

## **e-bulletin**

### **Issue No.1 - 2008**

#### **Inside this issue:**

- **British Telcom 'Returners's Group' Returns To Kiteghe Village**
- **Kasigau Community Self-Catering Bandas To Get A Facelift**
- **Nomadic Girl-Child Annual Scholarship Programme, Kalacha**
- **Nangida Women Self-Help Group, Samburu**
- **Simanjiro Community Health-Care Centre, Tanzania**
- **Grassroots Logistics Plans To Work With HOPE Enterprises, Ethiopia**

### **British Telecom Apprentices Set To Return To Tsavo School**

A group of 15 British Telcom apprentices who, together with other donors helped to reconstruct Kiteghe Village Primary School in Tsavo early last year are planning to return to the school in June 2008 and help to complete and launch the new Kiteghe school project.

They will also set-up computers and create a website for the school.

Read more on [www.giraffeevents.co.uk](http://www.giraffeevents.co.uk).



### **Kasigau Community Self-Catering Bandas To Get A Facelift**



Kasigau Bandas (hut or rondavel cottage) have been offering basic accommodation to the various participants taking part in community development and conservation programs in Tsavo, southeast Kenya since 1999.

In order to attract a more varied clientele and hence boost earnings for the local community, there are plans to upgrade the Bandas to include *en suite* facilities. Subject to availability of donor funding, this would also encourage longer stays by the participants.

***Grassroots Logistics: Our mission***

***The mission of Grassroots Logistics is to provide independent advice, insight and capacity to fulfil the philanthropic and emotional needs of our visitors, donors and sponsors***

## Origins Safaris Invests In Staff Capacity Building

In order to improve efficiency and effectiveness of the staff, all the guides and naturalists attended a Primary and Secondary Care First-Aid course organized by Emergency First Response, Corp., UK and a 4x4 'ON' and 'OFF' Road Driving course offered by Glen Edmunds Performance Driving School.

In addition, all the staff attended a two-day Customer Care course organized by KPMG International.



## LATEST COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN KENYA Nomadic Girl-Child Annual Scholarship Programme, Kalacha



This is a new and long-term initiative aimed at providing a permanent approach to address the many challenges facing the girl-child in Northern Kenya such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), early (and forced) marriages and lack of mentorship.

With the help of donors, the aim is to work with local leaders and teachers to identify a pool of girls who can secure scholarships at government-run secondary school levels.

## Nangida Women Self-Help Group, Samburu

A group of women from Lorubae location of Samburu District in Northern Kenya have come together to develop a tourist facility in their village in order to improve their livelihood.

They have also developed a range of income generating activities (IGAs) such as selling curios, handicrafts, performing traditional dances and organized home-visits to support themselves financially. The only pre-school in the area needs urgent support while Lorubae dispensary lacks basic drugs and trained staff.



### *Grassroots Logistics: Our mission*

*The mission of Grassroots Logistics is to provide independent advice, insight and capacity to fulfil the philanthropic and emotional needs of our visitors, donors and sponsors*

## **CORPORATE SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**

### **Social Responsibility Programs**



In 2007, generous contributions from various donors and sponsors amounting to USD 39,060 (Kshs 2,734,200) were channelled to rural communities through Origins Safaris compared to USD 45,580 (Kshs 3,190,600) in 2006. This helped to support several community projects and conservation initiatives in Kenya and Tanzania through cash, logistical and administrative support. The majority of the contributions went to support education and school infrastructure. About 25% took the form of direct financial support of projects addressing social needs.

The aim is to make positive contributions to the communities by engaging the capacity and resources of staff and partners to ensure the success of the projects.

For more information on these social responsibility programs, contact the Corporate Social Responsibility Co-ordinator via email: [gaturu@originsafaris.org](mailto:gaturu@originsafaris.org)

### **Origins Safaris Are Finalists In 2007 CSR Awards**

In 2007, Origins Safaris participated in the Annual Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) survey organized by Ufadhili Trust. This survey revolved around community initiatives, environmental stewardship and stakeholder engagement. The company emerged finalists in the survey. To learn more about this survey, contact Ufadhili Trust on: [info@ufadhilitrust.org](mailto:info@ufadhilitrust.org). A profile of the CSR activities that we are involved in was submitted to Kenya Association of Tour Operators (KATO). For more on this profile please visit: [www.katokenya.org](http://www.katokenya.org)

### **GRASSROOTS LOGISTICS PROJECTS IN TANZANIA**

#### **Esilalei Primary School**

Esilalei Primary School is one of the schools incorporated in a World Food Programme (WFP) project meant to support Primary Education in food-insecure areas. This is hoped to not only increase school enrolment but also reduce school dropout rates. Grassroots Logistics is facilitating donations to the various school projects.

