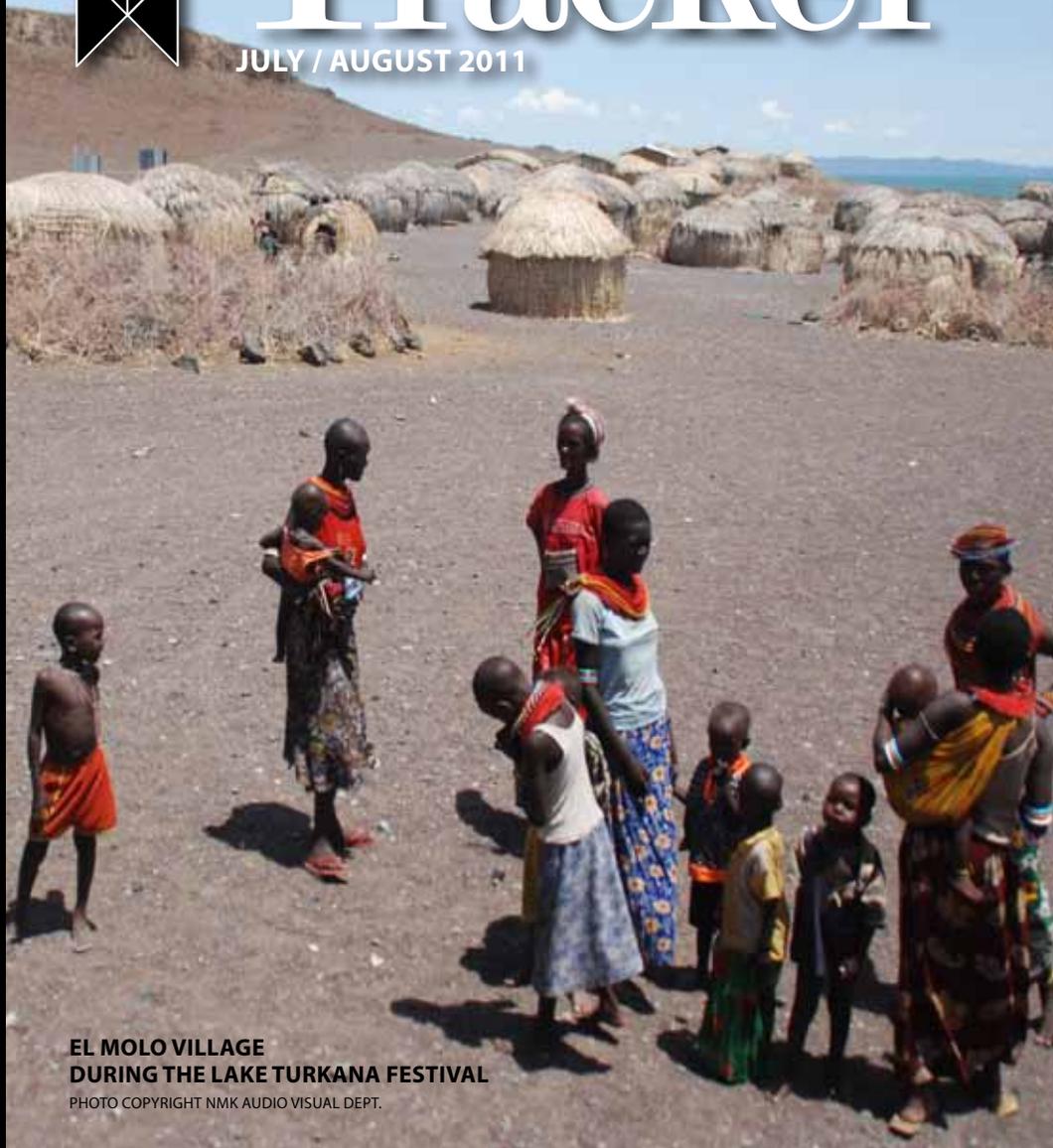




KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY

Tracker

JULY / AUGUST 2011

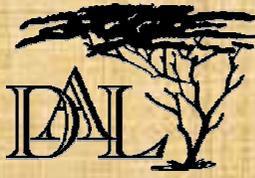


**EL MOLO VILLAGE
DURING THE LAKE TURKANA FESTIVAL**

PHOTO COPYRIGHT NMK AUDIO VISUAL DEPT.

