

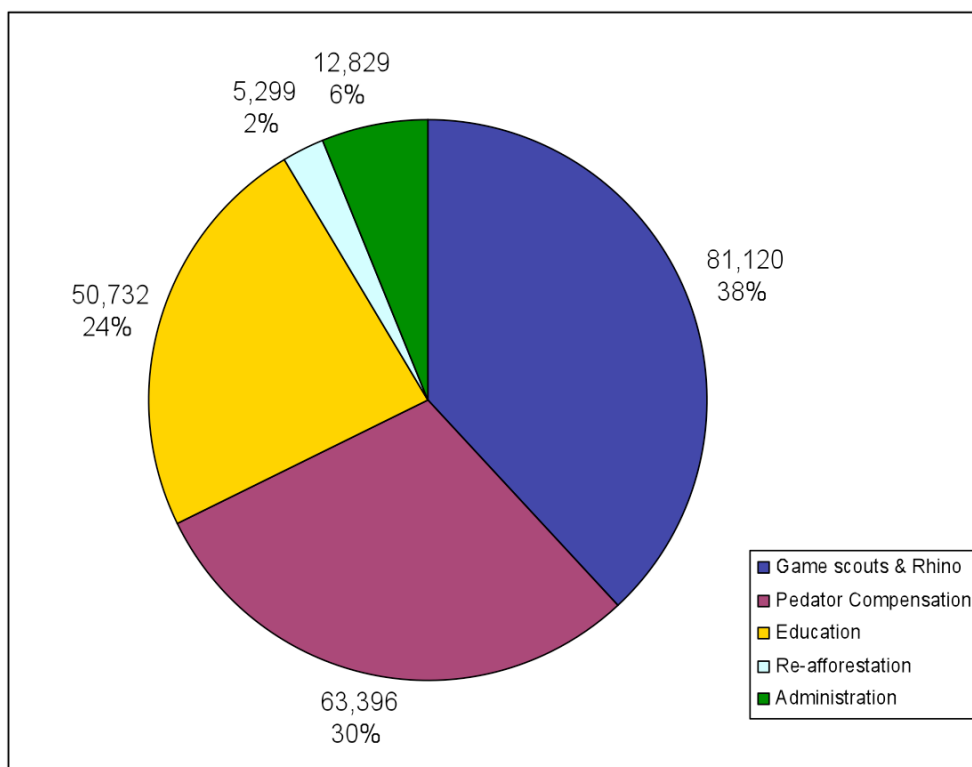


PROJECTS UPDATE
YEAR 2006/2007

INTRODUCTION

This report covers the financial year period from April 2006 to March 2007. However, it also includes updates on our projects progress to the end of Sept 2007.

Over this period, Maasailand Preservation Trust (MPT) has seen some very positive developments and is continuing to grow at a very substantial rate. In the financial year under review, the Trust raised US\$ 244,295, as compared to year 2005-2006 when we raised US\$ 138,809. The revenue increase, in excess of 75%, has resulted in commensurate growth in all our programmes. Due to this growth, a total of US \$213,376 was spent in the last financial year. The chart below illustrates expenditure in US\$ per project in year 2006/07.



The Trust has always recognized that it is critical for the local community, as the major stakeholder, to realize direct benefits from wildlife conservation. In line with this, Maasailand Preservation Trust has created job opportunities for the local community and currently employs 65 people. The jobs provide US\$ 7,400 of direct revenue in salaries per month to employees. These jobs do not only benefit the employees but also their families.

As described in this report, all our projects have grown considerably, with the exception of the Re-afforestation Program (Please see details in the re-afforestation update). The progress we have made would not have been possible without the dedicated and generous support of our sponsors. We take this opportunity to thank them all and look forward to greater success in future.

EDUCATION

The MPT education programme seeks to improve the standards of education in the local community. Compared to other parts of Kenya, Mbirikani Group Ranch, within which the Trust operates, has some of most under-resourced educational institutions. Consequently, illiteracy level is very high. In order to meet a myriad of needs in the education sector, the education programme has expanded in scope but generally covers four broad areas, namely: employing qualified teachers, improving existing buildings and building new ones, providing school supplies and offering sponsorships to needy students.