#### **Simanjiro Community Health-Care Centre**

The aim of a community health-care centre in Simanjiro is to address the numerous incidences of human-wildlife conflicts in the area. Grassroots Logistics together with other stakeholders have helped to put up a dispensary in the local area. The intention is to link up potential participants with some medical training to offer basic services besides helping to equip the dispensary to serve as a one-stop medical solution.

*Grassroots Logistics: Our mission*

*The mission of Grassroots Logistics is to provide independent advice, insight and capacity to fulfil the philanthropic and emotional needs of our visitors, donors and sponsors*

## CHARITY WORK IN ETHIOPIA

### Grassroots Logistics Plans To Work With HOPE Enterprises, Ethiopia

The mission of HOPE Enterprises is to provide hope for the needy in Ethiopia through holistic human development.

Grassroots Logistics intends to work with HOPE Enterprises especially on the areas of Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Vocational training. For more information, please visit: [www.hopeenterprises.org](http://www.hopeenterprises.org)



## Abebech Gobena Children's Orphanage



Grassroots Logistics hopes to contribute to the vision of Abebech Gobena Children's Home by linking up potential participants with specialized skills to help teach and train the children besides encouraging our visitors to make donations.

For more information, please visit: [www.abebechgobena.org](http://www.abebechgobena.org)

## RESEARCH INITIATIVES & PARTICIPATION

### The Tsavo/Mkomazi Aerial Elephant Count

In January 2008, two staff members took part in the Tsavo/Mkomazi aerial elephant survey. A total of 11,696 elephants were counted, representing a 4.1% increase from the 2005 count.

Tsavo is Kenya's largest ecosystem hosting about a third of the country's elephant population. The four-day exercise cost over USD 15000 (Kshs 10 million) and involved 11 light aircrafts. Read more on [www.kws.go.ke](http://www.kws.go.ke)



**Grassroots Logistics: Our mission**

**The mission of Grassroots Logistics is to provide independent advice, insight and capacity to fulfil the philanthropic and emotional needs of our visitors, donors and sponsors**

## Kasigau Community Water Quality Assessment Results



Since 2005, Miami University faculty members together with their students have been carrying out research work to assess the current drinking-water quality of the communities in the Mt. Kasigau area, a water-scarce region of southeast Kenya. Grassroots Logistics has been facilitating their work in the area.

All the piped water in the five villages ringing the mountain was found to have low total dissolved solids, but a presence of both total coliform and *E.Coli* bacteria was confirmed in all the water samples.

## TRAINING FOR TOURISM AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT Kenya Professional Safari Guides Association (KPSGA) Launches Gold Level Accreditation Examination

In a bid to address the new challenges in Tour Guiding & Nature Interpretation, KPSGA has launched the Gold-level accreditation exam after the success of its Silver-level graduands. Origins Safaris continues to support the training of all its guides and naturalists. Read more about this: [www.safariguides.org](http://www.safariguides.org)

## Resource Centre Established

Although still under development, the resource centre based within our Nairobi headquarters will allow both tour guides and naturalists access to over 2,000 copies of latest journals and reference materials in a wide variety of topics. Resource users will also have the tranquillity that goes with modern study environments. Current publications include African Journal of Ecology, Wildlife Conservation, Biodiversity, Geology, Astronomy as well as Bush Craft & Survival guides. In addition, the centre will also host several kinds of Field Guides ranging from Birds, Mammals, Plants, Insects & Relatives. In future, we anticipate to subscribe to various online scientific publications listed on [www.oaresciences.org](http://www.oaresciences.org)



## LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AHEAD What The Tourist Dollar Has Done So Far



When we look back, it is amazing at how much your dollars have been able to accomplish. Over the years, your money has supported various community development and conservation initiatives in Kenya, Tanzania and Ethiopia.

Through your money, we have helped to construct and refurbish several rural primary schools, educate several needy children, rehabilitate community health centres, improved water access to poor rural communities and helped to transform wild lands for African wildlife.

This e-bulletin is a quarterly publication of the Grassroots Logistics. Although efforts will be made to cover as much ground as possible, our official website [www.originsafaris.org](http://www.originsafaris.org) remains our major information

hub. For any further information, comments and views, please contact Samuel Gaturu via e-mail: [gaturu@originsafaris.org](mailto:gaturu@originsafaris.org)

### *Grassroots Logistics: Our mission*

*The mission of Grassroots Logistics is to provide independent advice, insight and capacity to fulfil the philanthropic and emotional needs of our visitors, donors and sponsors*