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LUGARD RESTS

Cabinet Secretary Spearheads Tree-Planting Exercise At Kenya Wildlife Service Headquarters

By: Catherine Warui



The Cabinet Secretary during the tree planting exercise . Photo | Samuel Bekko

KWS headquarters was a beehive of activity, Friday 9th December, 2022, with the Cabinet Secretary for Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage, Hon. Penina Malonza leading management and staff in a tree-planting exercise.

The CS said that KWS staff were the first group of workers under her docket she was interacting with since her appointment, noting that Kenya was just recovering from a severe drought which had impacted greatly on wildlife populations in the country.

Hon. Malonza stressed the importance of her familiarization tour, saying that she was extremely impressed to view six lions, as well as four out of the Big Five wildlife species and many others, domiciled within "The World's Only Wildlife Capital," Nairobi National Park. The CS pledged to minimize the challenges which plague workers, further appreciating the exemplary work done by KWS employees. She stressed the importance of enhancing KWS Rangers' welfare, due to the extraneous nature of their duties, averring that there was need to explore ways to motivate them.

The CS thanked various conservation development partners, stating that the

Government would continue to collaborate with the partners. Ms. Malonza said it was imperative for citizens to heed President Ruto's clarion call to meet the 5 billion trees planted quota. She noted that Africa is one of the casualties of climate change, encouraging regular tree and grass planting activities to mitigate these harsh effects. The CS urged all tree planters to not only plant, but also develop personal relationships with the trees they plant.

The Principal Secretary, State Department of Wildlife, Sylvia Museiyya, said that her office has data that demonstrates that tourism is the second biggest GDP earner in Kenya, and that wildlife is the biggest contributor to tourism, making KWS – the institution mandated to conserve Kenya's wildlife, a key player in which the Ministry holds much interest. The PS pledged support to KWS and requested for ideas from staff on how to grow KWS into a bigger and stronger entity, further requesting staff's support and cooperation to achieve this goal. She stated that the President desired a working country with tangible deliverables, and the onus to deliver was on the Ministry and KWS.

Principal Secretary, State Department of Tourism, John Oloituaa, said he was

honoured to accompany the CS to KWS, adding that he particularly enjoyed the early-morning game drive at the Nairobi National Park. He urged staff to continue with their positive conservation attitude, because tourism comprises marketing and development of products, and marketing the KWS product is of critical importance. "I am aware that the Tourism Promotion Fund has played a critical role in the infrastructural development, and we aim to do more in terms of new tourism products; above all, in terms of how we can provide efficient services in this sector which has earned us the name Magical Kenya," he said.

The CS introduced the incoming Acting KWS Director General, Dr. Erustus Kanga, HSC, who said that he had worked for 17 years in the Service, and is thus well known to staff, adding that the idea for the tree-planting activity actually originated from KWS staff. Dr. Kanga said 800 holes had been dug in the KWS headquarters grounds in preparation for the planting, and the target was to plant more than 4,000 trees. He further stated that the exercise was also a familiarization tour for the CS and her team to be formally introduced to staff.

Also present during the tree-planting was KWS' Senior Management and staff from the headquarters, Airwing and Central Workshop.

This activity was in keeping with the December 6th proclamation by the President of Kenya - Dr. William Samoei Ruto, that all public engagements presided over by the President, Deputy President, Cabinet Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, and all other cadres of state or public officers be marked by the planting of a designated number of trees under various categories of between 200 to 500 seedlings.

A Great Day to Be a Retiree

By: Alice Wawira

It was a delightful moment for everyone who gathered to celebrate the retirees exiting Kenya Wildlife Service after years of diligent service to this great organization. This year the “senior citizens” go out in style. The former KWS Director General, Brig (Rtd) John Waweru presided over a luncheon for the retirees on the 30th November, 2022 at KWS Club House; a collective commemoration which was held for the first time in the history of KWS and a tradition which will be observed in future.

Congratulations are in order and our gratitude goes out to the retirees for their great work and dedication to the mandate of conserving and protecting our wildlife. “I want to appreciate all retirees and wish you a well-deserved rest after putting in many years in conservation during the prime time of your lives. You did it well and that is why you can afford to raise your heads high bearing in mind that a number of compatriots who joined the service with you fell on the side. So, congratulations!” Director General Brig (Rtd) John Waweru said. He further noted that this is not the end for the retirees’ life but the beginning of a new phase. “Retirement is merely another chapter of one’s life. It is not the end to one’s productivity or contribution to nation building. You must be aware of many people who retired and ended up doing great things like being national leaders, investors, farmers philanthropists, etc. It all depends on how ones see takes it, but looking around I see optimistic faces full of wisdom and daring to go conquer the World,” said the director. He further explained referencing from his own experience as he is a retiree of the Kenya Defense Forces (KDF).

