



KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY

# Tracker

MARCH/APRIL 2012



KENYA MUSEUM SOCIETY  
PO BOX 40658 - 00100 NAIROBI KENYA  
E-MAIL [INFO@KENYAMUSEUMSOCIETY.ORG](mailto:INFO@KENYAMUSEUMSOCIETY.ORG)  
[WWW.KENYAMUSEUMSOCIETY.ORG](http://WWW.KENYAMUSEUMSOCIETY.ORG)

TEL 3743808 / 2339158 (DIRECT)  
TEL 3742131 / 132 / 133 / 134 EXT 2311  
MOBILE 0724 255299  
[HTTP://TWITTER.COM/MUSEUMSOCIETY](http://TWITTER.COM/MUSEUMSOCIETY)



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WEDNESDAY, 18 APRIL 2012

## Annual General Meeting

You are kindly asked to attend the **Annual General Meeting** of the Kenya Museum Society **Wednesday, 18 April, at 6:15 pm at the Louis Leakey Auditorium**. See the agenda below. **Wine, juice and bitings will be provided from 5:45.**

The meeting will start at 6:15 pm, followed by a **15 minute talk at 7:00 pm on Kenyan literature**. All present for the AGM will be registered for a drawing for a book from the KMS Shop.

Any member who wishes to nominate officers or other Council members is encouraged to contact the the KMS office by email or phone. Any member who wishes to submit a resolution at the Annual General Meeting must do so by sending it in writing by Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> March to the Secretary, Dr. Marla Stone, via the KMS email (info@kenyamuseumsociety.org).

Please **confirm your attendance** on or before **Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> April** by email ([info@kenyamuseumsociety.org](mailto: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 the issues.

The agenda for the AGM will be as follows:

- Opening of meeting
- Approval of minutes of 2011 AGM
- Chairperson's report
- Treasurer's report
- New business
- Election of officers and other Council members
- Appointment of auditor
- Additional new business
- Revision of visitors membership charges
- Adjournment

Please mark your calendar now to attend. Thank you.

TALK BY JANE WERU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AKIBA MASHINANI

## Group provides a simple solution to housing problem in the slums

*Since 2000 they have constructed 85 houses and counting*

*By Isaac Gomba and Nancy Akinyi, courtesy Kibera Mirror*

Living in a Kenya slum has its fair share of challenges. The main ones are the deplorable housing and the lack of basic social amenities. In an effort to improve their living conditions, one group from Huruma slums in Nairobi came up with a very innovative solution. If replicated in other informal settlements like Mathare, Kibera and Mukuru, it would greatly improve the housing in the city.

During the February 16th evening program featuring Jane Weru, executive director of Akiba Mashinani, explained how they were forced to search for a solution when they realized no help was coming. Their problems kept increasing amidst constant government evictions.

“For almost half a century we have been having a number of negative factors in this neglected area, including poverty, housing, diseases and basic education which have left the slum dwellers with nowhere to turn for help, This made us search for solution and we came up with Akiba Mashinani trust fund,” she said.

Jane, who was honored by the Rockefeller Foundation in 2011 for her efforts in support of the urban poor, said they started by forming groups and requesting loans not only for constructing houses but also improving the environment of the slum. Some of the groups include *Maahira* and *Kambi Moto*.

The project is not only solves the housing problem but also brings the community together to work on a common goal. It helps combat tribalism which has been rampant in the slum areas. Each area is often identified with a particular tribe .

Since its start in the year 2000, the group has so far constructed over 85 houses in Huruma. The houses are 15-by-14 feet for a room. Some have two or three bedrooms, complete with a bathroom and toilet.

Also speaking during the conference was Jane Nyambura, a beneficiary of the project, born in 1961 in Kiamaiko slum. She now owns a two-bedroom house which is a complete contrast of the 10-by-10 foot iron sheet structure where she lived previously. She said she was overjoyed to have her own house.

“Akiba Mashinani trust fund provided us with loan worth Ksh103,000, which we are now repaying at Ksh 1,100 every month for the next six years,” she said.

They no longer have to worry about things such as fire outbreaks or demolition which are so prevalent in slums.

Last year more than 100 people died at Sinai slums when there was a fire outbreak in one of the petroleum pipelines that run through the area after people tried to siphon fuel when they realized it was leaking.

