

Grassroots Logistics

'Empowering communities to conserve biodiversity in the rural areas'



Annual Report 2000-2006

Executive Summary

Since 2000, Grassroots Logistics has been championing various community development and conservation initiatives in and around Kasigau area within Tsavo region. Mt. Kasigau is part of the biodiversity-rich Taita Hills ecosystem and lies between Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks, southeast Kenya. Our concern then was on the more than 1000 elephants as well as other migrating wildlife between the two national parks. We thus established Taita Discovery Centre (TDC) as an Education & Conservation centre to give foreign and local visitors an opportunity to *participate* and help to create an enabling environment for both local communities and wildlife. Due to our enormous success in community development and conservation initiatives within the region, we broadened our scope to work with similar communities throughout Kenya, but continued to maintain a strong presence in Kasigau area. With the lessons learnt in Kasigau, we embarked on a journey to empower various rural communities not only in Kenya, but also Tanzania and Ethiopia.

Our community development projects continue to thrive with strong commitments to education, healthcare and water access. There is a growing micro-enterprise projects base and focus on women development and the girl-child. We now support 12 primary level schools, three secondary schools and one village polytechnic. Through our sponsors, we have spent in excess of Kshs 5.4 M (USD 77,100) towards payments of scholarships for over 70 students. Already, 32 students have completed high school and two are set to join local universities. Our various donors have already injected Kshs 6.5 M (USD 93,808) to refurbish and improve the infrastructure of the five primary schools in the area, although there is still a lot of work to be done still. This has greatly helped to improve the learning environment and education standards in the area.

Within the five villages ringing Mt. Kasigau, we facilitated the establishment of community-owned *Bandas* to accommodate the many visitors eager to volunteer their time in community and conservation initiatives. We have injected a total of Kshs 13.5 M (USD 192,890) in direct payments towards leasing of the *Bandas* from the community. Over 400 volunteers from America and several European countries have visited the area making huge social and economic investments.

Since 2005, we have established various other community development projects in Maasai Mara, Samburu and Northern Kenya targeting mainly Women Groups and the Girl-child. Our projects seek to address their social and economic challenges and help to reduce poverty. In June 2006 together with other stakeholders, we initiated three projects to support the Maasai community of Simanjiro Plains adjacent to Tarangire National Park in Northern Tanzania. These projects aim at catalyzing conservation and alleviating poverty among these residents by supporting village educational facilities and social services.

Our conservation and wildlife research initiatives continued, although with mixed results. Due to our presence in the area, we have helped to improve on security and kept off poachers and illegal charcoal burning activities. We have paid over Kshs 13.8 M (USD 197,206) directly to Rukinga Wildlife Sanctuary to support their anti-poaching efforts and de-snaring activities; besides maintaining a 24-hr High Frequency (HF) radio. By working with Kasigau Conservation Trust and Nyangala Grazers Society, we helped to support the establishment of Kasigau Community Wildlife Sanctuary. Although at its infancy, the sanctuary promises to improve the local economic status through tourism. However, human-wildlife conflicts still remain a challenge especially from elephants, lions and baboons. Two long-term and on-going EarthWatch Institute research programmes focusing on elephants and lions in the area are addressing these concerns.

We continue to showcase the contribution of our donors, supporters and clients through the development of our website and use of brochures, regular email updates and newsletters. Their tremendous support and commitment to community development and conservation in the region has made our vision a reality. We look forward with enthusiasm to engaging with the communities that we work with as, together, we extend the reach of our community development and conservation vision.

Samuel Gaturu,
Corporate Social Responsibility Co-ordinator

Our Mission and Corporate Social Responsibility

We strive to create a positive social, economic and environmental contribution to the communities that we work with. At the same time, we provide our donors, supporters and clients with high quality advice, insight and the capacity for logistical and administrative support towards the fulfillment of their philanthropic, community and conservation needs throughout East Africa. Our *mission* is to ensure that 100% of their contributions are used on 'the project' instead of being wasted on the high administrative costs, while ensuring that we liaise with them throughout the project's implementation stage.

As part of our Corporate Social and Environmental Responsibility, we have developed programs that go an extra mile to sustainably strengthen the communities with which we work. We are committed to help the socially and economically marginalized members of the society, especially in the rural areas. We champion the conservation of biodiversity through improving their livelihoods. This is our way of giving back to the society.