PCEA Mbirikani Girls' High School

This school is a brainchild of Maasailand Preservation Trust - in recognition of the importance of supporting the education of young women, which has historically been neglected in Maasailand. Although the Trust is not directly involved in financing the only Girls High School on the ranch, it provides administrative support and critical advisory role in development of the school. PCEA Mbirikani Girls' high School admitted its first Form one class in January 2006 and now has a total of 120 students, most of them from within the local community.

The school is entering its third development phase and by January 2008, modern dormitories for a further 130 girls will be completed as well as a laboratory complex and teachers houses.

Enkijape Primary School

Enkijape Primary School was the pioneer institution to receive support from Maasailand Preservation Trust. The support has been ongoing and was strengthened by the formation of a *sister-school partnership* between Enkijape and Highland School, Virginia, USA. The partnership, through which MPT raises funds for the Enkijape School has grown from strength to strength. In June this year, the Highland School students and staff visited Enkijape and spent one week at the school assisting in the construction of furniture, teaching and participating in games with their sister school.

The twinning partnership between Enkijape and Highland school has enable MPT to raise funds to cover the on-going salaries of three teachers, to purchase sports and playground equipment, school supplies and to provide funding for 7 children to board at the school. Plans are underway for some Enkijape School teachers to visit Highlands School next year. The trip will be sponsored by Highland school and is aimed at raising more funds for the school. In addition, Highland School is networking with other educational institutions in the US that are interested in forming similar partnerships with schools in Mbirikani Group Ranch.

Lemasusu Primary School

The Trust built this school in 1999 and continues to cover its running costs. We currently sponsor the salaries of two teachers and supply teaching and learning aids to the school. Lemasusu School acts as a feeder school to Oltiasika Primary School and has a record of producing some of the top students in the area.

Shilishili Primary School

The Trust has just renovated one of the class rooms at this school that was close to collapse. More work needs to be done on the refurbishment of this school and it will be a priority of the Trust in 2008. We also sponsor the salary of a teacher at this school. Recently, the school received teaching aids and books from a

sponsor in USA. The sponsor has pledged to make similar donations to the school on a regular basis.

Enkaji Naibor Primary School

In 2006, the Trust identified a sponsor to help develop this school. To begin with, the Trust secured an ongoing sponsorship for the salary of one teacher and recently constructed a pit latrine for the children. The identified sponsor has made a commitment to offer further support to develop Enkaji Naibor School.

Kalesirwa Primary School

Since 2001, MPT has sponsored the salary of a qualified teacher at Kalesirwa. This year, the Trust is sponsoring the salary of a second teacher at the school. The support for the two teachers will be on going. A new sponsor has given a commitment to help purchase school supplies for Kalesirwa.

WILDLIFE SCHOLARSHIPS

Since its inception in 1995, the wildlife scholarships program has sponsored over 100 local students through primary, secondary schools, colleges and universities. The demand for the scholarships is high and the Trust uses a rigorous selection criterion to ensure that the most needy and qualified candidates get the scholarships. Unfortunately, we still find ourselves unable to support many needy students who are unable to continue with their education due to lack of funds.

As of 1st September 2007, the Trust is supporting 45 students at various levels of education. Of these 45, the Lurie Foundation is supporting 18 students. In the financial year 2006/2007, the Trust paid a total of US\$ 43,417 for students' fees in various institutions.

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION

Environmental education has always been a priority of the Trust and efforts have been made to develop it further. The education programme is designed to address the environmental problems associated with pastoral lifestyles in this semi-arid area.

Currently, the Trust employs one Environmental Education Teacher who works with different schools within the Ranch, and has introduced Environmental Education Clubs. These clubs have become very successful in planting trees within school compounds and keeping their premises clean. The Environmental Education Teacher has also helped set up teams of students who regularly collect litter in Imbirikani Village and its environs.

REAFFORESTATION PROJECT

The re-afforestation project was established in response to the precipitous decline in the number of trees and the destruction of wildlife habitat on Mbirikani Group Ranch, caused mainly by overgrazing, *boma* construction and firewood gathering. A demonstration plot was started at Mbirikani and has grown to a landmark feature at the village. Seedlings are distributed from the plot to the community and planted in the areas of greatest need in order to replenish the indigenous forest.

However, it has been very difficult to expand this project due to lack of new funding. At the end of last year, we had to make 2 employees redundant in order to reduce costs. The Trust continues to support the salaries of 2 workers who are continuing to germinate and distribute seedlings to the community. This project costs the Trust approximately US\$ 6,000 a year.

The greatest challenge facing this project is the high mortality rate of out planted seedlings. This is a result of livestock browsing on young seedlings and prolonged droughts periods exacerbated by overgrazing. A potential long-term solution to this problem would be a well financed agro-forestry initiative where a minimum of 2,000-3,000 acres are fenced and trees planted. However, the capital costs involved in such an initiative are very high and would require substantial new funding.

GAME SCOUTS AND BLACK RHINO PROJECT

The Mbirikani Community game scouts project has continued to grow. Since inception, the project has achieved considerable success and has been rated the best performing unit compared to other teams under the Amboseli-Tsavo Game Scouts Association (ATGSA) – the umbrella organization of community game scouts operating within the Tsavo-Amboseli ecosystem. We currently employ 59 game scouts who work in four major complementary units as follows:-

Game Scouts:	25
Water Scouts:	14
Lion Guardians:	9
Predator Scouts:	11

Game Scouts: These are split into three teams which on a rotational basis: (a) monitor and provide security to the black rhino, (b) undertake anti-poaching operations and (c) provide general security services, resolve human-wildlife issues together with combating livestock theft. In 2006/2007, 63 poachers were arrested and prosecuted. In the same period, 368 poaching snares were recovered destroyed.

In May this year, Ol Jogi Ltd donated two blood hounds to boost the operations of the game scouts. At the same time, three scouts underwent specialized blood hound handling training for two months. The results so far are incredible! With the help of the blood hounds - tracking the scent and movement of fleeing suspects - we have made a total of 9 arrests including game meat poachers, thieves at Mbirikani village, and cattle rustlers escaping across the boundaries of the group ranch.

Water scouts: Unrestricted water off-take from the two rivers on Mbirikani Group Ranch over the years has led to serious environmental degradation and human-wildlife conflict. One river has been diverted in its entirety to irrigation-fed cultivation while the other no longer has sufficient water to flow throughout its

natural route. The water scouts have been very successful in mitigating this problem. During most of the dry season they have managed to keep the Karinkot River flowing, which enables the communities in the south eastern section of the ranch to access water for themselves and their livestock. As a secondary benefit, the free flow of water has remarkably reduced human-wildlife conflict as wildlife no longer has to invade farmlands to access drinking water. Furthermore, this has decreased incidence of poaching in the neighborhoods because wildlife have reduced wandering into the human settlement areas in search of water.

Lion Guardians: This unit is the Trusts' most recent expansion program and has proved to be extremely successful. The Lion Guardians are assigned to monitor and track lions in their designated zones and act as intermediaries between the community and the game scouts. The guardians' job also entails community work such as reinforcing livestock sheds and educating the community on better livestock husbandry practices which in turn reduces livestock losses to predators.

Predator Scouts: These scouts are responsible for reporting all livestock losses to predators throughout Mbirikani Group Ranch. Like the lion Guardians, these are young Maasai men who traditionally are considered warriors and their primary role is to guard their highly valued livestock from predator attacks. Providing employment to these young men has proved very successful as they are always on call and visit the site of depredation to verify compensation claims – greatly reducing human-predator conflict. The predator scouts have also been very instrumental in educating the community about benefits of co-existing with predators.

PREDATOR COMPENSATION FUND

In response to an imminent threat of local lion extinction, MPT, in close collaboration with the local community, conceived a first-of-its-kind predator compensation program. The Predator Compensation Fund (PCF) seeks to better balance the costs and benefits of living with wildlife and thereby replace conflict and retaliation with tolerance.

Since inception of PCF in 2003, lion killing has virtually stopped on MGR. Only 4 lions have been killed by livestock owners on MGR, while in excess of 65 lions have been killed during the same time period on the neighbouring group ranches that do not have the PCF programme. The same MGR community that now protects lions killed twenty-two (22) individuals in just eighteen months prior to the introduction of PCF.

To date, a total of US\$ 132,036 has been paid out to local Maasai residents for the loss of their livestock due to depredation by lions, cheetahs, leopards, and hyenas. In excess of 2,500 head of livestock have been compensated for.

PCF also provides ongoing community education on the benefits of wildlife and works with the local community on ways to improve husbandry and thereby minimize future depredation.

To complement PCF, last year, African Wildlife Foundation (AWF) sponsored a pilot project to address herding practices and reduce incidents of depredation. This project - nick-named *Eramatare* - hired and trained herders who were assigned to households recording the highest number of livestock losses to predators. The *Eramatare* project was a great success, as livestock losses reduced dramatically in the selected households. At the same time, a film was created and shown to the community across the group ranch focusing on good herding practices and building better livestock enclosures. The film was very effective in community education and we hope to make it an ongoing program.

Due to the proven success of the PCF model on Mbirikani Group Ranch, a conservation trust operating in Kuku - a neighbouring group ranch - adopted the

model on largely the same terms as PCF and has been smoothly running for about 6 months. MPT plans to expand PCF to cover the entire Amboseli-Tsavo ecosystem in future, when funds are available.

San Diego Wildlife Park Trip

In June 2007, the San Diego Zoological Society invited MPT to bring members of the Mbirikani community to visit the world famous wildlife park and help raise funds for the Predator Compensation Fund. A team for this trip was organized comprising of 9 Maasai – 2 of them young women, 6 *Moran* (young warriors) and one elder. Richard Bonham, the MPT Chairman also accompanied them. For a period of six weeks, the Maasai team spent time at the park celebrating their culture – dancing, singing, and making jewelry. The *Morans* talked to the American people and media about their commitment to stop killing lions and pursue conservation together with a mixed wildlife/livestock land use in return for predator compensation.

During the San Diego Wildlife Park visit, a total of US\$ 31,000 was raised. Out of this, US\$ 12,000 was raised through an impromptu surfing event. Through what Chris Ahrens (a journalist of *Sea Notes*) described as ‘divine co-incidence’, Tayler Reid met the Maasai at the park and invited them to try surfing. While riding the waves, the Maasai told Tyler about scarcity of clean drinking water back home. Tayler was so moved that he decided to raise money for clean water system in Maasailand that would cost about US\$ 20,000.

The Trust allocated the US\$ 12,000 raised during the surfing event to clean water supply systems in schools on Mbirikani Group Ranch.

The Maasai visit to San Diego was an extremely successful event. It was an enjoyable experience to the participants, and at the same time, it created a lot of publicity and public awareness on the current plight of predators in Africa. We plan to make it an annual event for MPT.

THANK YOU!

We would like to sincerely thank the following individual and organizational donors for their generous and dedicated support to our work. We could not achieve what we have without your support.

Individuals

Alice Laimbeer, Ann Lurie, Bruce and Carolyn Ludwig, Clyde Jackson and friends, Cyrus and Bobby Sweet, Dr. Frank Hadlock (deceased), Founding Patron of PCF, Terry & Louise Field, Tom Hill,

Organizations

African Conservation Centre, African Wildlife Foundation, Chester Zoo, Ford Foundation, East African Wildlife Society, International Fund for Animal Welfare, National Geographic Society, Robert H. and Ann Lurie Foundation, San Diego Zoological Society, Save the Rhino, Tusk Trust, U. S. Fish & Wildlife and Wildlife Conservation Society.

SUPPORTING US

As you have seen in this report, our projects are growing rapidly, creating the need for additional resources to fund operations and administration. Undesignated contributions of any amount to support the administration of the Trust are greatly appreciated. Should you wish to get further information about our projects, please visit the Trust office at Ol Donyo Wuas lodge or send an email to:

Fred Njagi: mpt@oldonyowuas.com or
R. Bonham: bonham@swiftkenya.com

To make a direct bank deposit, our bank details are as follows:

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If you make a donation, you will receive regular updates from us on the progress of the project(s) you are supporting.