COMING UP THURSDAY 15 MARCH 2012

## Community-driven initiative for conservation

*Mr John Kamanga, Project Coordinator  
South Rift Association of Land Owners (SORALO)*



Mr Kamanga will make a presentation on how SORALO supports and improves the livelihood of community with a sustained resource base by integrating tourism, livestock development and other income generating activities.

Louis Leakey Auditorium, Nairobi National Museum

Refreshments: 6:15 p.m.

Doors Open: 6:45 pm

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

Proceeds fund development of exhibitions at the National Museums of Kenya

### **Thank you!**

...very much for responding the questionnaire; we received about 10 replies. We will incorporate the suggestions and recommendations when we plan the next cycle of the Evening Programs from August/September 2012 onward.

## 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 7:00 pm.

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

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 ...

**MORE FILMS >>>>**

25 APRIL 2012:

DEBUT WORKS OF TWO FIRST-TIME DIRECTORS



### Aphrodite

2011. Director: Charles Ouda

It is the story of David, and the meeting that changed his life forever. A struggle through obsession and addiction, the film holds a universal message for those with a shallow understanding of addiction.



### Valentine ya Njaramba

2011. Director: Vincent Mbayi

Njaramba was fired from his job as a matatu driver and then consequently dumped by his girlfriend. But by a stroke of good fortune, he has won a trip for two to Mombasa over Valentine's Day. Where in the world is he going to get a date to go with him...?

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

At Nairobi Gallery: 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. Supported by Goethe Institute and National Museums of Kenya.

## DAY OUTINGS

SUNDAY 18 MARCH 2012

### Kiboko Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary

Come explore the privately owned Kiboko Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary, immediately south of the Nairobi National Park in Ngurunga (Kitengela). The property covers more than 120 acres, with some of Kenya's best wildlife!

With our own private guide, we will use personal vehicles for a game drive, on which we may see giraffes, lions, leopards, rhinos, hippos, elands, Thompson's gazelles, impalas, zebras, wildebeest and buffalo. Common bird species include Hadada ibis, Veraux's eagle owl, eagles, vultures, sunbirds, weaver birds, hamerkop and ostrich. Bring binoculars if you have them, though we will try to provide some as well.

This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the joys of safari in just a day!

Meet outside KMS office at 8.30 am. Or directly at the Kiboko Bird & Wildlife Sanctuary at 10 am Please bring a picnic lunch to enjoy at the end of our drive and before heading back to Nairobi.

#### **COST**

*Members:* Adults Ksh 500, Children Ksh 200

*Non-members:* Adults Ksh 600, Children Ksh 300

**Not Included:** Transport. I would like to organize carpools to both get to and travel around the property. If you are willing to volunteer to drive a group, especially if your car has 4 wheel-drive, please contact me.

#### **Contact:**

Lena Sands, KMS Day Trips Outing Coordinator

lenamisa@gmail.com

+254 (0) 716 165 217

### *Kenya Museum Society Evening Programs Coordinator position available*

Are you interested in planning and organizing lectures, film screening, entertainment etc. for Evening Programs?

Please contact KMS Office [info@kenyamuseumsociety.org ] or mobile no. 0724 255 299. Note: This is VOLUNTEER position.

## DAY OUTINGS

SUNDAY 15 APRIL 2012

### Brown's Cheese Farm

Meet at KMS at 9:30am, leave at 10:00am (or meet at Brown's in Limuru at 11:00am)

Discover how the best cheese in Kenya is made at Brown's Cheese Farm. We will be guided through the cheese making process from start to finish:

- 1) Private tasting session for the group
- 2) Discover flavour differences and cheese families with 8 cheeses including

some seasonal cheeses kept just for group tasting menus.

- 3) A tour of the factory and overview of how cheese is made
- 4) Cows and chickens all to enjoy. Milking of cows possible for kids interested.
- 5) A short walk in the forest often inhabited by Colobus monkeys.
- 6) An extensive tour of the biodynamic vegetable garden
- 7) Buying a selection of cheeses to take home at factory prices
- 8) Mozzarella making

Brown's will also be making us a 3 course lunch made with 100% homegrown ingredients, set in green and tranquil surroundings.

This trip is a cheese lover's dream. There is a limited amount of space available, so please book as soon as possible.