By targeting local communities in areas of high poverty levels, we accept *our* responsibility to *improve* and *enhance* their livelihoods by *facilitating* various projects on behalf of our donors. We understand that sustainable development can only be achieved in collaboration with the communities that we are part of.

Contents

2	Executive summary
4	Our Mission and Corporate Social Responsibility
5	Contents
6	About Grassroots Logistics
6	What we offer
7	Our Activities
8	Our Progress, Our challenges
8	Education & Schools
9	HealthCare Support
9	Community Development
11	Conservation
12	Corporate Membership
13	Financial Resources for Community Development and Conservation
14	Our donors and Supporters
16	Contact Us

About Grassroots Logistics

Grassroots Logistics is a regional organization based in Nairobi and operating within East Africa, with the aim of *facilitating* and *supporting* projects aimed at empowering local communities to address conservation and poverty alleviation challenges. We also aim to support our sponsors and donors to *fulfill* their philanthropic, emotional and individual needs by contributing to 'their own projects' while ensuring that they are updated on 'what their dollars' have achieved.

In a sense, Grassroots Logistics therefore aims to *encourage* our sponsors and donors to visit the various project areas so that they can *participate* and have the *experience* rather than just donating to causes that they do not identify with. As such, we aim to work with projects that strengthen the mission and objectives of Grassroots Logistics.

What we offer.....

- Highly qualified personnel
Our staff on the ground has several years of experience in project management work. Since they have been involved in project design and supervision in many areas, they bring into your project a wealth of knowledge and advice to ensure that your needs are met and nurtured. They all have different areas of specialization and interests to cater for our growing database of sponsors and donors.
- Supervision of the project
We ensure that our sponsors and donors receive up-to-date progress of their project and anticipated challenges and hiccups. As much as possible, we aim to accomplish your desires and spend your 'dollars' in the best way possible.
- Regional presence and up-to-date reports
Since we have projects spanning throughout East Africa, we are in a position to visit the sites on a regular basis. Due to our regional presence, we can easily identify with the needs and aspirations of the local people that we work with.
- Monitoring and advice
As part of our commitment, we ensure that we put in place some key monitoring indicators that can show us the direction and progress of your project; but also provide with you professional advice since we understand the local communities better to ensure more success.

Our Activities

Grassroots Logistics works on a four priority areas. Each of the activity aims at improving the social, economic and environmental well-being of the communities that we work with:

Education & Schools

We have a *triad* approach towards improving the standards of education in the rural areas that we operate: Infrastructure improvement for Rural primary schools; Teacher Training & Motivational support and Scholarship support for High Achievers in secondary schools. We have also come-up with innovative *Educational Packs* to help develop a sense of environmental responsibility among the school children and general public. In the last three years, we have also helped to nurture *Environmental Clubs* that take part in the Annual World Environment Day every June 5.

Community Development

Evidence from most countries in Africa suggests that local coping strategies and self-reliance are the most effective means of survival among most local communities. Such approaches could include subsistence economy, traditional crafts or the role of women in ensuring the survival of their families. *Your support and involvement* is therefore critical to the survival and success of such community initiatives.

Healthcare

Most communities in rural Africa lack *basic* medical facilities and medicines. As such, there are many preventable deaths that occur and which could easily be avoided by increasing opportunities and access to medical facilities. We believe that our work would be incomplete without harnessing some efforts towards this worthy agenda. We aim to do this by encouraging our supporters to make direct donations to equip, rehabilitate or construct Community Health Centres. We also help to purchase basic equipments such as cotton wool, anti-malarial drugs and first-aid drugs.

Conservation

The greatest challenge facing wildlife in East Africa is how to reconcile conservation and human needs such that local communities can be convinced that conservation strategies being adopted will bring long-term benefits for all. Our approach is to empower the traditional ownership and user rights and improved management that is backed by our many years of research experience using modern techniques such as Geographical Information Systems (GIS).

Our Progress, Our challenges

Education & Schools

Since our entry into Kasigau area where we started our work, there has been tremendous improvement in the infrastructural state of the schools and education standards. We are committed to improving livelihoods through better education and facilities in schools for the local communities in the areas that we operate. All the primary schools around Mt. Kasigau (Bungule, Jora, Rukanga, Makwasinyi, Kiteghe) lacked basic infrastructure such as proper windows, floors, doors or roofs. By the end of 2006, we had helped to refurbish most of the five schools, while three (Bungule, Kiteghe, Rukanga) were registered with Wildlife Clubs of Kenya (WCK) which improved conservation and environmental awareness in the schools through provision of conservation education materials.