KWS prides itself in ensuring the welfare of the staff is well taken care of at all time. In the last three (3) years welfare management has implemented welfare programs which have had a positive impact on individual employees. The programs are inclusive of the medical Insurance Cover, a well-managed staff pension scheme and a revised human resource policy instrument



The former KWS DG, Brig (Rtd) John Waweru cutting cake with the retirees. Photo | Samuel Bekko

which consist of the new organization structure and staff establishment. The former Director General affirmed to the retirees that they would be receiving their pension as per the policies in place.

The Human Resource Advisory Committee (HRAC) is also working on placement of employees and promotion of more staff across all levels in the coming months. In the last three years the organization has promoted more employees than ever with fewer separations from disciplinary-related grounds, which is a win for the staff.

Director of Partnership and Enterprise, Mr. Edwin Wanyonyi promised that the management will be working on a program where all the retirees will be granted a membership card - among other privileges - that will allow them to access KWS resources upon exit from service. The DG further challenged the management to act on the same as soon as possible as it is an excellent way for the retirees and the Service to remain connected as a family. “As soon as the plan is in motion you will be hearing from us,” Brig (Rtd) John Waweru assured the retirees, who expressed their gratitude and words of wisdom with the crowd. The retirees were awarded sculptures made in the likeness of iconic wildlife species.

Borrowing from the senior citizens’

cup of knowledge here are some of the things to take home with you.

- Build yourself during your prime years, invest in yourself and family, build a home, buy a land, start a business so that once its your time to exit KWS you will have somewhere to rest peacefully.
- There are a multitude of challenges out there; build friendships at home with your neighbors so that once you retire you won’t be a stranger in your own neighborhood.
- Eat healthy, be contented with what you have and make your partners your friends and you will have a happy life.

Working for an organization that oversees mountain regions, the savannas, semi- arid lands, seas and lakes; thanks to KWS mandate to serve both terrestrial and marine wildlife is a great honor and opportunity. Our senior citizens put years of their life to serve in such an organization meaning they can seize opportunities in any of these ecosystems to further their personal interests and build the nation.

Veronica's New Milestone

By: Alice Wawira



Veronica at KWS HQ. Photo | KWS Liz Muthoni

"I have been in service at KWS for 39 years and the journey has been revolutionary, I am happy and grateful that I am retiring healthy and fully aware of myself."

Veronica Munyao was only 20 when she joined Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in April, 1983. She underwent her paramilitary training at Administration Police Training College for seven months, emerging top in her class. For that impressive feat, she was

awarded a cane stick by Kenya's former President, the late Daniel Toroitich Arap Moi. Thereafter, she was posted to Lake Nakuru National Park as a park ranger, where she worked until 1989.

Change is inevitable and so is growth, Veronica said. "In 1990 I was called for an interview for the Potential Communicator Course, which I passed and proceeded for the four-month training," she explained.

Upon completion of the course Veronica emerged as the best in her cohort and was awarded a trophy by Richard Leakey, the then Director of KWS.

Henceforth, Veronica was in charge of Radio Communication until 2018. This was an impressive transition for her as she moved from Security to Radio Communications. "I worked hard and to the best of my abilities, to ensure growth around my colleague and this department in general." She said. During this period, she trained more people on effective communication; more specifically she taught them on how to apply security protocols during communication. "Witnessing and being part of the security communication revolution has been the greatest achievement of my career," she highlighted.

Later Veronica worked as Staff Officer Administration, mostly dealing with discipline issues until her retirement. She is retiring as Warden I Officer, a promotion she earned three months to her retirement date.

Joining the Service at a tender age was not easy for Veronica but despite all the challenges she emerged a great woman. She successfully juggled her work-life see saw, serving her two masters - KWS and a family, as she is both a mother and grandmother.

In regards to Conservation she plans to plant more trees and work with the community to achieve the carbon credit and for the community to ultimately gain from this opportunity. Her final words to the rangers were, "Always work hard, never forget yourself, balance between work and life and most importantly respect your superiors."

"I have worked for KWS for nearly four decades, and the journey has been life-altering," she concluded.