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Stella Wacheke

Charles Andere

Terri Komen

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Financial Integrity ... Our Promise

Back to ink and paper this month



The May/June Tracker came to your e-mail in-box. This month, we're in print again. So, what's up?

Through the year, we'll be balancing electronic and paper Trackers, saving on print and mailing costs. Five times a year you'll get hard copy.

Three times a year, look for us in your e-mail. Here's the schedule:

Tracker in print: July/August; September; October; November; February

Tracker in print: May/June; December/January; March/April

And of course you can find the Tracker online anytime on our website at <http://www.kenyamuseumsociety.org/tracker.html>.

Cheers! Dan and Kathy

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.

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LAKE TURKANA FESTIVAL, 13-15 MAY, 2011

History, culture and nature merge at the “place of trees”

*Annual celebration brings visitors together
with eight tribal communities in northern Kenya*

by Nation Museums of Kenya

In a bid to continue promoting cultural tourism in Kenya, the National Museums of Kenya, in collaboration with the German Embassy, hosted this year’s Lake Turkana Cultural Festival between 13th and 15th May, 2011, in Loiyangalani.

Visitors who opted to travel by road were treated to scenic views along the way with spectacular scenes of wildlife in Maralal, as well as a visit to the Kenyatta House which is a significant aspect of Kenya’s history. Visitors were able to learn more of the life of the founding father prior to Kenya’s independence and the





Above:
The Desert
Museum in
Loiyangalani,
which opened
in 2008.

Left:
Festival
visitors
trekked to the
rock art site,
shown on the
facing page.

ALL PHOTOS
COPYRIGHT NMK
AUDIO VISUAL DEPT.

significance that this house holds in the country's history.

The trip continued on to Loiyangalani, a small town on the southeastern coast of Lake Turkana and the venue of the festival. The name means "a place of many trees" in the native Samburu tongue and is home to the El Molo, an almost extinct community, amongst other communities.

Its main industries include fishing, tourism and gold panning. It is fast becoming a popular tourist destination in Northern Kenya, as the surrounding El Molo and Turkana villages, as well as others, offer unique cultural experiences.

In June 2008, the National Museums of Kenya officially opened the Desert Museum in Loiyangalani, which provides insight into the cultures and lifestyles of the eight communities that live around the lake region. The first Cultural Festival took place that year, celebrating and uniting the tribes affiliated with Lake Turkana.

This year's festival was marked with pomp, as more and more Kenyans and tourists signed up to experience the magical treasures of the Lake. It is hoped that as the festival continues to grow, more and more partners will come on board, and make the festival emulate others like the Lamu Cultural Festival, which the NMK has continued sponsoring with support from other partners.

WAJIR MUSEUM OPENING, 19 APRIL 2011

New museum spotlights region with ambitions for tourism

KMS grant money funds media players, solar power system

by David Mbutia

NMK Coordinator of Public Programming for Central



Gabbra people dance at the opening.

PHOTO COPYRIGHT NMK AUDIO VISUAL DEPT.

The new Wajir Museum was officially opened by Honourable Mohammed Ibrahim Elmi, minister of state for development of Northern Kenya and other arid lands, on 19 April 2010.

The museum's maiden exhibition, "A Window to Northern Kenya" is an eye-opener to the rich cultural and natural heritage found in this region. Northern Kenya has great potential as a tourist circuit, though it has not been fully realized in terms of visitation.

Courtesy of a grant donated by the Kenya Museum Society, the museum opened equipped with a fully functional solar energy system, a DVD player, a TV set and a heavy-duty metallic lockable unit for safe upkeep of this equipment.