In 2005, we embarked on improving the infrastructure of pre-schools in different parts of the country. This remains a critical aspect of Early Childhood development, yet it continues to receive very little attention. We have already established links with Western Washington University, USA to develop this sector.

Moi High School, the only high school in the area received a huge financial boost from various sponsors, including 18 computers from Africa Adventure Company of USA. Besides a partial funding to improve the science laboratory, a total of 70 students have received scholarships. 32 have already completed their high school studies. Two students are set to join local universities next September. We also arranged scholarships for three college students and one graduate student. They all correspond directly with their individual sponsors while the institutions update them on their academic performance and progress.

We have since provided some form of direct development support and purchase of tables, chairs, desks and stationery to fifteen primary schools and three secondary schools spread throughout Kenya. We donated a much-needed water tank and stationery to Honi and Siana primary schools in Central Kenya and the environs of Maasai Mara National Reserve respectively. In Mara Rianta Primary school adjacent Maasai Mara, we helped to construct pupils' latrines and teachers' houses. Funding for these developments was obtained from various corporate and individual donors, while we provided the much needed logistical, administrative and infrastructural support.

Together with Kent State University, Ohio we have helped to organize teacher training and motivational support workshops. Already, two primary level teachers have participated in a one month summer exchange program in the US,

while a primary school headteacher has been enrolled to study an Education degree in Kenyatta University, Nairobi.

The greatest challenge facing Grassroots Logistics include securing enough funding to complete all our development projects while ensuring that the scarce resources are equitably distributed among all the deserving cases. We are also evaluating our scholarship program to ensure that beneficiaries continue to perform satisfactorily.

HealthCare support

Grassroots Logistics has been supporting various community health centres throughout the country in various ways. We have continued to link volunteers with some medical training and knowledge to offer the much needed services including counseling. By the end of 2006, 120 volunteers had offered their time and services. In November 2005, we helped to construct a clinical waste incinerator for Rukanga Health Clinic and medical supplies worth USD 1,000. We have also helped to fence the entire compound for Makwasinyi Dispensary to keep off marauding wildlife.

We have also initiated Anti-Malaria campaigns in such enzootic zones by donating Insecticide Treated Nets (ITNs) through our school network. Together with Miami University, Ohio we have also initiated a study to establish the prevalence rates of common water borne diseases in and around Kasigau. Preliminary results suggest that simple domestic practices such as boiling and safe storage can help reduce this by upto 30%. Through the various school-based clubs, we have linked different volunteers to initiate HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns among the youth. However, it is still too early to evaluate the success the success or failure of this initiative.

Community Development

Our focus on the communities that we work with is instrumental in ensuring the success of our activities. By the end of 2006, our community projects had increased from three to eight. A significant part of this involved the development of governance and infrastructure to support these projects, where we played a major role in providing capacity and technical support.

During the period, we worked mainly with self-help women groups around Tsavo, Maasai Mara and Samburu in Northern Kenya. In conjunction with Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and USAID, we facilitated the construction of five small student cottages (*Bandas*) in each of the village ringing Mt. Kasigau. The *Bandas* are totally owned and managed by the community, and help to accommodate visitors and researchers in the area. Our commitment was to lease the *Bandas* and make direct annual payments to the community. By the end of 2006, we had paid in excess of Kshs 13.5 M (USD 192,800). AWF also donated

300 beehives to the community to start bee-keeping, while in Makwasinyi village a pilot fish farming business is being experimented.

In 2004, Grassroots Logistics staff were instrumental in designing and supervising the construction of Amy Nicholls Community Resource Centre at a cost 1.5 M (USD 25,000) using local labour and materials. The Centre is used as a library and meeting place by Kasigau community members, for educational and practical skills crafts, and for visiting conservation research groups. This generates the much needed revenue for the local community. We have also employed a Community Liaison Officer to help identify alternative micro-enterprise projects. Some concepts being explored are basket making, guided nature walks and mountain hiking.

Our Community Development projects aim at empowering local communities. During 2004/2005, we helped to nurture Nankaris Self-help women group to be self reliant in their endeavours to sell local crafts. Together with Miami University, Ohio we initiated a joint community water research project aimed at improving access to quality and reliable water supply. Among the various community groups, we have also initiated a food-for-work program to encourage a greater level of participation by community members.

In Mid 2006, and together with other stakeholders we initiated three projects among the Maasai community of Simanjiro plains adjacent to Tarangire National Park in Northern Tanzania. These projects aim at catalyzing conservation and alleviating poverty among these residents by supporting village educational facilities and social services.

Towards the end of 2006, we initiated two new community projects in Northern Kenya. Kalacha Dida Women's Girl-Child Project within Chalbi desert aims at empowering women through training and better methods of self reliance to over 60 indigenous community members. Women in this community are disadvantaged and marginalized which greatly hinders girls' childhood education because they often supplement household labour force by fetching water and other domestic chores. Literacy levels are low due to budgetary constraints, early marriages, inadequate facilities, lack of learning resources and a small number of trained teachers in the area. Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) or female circumcision also affects education among girls in the area. Our other project, Mosaretu Women's Cultural village in Loyangalani next to Lake Turkana brings together 52 indigenous women members from the four main tribes (El Molo, Samburu, Rendille, Turkana). With initial funding from WildiZe Foundation, a Colorado-based organization members build four traditional huts to rent out to tourists. They also sell curios and other artifacts to visitors besides charging a minimal entry fee. We have already started marketing the 'Manyatta'

to potential visitors besides donating USD 20 per client per visit to support their various projects.

Conservation

The greatest threats facing wildlife conservation in the region are poaching and changing land-use options. The region has also experienced a sharp increase in human population largely blocking movements of wildlife such as elephants. Since 2000 and together with other stakeholders we have been involved in the establishment of Taita-Rukinga Wildlife Conservancy covering more than 170,000 acres of wildlands adjacent to Tsavo National Parks. We have been carrying out research on large mammals and vegetation monitoring thus helping to improve security and keep off illegal poachers and charcoal burning. By the end of 2006, our volunteers and participants had helped to remove 1,123 snares and helped to rescue all sorts of wildlife on the verge of death.

Since 2005, we have been working with Nyangala Grazers Society to set up a community-owned wildlife sanctuary. By the end of 2006, 25 community game scouts had been recruited complete with uniforms and hand-held radios to maintain safety of wildlife within the sanctuary. Maintaining general security for people and livestock in the area is important for wildlife as it reduces potential for opportunistic poaching as well as being vital for tourism.

Apart from supporting anti-poaching and de-snaring activities, we have helped to improve security by supporting patrol rangers and maintaining a 24-hr High Frequency (HF) radio. We have also acquired and mounted a Very High Frequency (VHF) on top of Mt. Kasigau to help improve communication with all the adjacent ranches in Tsavo region.

We have also been working closely with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to report incidences of elephant rampages on community farmlands during the dry season. During the period 2000-2006, we reported a total of 18 such incidents, an average of 2.5 cases per year. One particular incident in 2005 led to trampling and eventual death of a young school boy around Kajire village next to Sagala Ranch, Tsavo. Most of the incidences were during the dry season when elephants had to travel far and wide in search of water. To address this challenge, we embarked on a project to pipe water away from community areas.

Grassroots Logistics' Research Department together with Tsavo Elephant Research Project and Chicago Field Museum is actively involved in research and monitoring of key species within the Conservancy. This research provides vital information for effective management of the conservation area and species such as elephant, lion, cheetah and Grevy's zebra. The objective of the surveys is to provide information on numbers, status and movement patterns in order to develop a long-term conservation plan for the species. We use individual

recognition techniques and radio-collaring to gather data. The conservancy forms an important dry season dispersal area for these wildlife species.

A combined aerial and ground total game count is regularly conducted in all the major conservation areas in Kenya. As part of this exercise, we partially funded an aerial survey by KWS in January, 2005 to ascertain the number of elephants in Tsavo region. The results indicate that out of about 12,000 elephants in the region, 3.5% use Taita-Rukinga Wildlife Conservancy on a regular basis. This number has been increasing steadily.

In order to address the challenges of deforestation in most of the areas that we work, we helped to establish indigenous tree nurseries in all the five villages ringing Mt. Kasigau. In 2002, we engaged the services of a trained forester to coordinate these activities. At Taita Discovery Centre, over 400 volunteers have taken part in our Environmental Education & Participatory Learning Program taking part in various wildlife monitoring and community activities. By the end of 2006, we had established seven tree nurseries with over 6,000 indigenous seedlings.