Super Tusker Lugard Rests

By: Catherine Warui



Lugard at a watering hole. Photo | Tsavo Trust

One of Tsavo's Super Tuskers, the majestic and iconic, massive-tusked Lugard, will no longer walk the fields of Tsavo National Park. His candle in the wind was snuffed out by advanced age, exacerbated by debilitating drought.

A decade ago, the spirit of collaborative conservation that steers The Service's mandate led to KWS and Tsavo Trust pioneering the Tsavo "Big Tusker Project," to enhance the security and protection of the Tuskers through regular aerial and ground monitoring activities in a concerted effort to better protect these ambassadors of *Loxodonta Africana* - the African elephant.

Lugard's three-day old carcass was spotted by Tsavo Trust's eagle-eyed pilot officer, late November 2022, within Tsavo West National Park, during a routine aerial reconnaissance mission. An immediate ground response was initiated by KWS and Tsavo Trust to verify the situation.

The joint team confirmed the car-

cass to be that of the famous Super Tusker named Lugard: cause of death was natural. Further, both massive tusks were intact and subsequently recovered.

Lugard was first 'baptized' and recorded into the Big Tusker Project database on 1st January, 2014. He crisscrossed seasonally between Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks via Manyani area, with his movement data and video recordings leading to the establishment of a wildlife underpass beneath the SG Railway, that has since been used by countless elephants.

KWS/Tsavo Trust physically observed Lugard on 373 separate occasions – approximating to a nearly once-per-week sighting of the gentle giant for the last nine years! All his life, Lugard roamed unfettered over his home range - the sprawling 22,000 sq. km Tsavo parks - a sterling example of what continuous, collaborative conservation can conceive: elephants living out their lives to the fullest, as Mother Nature intended.

This is a rarity in today's elephant existence, more so for an elephant endowed with such impressive ivory.

This KWS/Tsavo Trust 'collabo' has the entire conservation fraternity bursting with accomplishment at cracking the code to successfully preserving Kenya's renowned biodiversity – a salute to the efficacy of the Big Tusker Project.

Lugard was a film star, appearing in several documentaries; photographed and enjoyed by visitors galore who visited Tsavo specifically to see him. He was last seen alive by Tsavo Trust on 10th November, 2022.

The silver lining to losing a Super Tusker - a gem of Lugard's ilk - to the inevitable circle of life, is that his virility saw him sire multitudes of equally – if not more magnificent – pachyderms to sustain his documented "large tusks" genetics, to continue their reign over the sprawling Tsavo ecosystem.

Cabinet Secretary Launches Sea Turtle Protocol

By: Menza Kazungu



CS in the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage, Hon. Peninah Malonza, Launching the Sea turtle Conservation protocol. Photo | Hope Nyangweso

Kenya's marine biodiversity conservation efforts received a welcome boost when the Cabinet Secretary in the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage, Hon. Peninah Malonza, launched the Sea Turtle Conservation Protocol at Mombasa Marine Park in Coast Conservation Area, Thursday, 15th December, 2022.

Hon. Malonza stated that Sea turtles are keystone species and contribute to the thriving of the coastal ecosystem - as such, efforts to conserve and protect them impact other ecosystems positively. The CS added that this historic launch is in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 14) on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas and marine resources as part of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The CS explained that Sea turtle conservation is not a new phenomenon at the Coast, averring that the primary purpose of engineering this protocol was to standardize existing Sea turtle conservation efforts and data collection methods, for the benefit of marine biodiversity.

Hon Malonza stressed on the significance of the Protocols. They will help to monitor population trends across the Kenyan coastal line, and meet the statutory obligation of reporting on the status of Sea tur-

tles as nationally listed endangered species and as an international migratory species under the framework of the Indian Ocean and South East Asia Memorandum of Understanding on Conservation of Marine Turtles (IOSEA Marine Turtles MoU) and the Convention on Conservation of Migratory Species of Animals (CMS), to which Kenya is signatory to. The CS called for close collaboration especially with the County Governments in the Coastal region in mapping Sea turtle nesting

areas.

KWS Acting Director General Dr. Erustus Kanga, EGH, said inadequate information on sea turtle nesting areas is a major setback on their conservation as it affects decision making by institutions tasked with their conservation hence lauded the launch of the Sea turtle conservation protocol. Dr. Kanga thanked participants who participated in the extensive beach clean-up exercise which preceded the launch where 349kg of assorted garbage was collected. Dr. Kanga said that surrounding sea turtle community groups were integral in developing these protocols, as most turtles' nest in areas outside Marine Protected Areas, making community support crucial. In addition, the involvement of these groups ensured that the protocols were user-friendly to people with different expertise, experiences and skill sets in relation to sea turtles.