David Mbutia applied for the grant in his capacity as the coordinator of Public Programmes in Central region. "These equipments will particularly give a big boost to education and public programming in this new museum. Museum visitors, especially students who form the biggest proportion of our museum visitors, will learn very much through programmes screened through these equipments, courtesy of the Kenya Museum Society," he said.

FURNITURE FOR SALE

Round Dining Table with 8 Chairs. Can seat 10, too. Ksh 50,000.

1 settee which can seat 4 people. Ksh 12,000.

Contact: 0733 622 080

500kg find on the South Coast

Fishermen land rare sunfish at the new year

by Hassan Mohamed Hassan of the Fort Jesus Museum Education Department, and Edward Njagi, Ichthyology Section, National Museums of Kenya.



PHOTO COPYRIGHT HASSAN M. FORT JESUS MUSEUM

Veteran fisherman, Masoud Rashid on the night of 1st January, 2011, caught a rare sunfish that weighed 500 kg, off Gase in South Coast. Masoud said they encountered the rare fish at the end of the night. “We battled with it and since we were using long line fishing, we managed to capture it and tied it with strong ropes,” he said. The sunfish was driven up to Kilifi Creek before being taken to Mabandari landing site – old town.

Sunfishes are known to be docile and pose no threat to human divers but larger ones can leap out of

water onto a boat. When our fishermen start landing rare fish, it is a clear sign of climatic changes taking place under water.

Sunfish is a delicacy in some parts of the world including Japan, Korea and Taiwan. The European Union has banned sale of fish and fish products derived from Molidae family of sunfish.

Sunfishes are the heaviest bony fishes in the world and have an average adult weight of 1000 kgs. They resemble fish heads with tails, and the main body is flattened laterally. Females of the species can produce more eggs than any other vertebrate. Sunfish fry look like fins, a tail fin and body spines uncharacteristic of adults. Sunfishes’ diets consist mainly of jellyfish. The species is native to tropical and warm temperature waters around the globe. Adult sunfish are vulnerable to natural predators: Sea lions and sharks will consume them.

After it had been viewed by the public both at Makadara grounds and outside Fort Jesus Museums in January, Mr. Julius Kioko from Ichthyology section, Zoology department, National Museums of Kenya transferred the sunfish to Nairobi for preservation the Ichthyology collection. The fish has now been properly fixed using formalin and is awaiting permanent preservation in alcohol.



Photo: *Papilio dardanus*,
brown; common name
"Flying Handkerchief"
from the NMK Entomology
Department collection

The Kenya Museum Society invites you to Know Kenya More!

Monday 31st October to Friday 4th November 2011

The Kenya Museum Society (KMS) has unveiled a new name and the dates for the 39th edition of their celebrated event. Previously known as the Know Kenya Course, Know Kenya More! will run from Monday 31st October to Friday 4th November in the Louis Leakey Auditorium and around the environs of the Nairobi National Museum.

Since 1971 the event has been organised by the Kenya Museum Society as its main fundraising activity to support projects of the National Museums of Kenya, providing valuable income for museums and prehistoric sites around the country. In 2010, the Kenya Museum Society raised more than Ksh 1.3 M through the 40th Anniversary Lecture Series and other activities, for the refurbishment of shelving in the world-renowned Casting Department of the National

Sponsored by



UPCOMING EVENTS

Museums of Kenya. All proceeds of the 39th Course will go to the development of exhibitions at National Museums of Kenya.

Know Kenya More! is an exciting event for all who live in and love Kenya. In 2011, the format will present three learning activities daily from 9am to 1pm. The activities include lectures, presentations and films on interesting and timely topics such as elephants and ancient explorer maps, not to mention the always popular behind-the-scenes museum tours. A full programme will be available in September 2011.