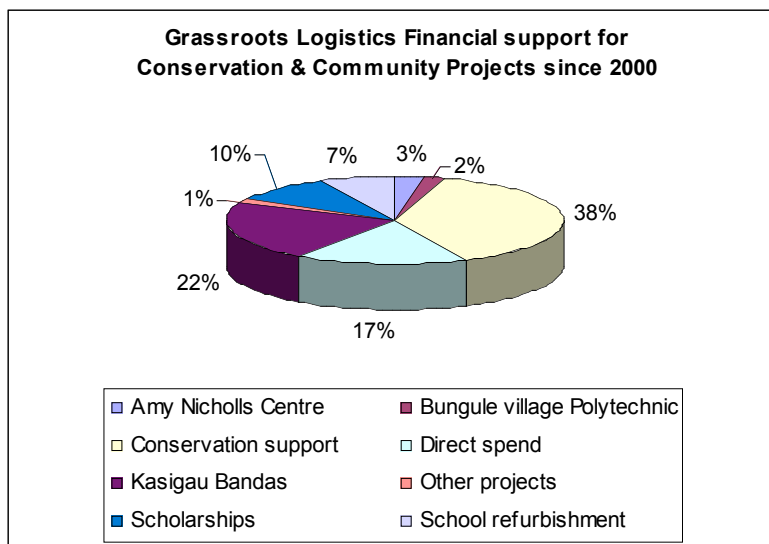
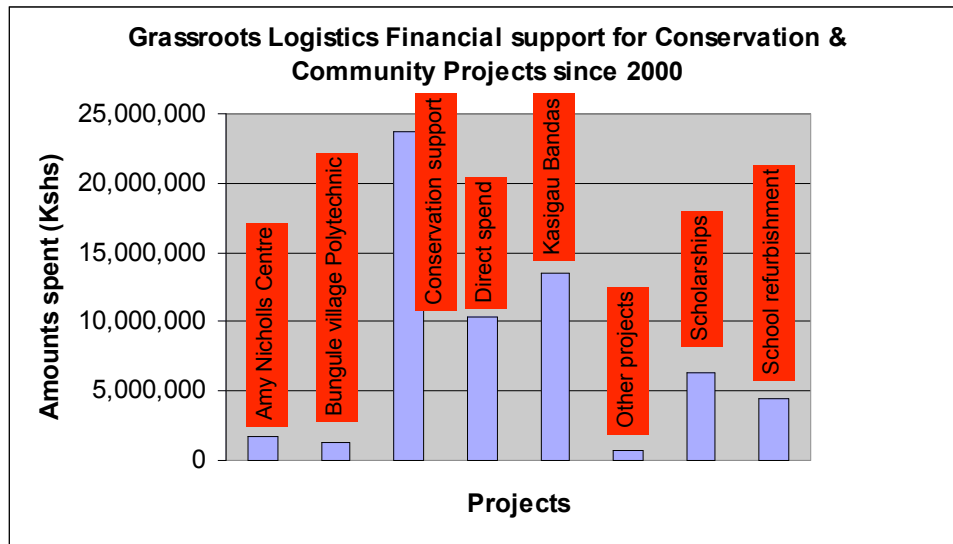
Corporate Membership

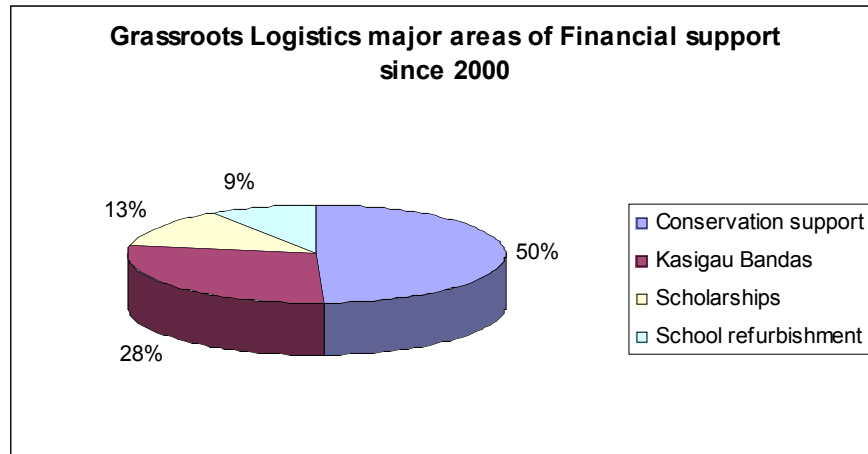
Grassroots Logistics is a Corporate Member of the following organizations that go an extra mile to sustainably strengthen the communities in which they operate:

- (a) **Nature Kenya** champions for the conservation of biodiversity through improving local people's livelihoods.
- (b) **Ecotourism Kenya** links communities, tourism and conservation. As members of Ecotourism Kenya, we accept our *responsibility to protect and enhance* the natural and cultural environment of the areas in which we operate as an *integral* part of the larger environmental system of the planet.
- (c) **East African Wildlife Society** conserves biodiversity by empowering the local people's livelihoods throughout East Africa.

