



KPSGA

NEWSLETTER

October 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Tourism business boomed these past few months, coinciding with the great annual wildebeest migration. The Masai Mara was therefore a beehive of activity. As usual members kept us abreast with both pleasant and unpleasant activities on the ground. Lots of concerns were raised by tourism stakeholders over utterly irresponsible behaviour by both guides and their guests alike. Some of you shared information on this misbehaviour with us and we did share it with the relevant people – hopefully some stern action will be taken against these errant individuals. We are glad that we did not receive reports of KPSGA members' misbehaviour. I therefore urge all of you to always remember your commitment to ethical and professional conduct in pursuit of your business goals.

In his first visit to the Mara as president Hon. Uhuru Kenyatta has reiterated his government's commitment to enhancing tourism infrastructure and has singled out the Narok-Mara road as a project the government will complete. This will certainly enhance the comfort of our guests and enhance accessibility to the Mara.

Eco-tourism Kenya held its annual eco-warrior awards ceremony in September during the International Ecotourism Society Conference which was held in the Safari Park Hotel and Casino. In the guide of the year category, Derrick Nabaala of Basecamp Eagle View in Naboisho Conservancy emerged winner. We would like to congratulate him and encourage the rest of you to participate in this competition. Some of you were nominated to participate but did not give comprehensive information to support your nominations.

Finally, I would like you to join me in thanking Tanwira Fakhri who has left employment with the association's secretariat after serving the association diligently for the last 15 years. We wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

Tom Lesarge
Chief Executive Officer

BUSH MATTERS

Human Cruelty

On 28th of July, after a lovely day in Nairobi National park and a visit to Sheldrick's orphaned elephants we drove to Wilson Airport. On the roadside just before the turn off to Air Kenya offices I spotted this Marabou. First, I thought it caught its legs in a rope tangle. On taking a closer look, I noticed that it was properly tied to a rope with a fine knot definitely made by a human being. The leg that was not tied was broken. One bystander informed us that it was hit by a car! People were walking past the bird, but no one paid attention to its predicament.



I called KWS hotline 0728 331 981. The call was answered immediately and I was promised someone will come to attend to it. In 40 minutes a

lady and a staff member of KWS Airwing showed up. The bird was freed from the rope, but its beak tied for safety of the handlers (it almost got me!). We put it in our landcruiser and took it to KWS Airwing at Wilson Airport and Alex, the pilot who that day spotted the missing plane that crashed in the Aberdares called the veterinarians to take care of the bird.

How can someone do such a cruel thing to such a timid creature?

Elvira Wolfer
Silver Level Guide

Turkana is Calling

On November 3rd 2013, Turkana will be home to visitors from all over the world. Why? No - they will not be there to marvel at the oil and water discoveries! They have for long been waiting to get there and experience this unique phenomenon – a total solar eclipse. A solar eclipse occurs when the moon and the sun are aligned as observed from the earth. The moon's shadow is thereby cast on the earth hence the eclipse.

Eclipse chasers, tourists, astronomers, scientists and enthusiasts of all sorts will throng this desicated landscape in their thousands to catch a glimpse of the total phase of the eclipse. Yes - a glimpse. The moon's dense shadow will be cast over a 13km wide corridor and the speed at which the moon's shadow will zoom over the land is 14,000km/hr, so the total phase of the eclipse will only last a quarter minute. Did you get that? - 15 seconds!

Turkana is calling because along the whole corridor of the total eclipse traversing Equatorial Africa and North Atlantic, Turkana is the only place that is forecast to have the best weather for the best observation of this phenomenon. So pack now and go to Turkana, for the next such phenomenon will occur in the year 2117! Through reincarnation you could be back on earth then, but probably as a termite queen.

Tom Lesarge

YOUR RIDICULOUS EXAM ANSWERS

We have introduced this section to give you a feel of the answers we get in our exams from members. Some are extremely ridiculous. Enjoy!

Q: What is endothermy?

A: Living alone.

Q: What do termites grow for food supply?

A: Grass

Q: Explain the meaning and purpose of sloughing in lizards.

A: Resting on rocks to get heat.

Q: What is an epiphyte?

A: A carnivorous insect.

EXAM DATES

Please note that following a resolution of the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June, exam fees for the bronze and silver levels have been reviewed upwards to Ksh. 4000 and Ksh. 5000 respectively.

BRONZE

30th October

27th November

SILVER

24th October

21st November

GOLD

24th – 30th November

Dates and venues for any exams to be done outside the stated dates due to demand will be announced in advance.

From 2014, membership subscriptions will change as follows following a members' resolution in the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in June:

Bronze Level members Ksh. 2500 per annum;

Silver Level members Ksh. 3500 per annum;

Gold Level members Ksh. 4000 per annum.