**Cost** – Members: Adults 3000, Children 1000

Non Members: Adults 3500, Children 1500

**Not Included** - Transport. Please let me know if you will be willing to provide transport for those who do not have.

Contact Lena for directions if needed. +254 (0) 716 165 217

#### **AVAILABLE FOR SALE**

**ROUND TABLE WITH 8 CHAIRS  
AT KSH 55,000/-**

**FOUR SEATER SETTEE, AT KSH  
15,000/-**

**CONTACT: SARYOO SHAH  
TEL: 0733 622 080**



27-29 JANUARY 2012



Elephants and egrets near the lodge

## In the land of the elephants

*A weekend at Ol Tukai, Amboseli National Park*

*By Justin Ernst; photos by Kathy Bogan*

**A**mboseli National Park, Ol Tukai Lodge. That was our destination this weekend, close to Kilimanjaro and the Tanzanian border. Getting up at six in the morning, I felt that this wasn't the best start of what I hoped to be, a relaxing weekend. However, the car ride from Nairobi was a quite enjoyable three hours to the park gate. After a bumpy drive, beneath a torrid sun, we finally arrived at our lodge—swimming pool, table tennis, a great view of Kilimanjaro, herds of elephants passing by, and most importantly, an enormous buffet.

In the late afternoon, we went for our first game drive. The sinking sun dipped the entire countryside into a magical light. Hyenas, hippos, warthogs and elephants all waited for us to take their photos. And when the sun had nearly vanished behind the horizon and the motor of the car was turned off, we truly felt secluded from human civilization, amidst the grunting and chewing elephants nearby.



Crowned cranes

After yet another filling meal, everyone schlepped themselves to their accommodations. The rooms were very clean and tidy and the beds were ideal for a good night's sleep.

The last day brought with it a visit to the observation hill and a great view of what looked like the entire park. Herds of elephants, leading their little ones to the cooling swamps, numerous zebras galloping across the plains, and the occasional warthogs, all to be gazed at from the top of the lonesome hill.

Our way back to Nairobi was a lonely one, since everyone had been scattered around the park and left through various gates. Nevertheless, we managed to get home safely. We're now looking forward to our next trip with the museum society.



A baby vervet monkey scavenges for food in the garden at Ol Tukai.

## The El Molo

*Lake Turkana gives life to Kenya's smallest community*

By Salil Shah

During our amazing Lake Turkana expedition we were fortunate enough to visit and experience the El Molo tribe—believed to be the smallest in Kenya, both in number and stature.

The life of the El Molo is based on fishing, using spears or harpoons, fishing rods (made from the roots of an acacia with palm fiber and a forged iron point or hook) and nets (made from doum palm fiber). They hunt crocodiles and an occasional hippo for food, but fresh or dried fish is the staple—no vegetables at all.

Fish is usually either roasted or cut into long strips and dried in the sun on the roofs of the huts, or on fiber mats laid on the ground. Unlike their neighbors the Turkana, Pokot and Samburu, the El Molo tribe is the only northeastern tribe that entirely depends on fishing from Lake Turkana.

El Molo people's life expectancy is very short. People usually live only 30 to 45 years. The low life expectancy is attributed to the salty water, lack of medical facilities and poor diet. Thanks to a European Union initiative, fresh water had been made available to the tribe. Unfortunately, the recent heavy rains damaged the pipes supplying the water. This has forced people to drink the lake water again.

The El Molo construct their rounded huts on the shores of Lake Turkana. The huts are made from doum palm fronds, supported with acacia wood. Like the Samburu, the El Molo wear necklaces and bracelets made of colored beads.

The heat easily reaches—and sometimes exceeds—45° centigrade. Even the goats can have a hard time finding something to nibble.

Well worth visiting and a truly life changing experience. A big thank you must go to Narinder who suggested we go to visit this reclusive tribe!



### 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

### Contact Nature Kenya for more information about birdwalks:

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

### 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.

Contact: FONA office 0727 300 933 // 0752 095 127

**Email:** fona@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

## UPCOMING SAFARIS

23 -25 MARCH



Photo: www.mara-siria-camp.com

## Masai Mara

We have a good deal at the small luxury tented camp Mara Siria. It is situated up in the Siria escarpment in the Mara Triangle. It has unparalleled views of the Mara plains and on clear days you can see as far as Serengeti and Mt Kilimanjaro. It is well placed to explore the Musiara swamp area of the Mara Reserve. Most of the luxury tents have king size double beds, and there are twin beds for about 6 persons only. But single room supplement is very reasonable.

We need to be 13 in number to get the following good rate.

**COST:** Ksh18,300 pp sharing. Single room supplement Ksh 800 per day.

Flying package is Ksh 59,500 pp. There are two daily flights from Wilson airport. Depending on the number of persons Kenya Safari Wings belonging to Mara Siria is also available. Package is per person sharing and includes all game drives.