Some confirmed speakers and topics include;

- Kuki Gallman: The Pokot People
- Rhodia Mann: Samburu
- Evelyn Mungai: Women in business in Kenya
- Akbar Hussein: Nairobi Architecture

•

Other topics to be included in this year's course are;

- Elephants
- Colobus Trust
- Media and the 2012 elections
- Impact of Insects
- Tana Delta
- Visits to Mammalogy and Entomology Sections of National Museums.

To keep informed about Know Kenya More!, please share your interest with the KMS Office and follow updates on the KMS webpage (<http://www.kenyamuseumsociety.org>).

Know Kenya More! 2011 is generously sponsored by Safaricom.

Learn more; know more; know Kenya!

For more information please contact

The Kenya Museum Society
Nairobi National Museum, Museum Hill, Nairobi
020 374 3808, 0724 255 299, 020 233 9158
info@kenyamuseumsociety.org
www.kenyamuseumsociety.org

The challenges of becoming human: Evolution in an era of dramatic climate change

A lecture by Dr. Rick Potts, Research Associate at NMK

Wednesday, 31 August 2011

Refreshments: 6:15 pm; doors open: 7:00 pm
Louis Leakey Auditorium, Nairobi National Museum

How have humans today become one of the most adaptable species on Earth? Building on 25 years of research at Ologesalie, Kenya, Dr. Rick Potts will illustrate the evidence of extinctions and the emergence of adaptations over the past 6 million years of human evolution, one of the most dramatic eras of environmental change in Earth's history.



Dr. Rick Potts is a Research Associate in the Department of Earth Sciences, National Museums of Kenya, and he directs the Human Origins Program at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC, USA.

All proceeds go to development of exhibitions at National Museums of Kenya.

Donate books for the 2011 Second Hand Book Sale

Dates for this year's Second Hand Book Sale will be on 2nd and 3rd September 2011.

Kenya Museum Society welcomes donation of used books, tapes, DVDs, children's books and games, magazines and dictionaries

Kindly drop your donation to KMS office. We are open from 9 to 5 pm

You can also drop your donations at KMS shop located inside the Nairobi National Museum, open Monday to Sunday from 9.30 am to 5 pm.

UPCOMING SAFARIS



**Watch for more details in your e-mail or contact the KMS office for more information:
374 3808; 233 9158; 374 2131/2/3/4 ext 2311; 0724 255 299;
or info@kenyamuseumsociety.org**

**August 26 – 28
MAASAI MARA – RIVERSIDE (as of publication, this trip was fully booked)**

**September 2 – 4
SIRIMON BANDAS, MT. KENYA**

**September 22 – 28 (3 nights)
KOITOBOS HOUSE & KAPKURO BANDAS – MT. ELGON**

**October 10 – 15
NGURUNIT, NORTHERN KENYA – CAMEL SAFARI**

**November
KERIO VALLEY – MARICH PARK**

**December
LAKE TURKANA – KOOBI FORA - ILERET**

Hotels and lodges usually demand that bookings be paid in advance. So all trips must be filled and paid for two weeks prior to departure. Consequently refunds stemming from cancellations after payment are not possible. However if you can find someone to take your place and assume the payment, your money will be refunded. KMS trips are for members only. One-month memberships are available for Ksh 500.

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

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 about birding walks and outings contact Nature Kenya at:
0771 343 138 // 0750 149 200 // 020 3537568**

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

In the KMS Shop



Sidi and Karisa's Day by Mela Tomaselli, illustrations by Churchill Ochieng'; foreword by Dr Idle Farah, Director General, National Museums of Kenya

A short story with 26 children's game songs and lullabies from Kenya with 2CDs.

The book is based on research carried out from the local people of the Giriama tribe and the coastal people of Kenya including children. This book supplements the ongoing inventory and documentation work of the country's heritage, enhances understanding of the Mijikenda community and creates more awareness and appreciation of its heritage at local, national and international levels. Intangible heritage, represented by games, songs, lullabies and dances of children, embodies the heart beat of society and is a true reflection of the community's rich identity.

This book was launched at Nairobi National Museums on 4th July.

The hard copy book is available at KMS shop for KSh 1,500.

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: _____

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