Financial Resources for Community Development and Conservation

Since 2000, funding from donors and sponsors has continued to play a significant role in enabling Grassroots Logistics to carry out its activities. By the end of 2006, we had spent a total of Kshs 23,698,957 (USD 338,500) on our various conservation projects and Kshs 4,427,797 (USD 63,250) on school reconstruction and refurbishment. We estimate that the various foreign volunteers and participants spend approximately Kshs 500 (USD 7) for each day spent within the villages, greatly contributing to the local economy. In total, we have injected approximately Kshs 51,469,670 (USD 735,281) to support various conservation and community development projects in the region. Grassroots Logistics continue to be forever grateful for the tremendous goodwill and support received from local and international donors and sponsors.





Our donors and supporters

Grassroots Logistics depends on the support of a committed network of organizations and individuals to continue its work in conservation and community development. We gratefully acknowledge the support of all those who have donated to Grassroots Logistics through the period, and in particular, we wish to extend special thanks to the following individuals and institutions from around the world who have made a significant contribution to our efforts and for believing in our work:

Grassroots Logistics 2000-2006 supporters and Donors (£500 or \$1,000 and above):

Africa Adventure	British Telecom, UK	Eli Weiss
Alain Tytgat	Carrie Schalter	Evelyn Boren
Alexa L. Sandmann	Child's	Gail Della-Piana
Alexandra Fletcher	Environmental Trust	Genevieve
Alison Edwards	Christine Blackmon	Dumonceaux
Alison Garoza	Cliff and Bobbie Slater	Giraffe Events, UK
Alison and Mark	Dan Beringer and	Heather Talbot
Nolting	Susan Eddins	International
Alvescot Primary	David Noyes	Expeditions
School	Dean and Kristi	Jake Hirata
Amy Nicholls Family	Drenzet	James Groton
Andy Mott and Dee	Denver Zoo	Jan Mcquire
Flower	Derby Academy	Jan Propst
Ann Vries-Bots	Diana Martin	Jane Russell
Barry Kravitz	Diane Miller	Jim and Doreen
Bev Bruneau	EarthWatch Institute	Stokes
Bob Lanier	Eithne Cantwell	Jim Morrison

Jo Borack
JoAnn Mitchell and
Linda Henderson
John and Molly
Leamon
John Weiss
Julian and Penny
Lander
Julie and Dave Burns
Julie Cowhey
Kathy Evans
Ken and Hyla
Cushner
Kent State University,
Ohio
Kevin Froude
Kim McReynolds
Kimberley Medley
Kris Slentz
Land Rover, UK

Lara Bryan
Len Levine
Lesley Larson
Leslie Larson
Linda Henderson
Linda McCarthy
Lisa Porter
Logan Wygal
Maria Karen Tyrell
Marta G. Shaw
Miami University,
Ohio
Michael Harvey
Nancy Molidon
Nienke Klooster
Olivier Trompette
Origins Safaris
Paul and Rose Nicola
Paul and Kendra Gow
Phoenix Zoo

Richard Ambrose
Sharon Wink
Sherrie Case
Stephen and Ann
Morley
Steve Church
Steve Isaacs
Sue Maier
Syd and Barbara
Goldlust
Tom Crick
Tracey Bennewies
Wendy Sherman
WildIze Foundation
William and Christie
Clark
World Discovery
Safaris
Yvonne Schmitz

Contact Us

By Post

Grassroots Logistics,
c/o Origins Safaris Head office,
LandMark Plaza, 5th Floor
Argwings Kodhek Road, opposite Nairobi Hospital
P.O. Box 48019,
G.P.O. 00100
Nairobi, Kenya

By Phone, Fax or Email

Phone: +254 (020) 2710171/2/7, +254 (020) 2042695/96

Fax: +254 (020) 2710178

Email: gaturu@originsafaris.org

We welcome your comments and support towards our work on Community Development and Conservation. If you would like to learn more about our work or are willing to get our logistical and administrative support, please contact:

Samuel Gaturu,

Email: gaturu@originsafaris.org