*Included:* FB for two days.

*Not included:* Transport

## UPCOMING SAFARIS

Park entry: We will enter the area from the Narok-Kisii road side. It means that we do not pay any park entry unless we go into the Mara. It would be a good idea to go into the Mara on Saturday.

Confirmation with 50 percent down payment has to be done by Friday 2 March. So please book and pay a deposit now.

EASTER: APRIL 5-9

## Galana Ranch and Malindi

The Easter trip is to the Galana-Kulalu ranches and Malindi. The two ranches are just outside Tsavo East, a few kilometres from Sala gate. Galana Ranch shares an unfenced boundary with Tsavo East. Both ranches are reputed to have plenty of game. We shall stay at Kulalu Camp on the Galana river. It is a nice tented camp (not luxury) and boasts good Italian cuisine.

### Programme

*Thur:* Depart from Nairobi at 7:00 am. A light lunch at the Sikh temple, Makindu. You can also carry a picnic lunch if you wish. We enter Tsavo through Tsavo or Manyani gate. Explore the north-west corner of the park. Continue along the Galana River to Sala gate. Kulalu Camp is about 15 minutes drive from the gate, on the banks of the river. Arrive late afternoon and settle in.

*Fri:* After breakfast cross the river and go north into Galana Ranch. Return for lunch. In the afternoon, go south into Kulalu ranch.

*Sat:* Breakfast. Game drive on the ranch. Leave camp after lunch and head for Malindi. Stay at Coral Key Hotel. Swim and relax.

*Sun:* Go a few kilometres north of Malindi to the Sabaki River delta. It is a fantastic bird area. We walk down to the delta and get a light lunch enroute. Late afternoon swim. Dinner at Coral Key.

*Mon:* Return to Nairobi.

**Cost:** Ksh 25,600 pp sharing.

**Included:** FB at Kulalu Camp for two days. B&B at Coral Key for two days.

**Not included-** Transport, Park entry. The Galana-Kulalu conservancy has an entrance fee. It is under Ksh 1,000 per day (depending on the exchange rate).

Only 11 places available.

**Book now and put down a deposit. Places cannot be held indefinitely.**

If you wish to stay an extra day it can be arranged.

**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**



# 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: \_\_\_\_\_



## Stop by the KMS Shop

Open 9:30 am to 6 pm  
daily

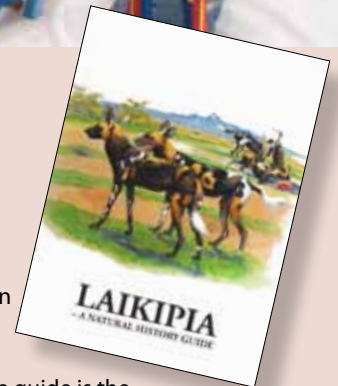
## New at KMS Shop

### Laikipia – A Natural History

The Laikipia region of Kenya is one of Africa's most exhilarating wilderness safari and wildlife tourism destinations. The combination of abundant wildlife, stunning scenery and extraordinary cultural diversity in a setting dominated by the iconic backdrop of Mount Kenya makes for a wholly unforgettable experience.

This comprehensive and beautifully illustrated 84-page guide is the perfect companion for a visit to Laikipia, covering all the major habitats and their flora, as well as the fauna, the history and the people, while shedding light on what is universally hailed as one of Africa's – and the world's – most remarkable conservation success stories.

This guide book is now available at KMS Shop @ Ksh 800/- and a map @ Ksh 600/-



## *Donate books for 2012 Secondhand Book Sale*

*This year's Second Hand Book Sale will be in September 2012*

*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 am 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.*



### **Request for Binocular and Digital Camera to Olorgesailie Prehistoric Sites**

Donate a binocular & Digital Camera to Olorgesailie Prehistoric Site, one of Kenya's bird watcher's paradise sites, with the highest number of migratory bird species in Kenya.

Located along Magadi road, an hour's drive and 70kms away from Nairobi, Olorgesailie pre-historic site is world renowned as the "factory of stone tools" and the only place in the world with the largest number.

The prominence and accumulation of human tools represents actual camping places of early men and evidence that human species had a tropical origin. The site is in a lake basin that existed about 100,000 to 200'000 years ago.

Contact KMS office: 0724 255 299

mail: [info@kenyamuseumsociety.org](mailto:info@kenyamuseumsociety.org)