



AFRICAN  
FUND for  
ENDANGERED  
WILDLIFE  
(KENYA) LTD.  
BY GUARANTEE

## African Fund for Endangered Wildlife – our emphasis on conservation education

Since its inception, the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW) has always placed high importance on educating the youth. A Nature Education Centre based at the present day Giraffe Centre Premises in Langata, outside Nairobi, was established in 1983 for the purpose.

Inspired by the successful translocation of Rothschild's Giraffe from Western Kenya due to habitat encroachment, The Giraffe Centre was opened to provide free wildlife conservation education and to create awareness about the fragility and interdependence of ecosystems. The organisation's Vision is to see; "A Kenyan population in harmony with nature and living sustainably" and works towards achieving this vision through a variety of tailored and regularly updated programmes.

### Conservation Education Programmes

The centre also offers capacity building opportunities for trainers (mainly teachers and Curriculum Support Officers drawn from the Ministry of Education) and leaders of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on Education for Sustainable Development. This is done under the assumption that the trainers have the capacity to engage young learners and community members and promote attitude change and enhance their awareness about general environmental conservation. Since its inception, over 2,000,000 learners from different levels of education have benefitted from this programme. The number of children visiting the centre at any given time is managed carefully to ensure that quality education is offered.

### Ecology trips (Eco-Trip)

The main objective of this programme is to expose youth from underprivileged backgrounds to the opportunities that exist to surmount emerging environmental conservation issues. Particularly

popular are the visits to our Giraffe Centre and the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust, and so far over 55,000 participants have benefited. AFEW also organizes ecology trips for students in schools outside Nairobi. The itinerary planned is dependent on the environmental challenges experienced within their regions.

### Capacity Building Programme for Training of Trainers

Over the last 10 years a total of 2,000 participants have benefitted from our Capacity Building Programme for Training of Trainers, with a focus on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD). This has been one of the organizations most effective opportunities for promoting learning for sustainable development within the school curriculum. The objectives are:

- To sensitize participants on the main environmental and social-economic issues and challenges facing our country.
- To create awareness about ESD and guide the participants on how they can integrate it in the existing school curriculum.
- To outline existing opportunities for ESD integration in the school and surrounding communities.

### Sustainable Environmental Projects, Green School Concept

As part of the Training Workshops, AFEW provides financial and technical support to learning institutions to implement sustainable environmental projects. The objectives are to provide opportunity for learners and educators to integrate ESD into the existing school curriculum to achieve active learning and teaching, and secondly to promote strong school community linkages where the projects act as resource centers. The programme allows teachers who have previously participated in AFEW's Training of Trainers workshops on ESD to apply for funding towards the implementation of identified projects, promoting sustainability practices within the school and surrounding communities.

## **Environmental Education Learning Resource Material Production:**

The organisation's Education Department has been in the forefront of developing ESD resource material to supplement the current education curriculum and enable teachers to embed ESD in the curriculum. These resource materials have been approved by Kenya Institute for Curriculum Development (KICD).

## **Sustainability Project Demonstration Centre:**

AFEW has set up a micro-projects demonstration area, which is mainly used for educating visiting schools and general visitors on the various environmental projects, which they can adopt to promote environmental conservation within their localities.

## **National Annual Environmental Awareness Competition:**

In 1989 AFEW Kenya introduced an Environmental Art and Essay competition. The annual competition is based on an agreed environmental theme. Through this competition students all over the country are given a chance to reflect on current or emerging environmental challenges and to propose solutions. The competition culminates in an awards ceremony that is held in June as a part of the World Environmental Day commemoration. The event promotes the winners who are encouraged to act as ambassadors for conservation among the youth.

## **Public Outreach Programme:**

As part of AFEW's public outreach programme the organisation arranges several outreach activities to mark globally recognised environmental days. AFEW has mainly focused on World Environmental Day celebrations, Clean Up the World Campaign, World Water Day and World Tree Planting Day. The outreach programme activities are organized around a selected theme that focuses on specific environmental issues at the time and with an objective to create and expand awareness among the general public. This is done under the belief that, positive change in the environment will only be realized when people change their attitudes

and perceptions towards environmental resource use and conservation.

Most of the time the outreach activities are organized in partnership with relevant stakeholders including Government Agencies, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Private Business partners and Learning Institutions. In the past AFEW has been recognized by UNEP and Global Regional Centre of expertise for its efforts in promoting tree planting and promoting public environmental awareness and sustainability through partnerships.

## **Protection of endangered wildlife**

The AFEW Flagship project is the vital protection of the endangered **Baringo/Rothschild Giraffe**: However, the objective of this programme is to support action towards conservation of ALL endangered wildlife species in Kenya, not only the Rothschild Giraffe. In December 2016, Giraffes were placed on the IUCN Red List of endangered species, after conservationists discovered there were fewer than 100,000 left in the wild and that their populations had plummeted by 40% in the last 30 years.

## **Financial Support for sustainable conservation projects in Kenya:**

Since inception the organization has disbursed more than Kshs.120 million to support sustainable conservation projects in Kenya. Some of the projects supported over the last decades include:

- The fencing and maintenance of the Aberdare National Park, an important water tower in Kenya.
- The conservation of the wildlife at Mt. Kenya National Park through the Bill Woodley Mt. Kenya trust.
- Infrastructure development of the Wildlife Clubs of Kenya Centre for Tourism Training and Research.
- Installation of Biogas plants at Moi High School Naikara and a widows village both in the Maasai Mara where availability of wood fuel has proved a challenge and unsustainable.
- The conservation of the Rothschild's Giraffe at the Soysambu Conservancy.
- The support of Capacity Building of Judiciary Officers and the Director of Public Prosecutions office on the implementation of the Wildlife Management Bill of 2013, through ANAW Kenya.
- Rehabilitation of Karura Forest, through the friends of Karura, Community Forest Association.