The Carnivore Chronicle  
A Newsletter of the African People & Wildlife Fund

Announcements

- APW launches its 2010 Annual Fund Campaign! We need your help to raise crucial funds for our conservation and education programs at the Noloholo Environmental Center. Please consider making a contribution. Thank you!

- APW will award new Noloholo Youth Environmental Scholarships to Maasai children in January 2011. Please consider sponsoring a child’s secondary school education!

- APW is grateful for recent support received from the Disney Worldwide Conservation Fund and the Charles Engelhard Foundation. Thank you!

Integrated Land Use Management — A New APW Project in the Works

Last fall at the height of the drought, cattle numbers in Loibor Siret soared. Maasai herdsmen arrived from as far as Kenya, desperately searching for water and grass for their struggling cattle. In Loibor Siret, a small stream was one of the only permanent sources of water for many, many miles.

When the rains finally came and the visiting herdsmen started on their long journey home, Maasai cattle owners in Loibor Siret were left in a quandary. Cultural tradition behooved them to share their grazing land with all other Maasai in need. But, modern day land constraints now meant that little grass was left for their cattle to eat. Heavily overgrazed, the land has not recovered well this year, and the rains are delayed once again.

Helping the Maasai to consider and to resolve issues like this in ways that are culturally appropriate will be a significant component of our new project working towards integrated land use management. Beginning with a series of discussions and workshops, we will help local villagers to take a closer look at their landscapes, their livelihoods and their desired future of Maasai cattle herders depends on decisions made today.

Laly Lichtenfeld, Ph.D.  
APW Executive Director

APW NEWS

In August, after years of planning and anticipation, we are thrilled to announce that APW’s new solar power system arrived at Noloholo (see page 2). And our new workhorse, affectionately known as “Tammy,” was driven from the port to Noloholo by a grinning Charles Trout.

The truck arrived just in time to transport 20 students visiting Noloholo from the University of Ottawa and other Canadian colleges to two local primary schools for a special donation (see page 3).

Other visitors to Noloholo this summer and fall included Dr. Stuart Pimm of the National Geographic Big Cat Initiative, the Tarangire National Park Community Service Warden, APW Board Member Ann Smith and several other Friends of the Fund.

Finally, we bid farewell to Joel Mmari, our Conservation Education Officer. Thank you for taking the program such a long way!
Noloholo Environmental Center — Sustainable Energy Arrives in the Bush

On Thursday, August 5th, a rumbling far off in the distance had everyone at Noloholo buzzing with excitement. After years of preparation, several months at sea and a two day journey from the port of Dar es Salaam to the bush, the incredible donation of solar power equipment was almost home.

Paulo Matanya, APW’s head of vehicle maintenance, quickly assumed the honors of opening the container. We couldn’t believe our eyes. Neatly packed by Stephen Gold and his team from the WCN Solar Project, was an incredible array of plywood boxes holding the answers to our power challenges, including two solar water heaters, a solar water pump, 24 solar panels and 16 deep cycle batteries. Over the next months, we will be busy installing this wonderful system.

Environmental Summer Camps at Noloholo — Turning Education into Action

This summer, the chattering birds of Noloholo were given a run for their money when local schoolchildren added their own “music” to our hill.

Over two weeks at the end of June and beginning of July, two groups of Maasai children, members of APW’s wildlife clubs, spent a week each at our Noloholo center, participating in environmental education, cultural celebration and good old-fashioned fun. Each student group was joined by two of our Noloholo Environmental Scholars who acted as mentors to the younger kids. Events included nature walks, bird watching, mountain climbing, honey gathering and a field trip to one of APW’s Living Walls, as well as time in the classroom and tons of educational games.

Students came alive with the participatory and encouraging environment provided by our staff. We saw new interests emerge as they learned directly about the local habitat, animals and birds. For example, while bird watching the students became more and more engaged and fascinated by the many different colors of birds, illuminated by binoculars for the very first time. And, they were surprised to learn that each bird species had a different Swahili (and English) name.

Once back at home, the children started an impressive number of environmental initiatives including weekly school and village clean-ups, installation of village trash cans, public notices to try to stem littering, clean up and protection of village water sources, school sanitation projects and waste water filtration at local wells based on technology they saw in use at the Noloholo Environmental Center. In 2011, our program will work closely with these students to support these initiatives and to facilitate meetings with government representatives in order to help the students gain a larger voice in the local community.

From the top of a local hill called Ngahari, the kids learned about the geography of their home.
**APW at Work — Select Program Updates**

**Maasailand Lion Conservation Program**

Capitalizing on the dry season, the preferred time period for planting Commiphora africana, we have made major progress in the installation of new Living Walls, APW’s unique lion-resistant livestock enclosures. Using our new truck, we can now haul hundreds of rolls of chain link wire at a time, greatly increasing our efficiency. To date, over 40 new Living Walls have been erected, protecting thousands of cattle at night. Saving livestock means saving lions from Maasai spears. Read more at our blog on National Geographic’s News Watch.

**Maasai Steppe Conservation Education**

We recently expanded this program, now reaching all four primary schools in the Loibor Siret Ward. And, as highlighted on page 2, we added an exciting new component to the program; environmental summer camps at Noloholo. Other activities this summer and fall included our annual drawing competition, a celebration of local educators at Noloholo and our popular annual trips to Tarangire National Park for local Maasai schoolchildren. Scheduled to coincide with the height of the dry season and the best time for wildlife viewing in the park, this year’s trips over 3 days produced several lion sightings per day. Cheetah were also observed daily. And, one group of lucky students spotted a leopard lazing up close in a tree.

**Villages for Conservation**

Intense, late season burns have scorched much of the village lands in Loibor Siret this year. With the rains delayed, little grass remains and the Maasai’s cattle are suffering.

Preventing man-made fires will be one of the roles of Loibor Siret’s new game scout force. Four young men, selected by APW and the village government, recently received game scout training at the Likuyu Community Based Conservation Training Center in southern Tanzania. In the coming months, APW’s staff will work with this team to establish new environmental and wildlife monitoring protocols.

**Human-Wildlife Conflict**

When we first set out to monitor conflicts between people and wildlife, our focus was on the carnivores.

Now, with our partner, AWELY, we are expanding this program to include the herbivores as well. Elvis Kisimir, our new program officer, spent a busy season monitoring crop-raiding in the local fields. So far, his reports show that elephants are responsible for a large amount of the overall damage to the crops. Following on the heels of the big jumbos are zebras, warthogs and bush pigs. Developing practical, local methods for preventing these crop-raidlers from entering the fields will be an important focus of Elvis’ future work.

**APW Partner Services**

Communities way off the beaten track receive far less development support than those closer to urban or more well-traveled areas. One of the important features of our center is that it can attract groups who would not travel to such a remote location on their own.

In August, we hosted a student group from Canada who donated funds for building projects at the Kangala and Loibor Siret primary schools. Watching the students interact with one another was touching, bringing their two worlds together.
Meet Raphael Irmakesen— A Noloholo Environmental Scholar

In elementary school, Raphael Irmakesen was well known by his teachers for being industrious and helpful. Despite an impressive school record and a real desire to learn, his family was unable to pay school fees. Raphael was facing the end of his education at fifteen years of age.

But in December 2009, APW awarded its first round of full scholarships to secondary school. Raphael impressed our panel, and he is now studying at the Moringe Private School as a Noloholo Environmental Scholar.

Today, Raphael is number five in his class of 125 students. Out-competing children from urban areas who have had greater access to educational opportunities, Raphael demonstrates the sheer power of the desire to learn. We celebrate his achievement!

In December 2010, we will award four new scholarships. Please consider sponsoring a Noloholo Environmental Scholar!

As part of his scholarship’s service component, Raphael acted as a mentor during APW’s environmental summer camps (see page 2). Pictured here, he particularly enjoyed harvesting honey with the kids!

Donate Today and Contribute to APW’s 2010 Annual Fund Campaign!

We depend on people like you to help support our programs. Please make a tax-deductible donation today and become part of our efforts to conserve Africa’s wildlife and help its people.

□ $50 □ $75 □ $100 □ $250 □ $500 □ $_____

Please send your name, address and tax-deductible donation to:
African People & Wildlife Fund, Box 624, Bernardsville NJ 07924
THANK YOU!!!