For conservation to succeed, collaboration is a vital ingredient. The Service wishes to recognize and appreciate all our partners for their unwavering support and sacrificing resources to ensure that there are tangible guidelines to conserve the Sea turtle.



CS in the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage, Hon. Peninah Malonza and KWS Ag. DG Dr. Erustus Kanga, EGH, participating in the beach clean up. Photo | Menza Kazungu



Principal Secretary Presides Over Community Rangers Passout Parade

By: Menza Kazungu



The PS, State Department of Wildlife, Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage, Hon Sylvia Museiya, inspecting the parade during the pass out parade. Photo | Hope Nyangweso

The Principal Secretary, State Department of Wildlife, Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage, Hon Sylvia Museiya, on Friday 16th December, 2022, presided over a Community Rangers passing out parade at the Kenya Wildlife Service Law Enforcement Academy in Manyani.

A total of 122 Community Rangers (103 male and 19 female) drawn from Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), LEWA Wildlife Conservancy and Conservancies in Narok and Kajiado Counties, participated in the three months training.

To optimize their efficiencies in their day to day activities, the trainees were taken through drills and bush crafts, first aid, general law, disaster management, wildlife education, navigation and radio communication.

The PS congratulated the Rangers and encouraged them to maintain the discipline that has been instilled to them during the training and she further encouraged them to put into use skills acquired during the training.

KWS Acting Director General Dr. Erustus Kanga, EGH, congratulated the Rangers and welcomed them to the community of

Rangers. He encouraged them to work together with other stakeholders to ensure Kenya's wildlife is conserved for posterity.



The PS, State Department of Wildlife, Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife and Heritage, Hon Sylvia Museiya, presenting gifts to best performing trainees. Photo | Hope Nyangweso

World Wildlife Fund - Kenya Donates An Assortment Of Equipment To Kenya Wildlife Service

By: Alice Wawira

In keeping with the spirit of community collaborative conservation championed by KWS and her partners, WWF donated an assortment of equipment to KWS, Tuesday, 20th December, 2022, at KWS headquarters.

KWS Acting Director General, Dr. Erustus Kanga, EGH, expressed his gratitude at the continued, unwavering support afforded to The Service by WWF.

Human Wildlife Conflict is currently the number one challenge facing wildlife, resulting into human injuries and deaths, crop destruction, property damage, loss of livestock and ultimately loss of livelihood for community members. It is therefore imperative for KWS to partner with other organizations to mitigate this challenge.

“Human Wildlife Conflict is such a serious issue such that were there to be no collaboration with other organizations, the majority of our wildlife in affected areas would be wiped out,” Dr. Kanga noted, adding that KWS will continue to partner with other organizations, to keep the spirit of conservation alive.

Conservation can never be a one-man job and KWS is open to, and grateful for all the support it receives from its partners. “To ensure that The Service further succeeds in our mandate, we will continue partnering with other organizations as we look forward to future support from WWF,



KWS Ag. DG Dr. Erustus Kanga, EGH, receiving donations from WWF - K, Head of Biodiversity, Research & Innovation Yussuf Wato. Photo | Hope Nyangweso

Dr. Kanga stated.

The equipment included two (2) motor cycles, two (2) marque tents, nine (9) man bush tents, two (2) double door ridge tents, 40 camping chairs, 24 camping tables, six (6) camping beds, five (5) Nikon cameras, seven (7) black view phones, 15 pairs of binoculars and 2,000 lion-deterrent lights.

