



In 2016, we will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Columbia Pictures award-winning film 'Born Free' based on Joy Adamson's best selling book of the same name. The charity Joy established - the Elsamere Conservation Trust - and her passion for protecting Kenya's wild animals and wild places, still continues today through the educational work of the Centre for Education in Sustainability.



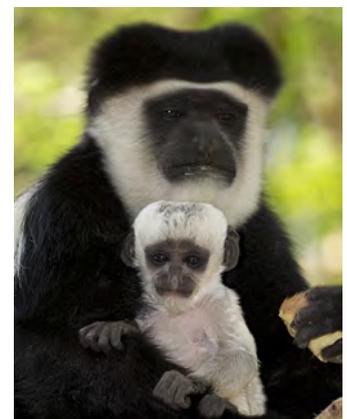
Elsamere Lodge - what our guests have said . . .

www.elsamere.com

"Elsamere has a charm that can only be found in old movies. The staff were cheerful and helpful and accommodate a food allergy for meals. During our stay we watched monkeys take over a guests table (excitement pursued), hung out with zebras while watching the sunset, woke up to a giraffe outside the window, and heard hippos munching on the lawn."

"Elsamere is a dream. These gardens, these bird songs from early morning, the hippos and giraffes at night on the lawns, the food - everything is way beyond expectations. I could stay here an entire week just sitting in the garden, watch, listen and read. The cooking was the among the best in Kenya, fresh food, very well prepared."

Seen on the Elsamere site



We have had the usual variety of game on site with giraffe numbers on the increase - not least our regular tame individual near the entrance. seen here being photographed by Charlotte and Lizzie - the two volunteers working at the education centre. The zebra are settling down again after one of their number fell prey to hyaena. Hippo are regular visitors at night (don't forget to ask for an escort when you return to your room after dinner) and with the zebra, keep the grass nice and short; no need for lawn mowers! Needless to say the Colobus monkeys continue to fascinate our visitors, especially the two new babies.

Elsamere's has been busy over the past couple of months with the Annual Open Day, the East African Teachers Course and the arrival of two volunteers from UK. In addition we installed a new biogas plant to supply the CES kitchen, donated the first half dozen solar lights to needy families and planted more seedlings in the tree nursery. CES is now actively working on plans to expand its afforestation programme, develop new projects on renewable energy and recycling, and to offer new training modules which address wildlife-human conflicts.

Annual East African Teachers Course

During September 36 senior educators spent five days at CES at a workshop that unites teachers from Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania teachers and partners organisations (Wildlife clubs of Kenya, Giraffe Centre, Uganda Wildlife Educational Centre and Malihai Clubs of Tanzania). Each year the **Elsa Conservation Trust** sponsors East African teacher training on various environmental programmes; this year, the workshop theme was '**Caring for the earth - a strategy for sustainable living**' - very appropriate in the light of our recent change of name.



Various modules were studied and discussions ranged from the cross cutting issues affecting the environment... climate change, wildlife poaching, and habitat destruction, to the roles of environmental education in schools in addressing the different aspects of environment and development; various speakers from partner organizations gave their insights. Using the whole Elsamere site and the lake shore as a classroom, the teachers participated in lectures, discussions, role plays, school & community visits, an ecological boat trip and spectacular field visits to the rich Naivasha surroundings (Hells' