

JAN - JUNE

ATHI-KAPITI WILDLIFE CONSERVANCIES ASSOCIATION



IN THIS ISSUE:

February: Challenges and Triumphs

March: Empowerment and Co-Existence

April's Rollercoaster

May: Collaboration and Progress

June: New Beginnings and Strengthened Team

Chairman's welcome note

As members of the Athi Kapiti Wildlife Conservancies Association, I'm delighted to share our latest updates and reflections on our beloved landscape.

Emerging from the severe drought of 2022-2023, which devastated our wildlife and livestock, we enter 2024 with a rejuvenated landscape brimming with new life and promise. Our recent rains have brought a much-needed reprieve, turning our parched lands into lush, green expanses. However, with the rains came unexpected floods, posing new challenges that we've faced head-on, together.

I'm pleased to report that despite these hurdles, we are well. Our community's resilience and dedication have been inspiring. The Association has set an ambitious plan to maintain connectivity across our landscape while ensuring it remains beneficial to the communities that inhabit it. Our focus extends beyond Machakos and Kajiado to include Nairobi, Makueni, Kiambu, and Kitui.

Your continued support and engagement are crucial as we navigate these times and work towards our shared goals. Let's keep engaging and working together to achieve our vision for a thriving, sustainable future.

Warm Regards, Dr. Kasanga



February: Challenges and Triumphs

February was a month of discovery, celebration, and new beginnings for our conservancies.

Wildlife Census: A Troubling Discovery

We conducted a comprehensive wildlife census across our conservancies, taking advantage of the dry season following the rejuvenating November-December rains. The survey revealed an alarming absence of hartebeest throughout the entire landscape. This significant finding underscores the ongoing challenges in wildlife conservation and the need for continued vigilance and effort. The disappearance of this species highlights the urgency of our conservation initiatives and the importance of protecting our diverse wildlife.

Lukenya Hills 4x4 Event: Community and Celebration

Despite the challenges, February also brought moments of celebration and community building. The 4x4 event at Lukenya Hills was a resounding success, drawing enthusiasts and supporters from far and wide.

This thrilling event provided excitement and raised awareness about our conservation efforts. The camaraderie and shared commitment to our goals were palpable, fostering a strong sense of community.

Welcoming New Interns: Fresh Perspectives and Dedication

February also marked the arrival of two dedicated interns, Merab Nasimiyu who is well versed in wildlife monitoring and Kiano Ogeli, in communications. Their fresh perspectives and enthusiasm are invaluable to our team. We are thrilled to welcome them and look forward to their contributions to our conservation efforts.

Reflecting on February, we recognize the importance of confronting our challenges and celebrating our triumphs. The wildlife census has illuminated areas needing urgent attention, while the Lukenya Hills event and the addition of our new interns have strengthened our community and commitment to conservation.



March: Empowerment and Coexistence

March has been a transformative month for our conservancies, marked by initiatives that empower communities and address the delicate balance of human-wildlife interaction.

Naretunoi's Beadwork and Glass Making Initiative has been a beacon of hope and creativity. This project, launched in March, aims to empower women by providing alternative sources of income through beadwork and glassmaking. The initiative has been met with overwhelming enthusiasm, as women from the community eagerly embraced the opportunity to learn new skills and foster sustainable livelihoods. The vibrant beadwork and intricate glass pieces not only showcase the creativity of our community members but also contribute to economic resilience.

Meanwhile, in Rongai, we faced significant challenges regarding human-wildlife interaction. Hyenas and lions have been frequent visitors, highlighting the need for a delicate balance between conservation efforts and community safety. Our team has been proactive in addressing these challenges through community engagement and awareness campaigns. Collaborating with local authorities, we implemented measures to mitigate conflicts and promote coexistence. These efforts are crucial in ensuring the safety of both wildlife and residents, fostering a harmonious relationship between the two.

As we reflect on March, we celebrate the spirit of empowerment and the strides made towards coexistence. The beadwork and glass-making initiative, along with our efforts in Rongai, exemplify our commitment to creating a sustainable and harmonious environment for both our communities and wildlife.



April's Rollercoaster

April has been a month of contrasts for our conservancies. The long-awaited rains finally arrived, bringing much-needed relief to our parched lands. The lush green vistas and rejuvenated waterholes have brought joy to our wildlife, who can now be seen frolicking in the bountiful waters.

However, nature's abundance also came with challenges. The heavy downpours led to significant flooding, causing considerable damage to our infrastructure. The dam at Mwambi Ranch was particularly hard hit, its structure compromised by the relentless waters.

Additionally, the footbridge in Naretunoi was swept away, creating challenges for both the community and our rangers. Despite these setbacks, the overall mood in the conservancies is one of resilience and optimism. The rains, though fierce, have breathed new life into our ecosystems.

Meanwhile, the animals continue to thrive, their spirited energy a reminder of nature's incredible resilience. As we move forward, we embrace both the challenges and the beauty that the long rains have brought to our conservancies.



May: Progress and Collaboration

May has been a month of significant milestones and productive engagements for our conservancies. On the 3rd, we held our Annual General Meeting (AGM), bringing together members and stakeholders to discuss our achievements and future plans. The AGM was a vibrant forum for sharing ideas and strengthening our commitment to conservation.

On the same day, we hosted a crucial stakeholders' meeting, fostering deeper collaboration and aligning our efforts towards sustainable conservation. The synergy between various partners was palpable, setting a solid foundation for upcoming projects.

Towards the end of May, we conducted an intensive rangers' training at Naretunoi. Our dedicated rangers enhanced their skills and knowledge, preparing them for the challenges ahead. The training sessions were comprehensive, covering advanced wildlife monitoring techniques, first aid, and anti-poaching strategies.

The enthusiasm and dedication of our rangers were truly inspiring. Their commitment ensures the safety and well-being of our precious wildlife. As we look back on May, we celebrate the spirit of cooperation and progress that defines our community. With strengthened alliances and a well-prepared team, we are poised for a promising future in conservation.



June: New Beginnings and Strengthened Team

June was a month of significant transitions and growth for our conservancies.

Office Relocation: A New Home at Signature Mall

We successfully moved our offices from Lukenya to a new location at Signature Mall. This strategic relocation provides us with better facilities and a more accessible base for our operations. The new office space is a testament to our growth and our commitment to enhancing our conservation efforts.

Welcoming New Team Members: Program Coordinator and Accountant

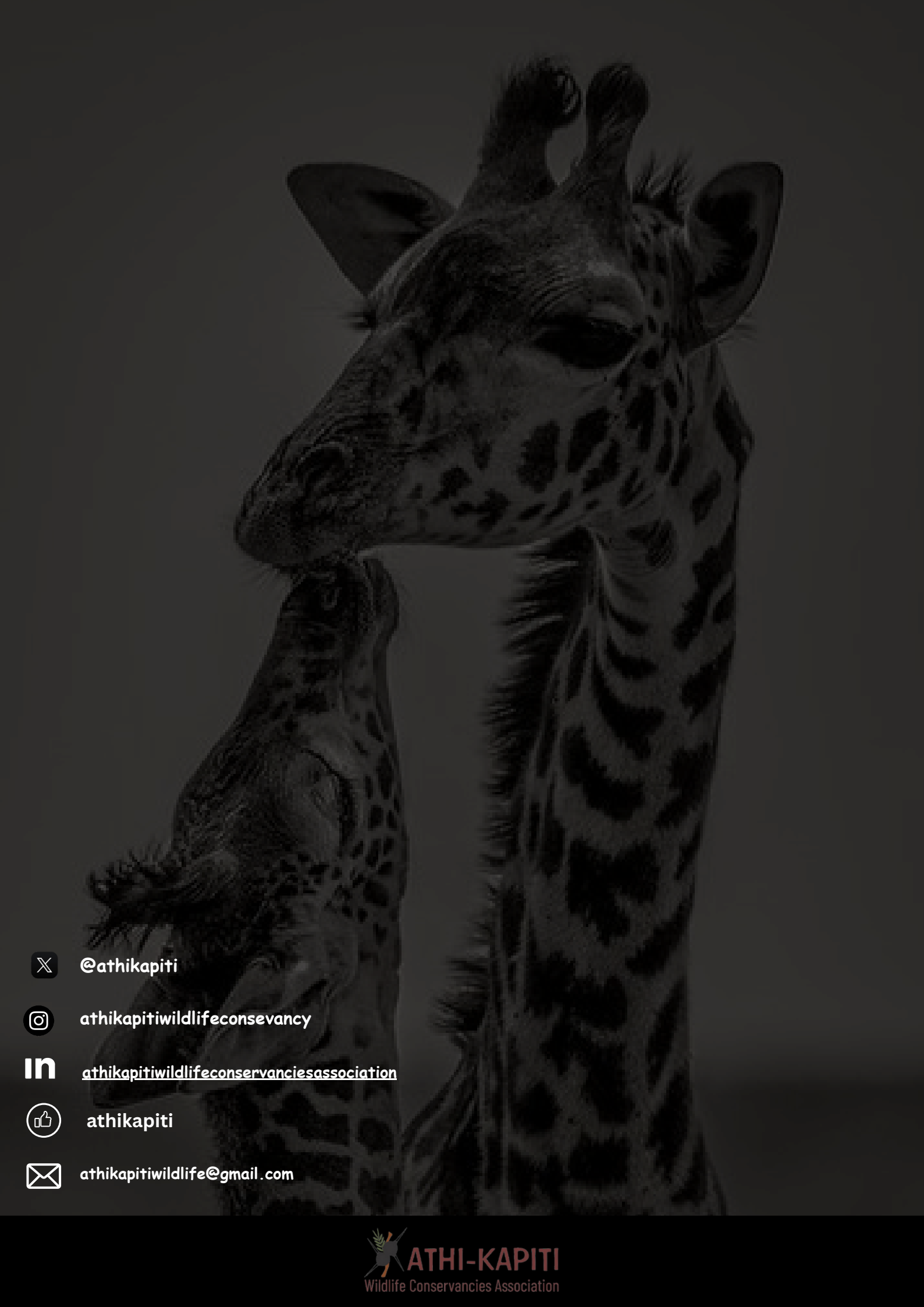
With the move, we are excited to welcome two new members to our team. Christine Orumoy has joined us as our Program Coordinator, bringing a wealth of experience and enthusiasm to our projects. Additionally, Zipporah Muiah has taken on the role of Program Accountant, ensuring that our financial operations are in expert hands. Their contributions are already making a significant impact, and we look forward to their continued success.

Earth Ranger Training: Empowering Our Team

Towards the end of June, we conducted an intensive Earth Ranger training session. This training was crucial in equipping our team with advanced skills in wildlife monitoring and conservation technology. The participants showed remarkable dedication, and the knowledge gained will greatly enhance our conservation efforts.

As we reflect on June, we celebrate the new beginnings and strengthened team that will drive our mission forward. The move to Signature Mall, the addition of Christine and Zipporah, and the successful Earth Ranger training all signify a month of progress and promise for our conservancies.





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