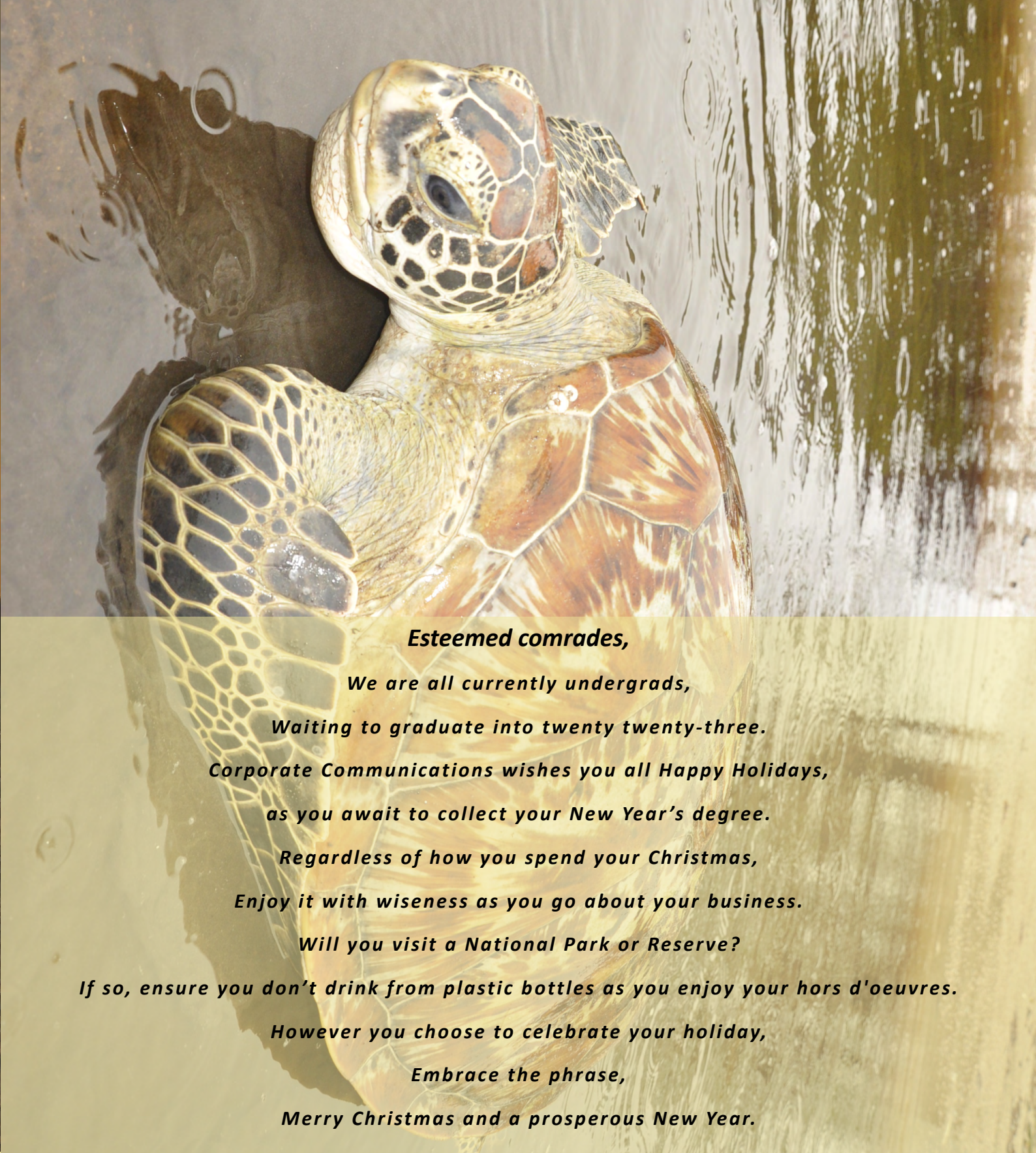
A demonstration on the efficacy of

the lion-deterrent lights donated was conducted, which showed that the lights are capable of shining brightly for 22 continuous hours, while only requiring a charging time of approximately four hours. During the day, these lights absorb heat energy through the solar panel at the top, which allows them to flash continuously all night. Predators have a night time visual acuity 10 times that of humans, and the flashing lights render them temporarily blind. As such, lions detest these flashing lights and are successfully deterred from attacking homesteads. Such collaborations yield trust from communities, who in turn alert KWS and other law enforcement agencies about poaching and other security risks which may arise.

The donations, valued at Kshs. 6.1 million shillings, are intended to support the fight against the perennial Human Wildlife Conflict that plagues communities living adjacent to protected areas in keeping with the collaborative conservation model.



KWS Ag. DG Dr. Erustus Kanga, EGH, flagging off motor cycles donated by WWF - K. Photo | Hope Nyangweso



Esteemed comrades,

We are all currently undergrads,

Waiting to graduate into twenty twenty-three.

***Corporate Communications wishes you all Happy Holidays,
as you await to collect your New Year's degree.***

***Regardless of how you spend your Christmas,
Enjoy it with wisdom as you go about your business.***

Will you visit a National Park or Reserve?

If so, ensure you don't drink from plastic bottles as you enjoy your hors d'oeuvres.

However you choose to celebrate your holiday,

Embrace the phrase,

Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

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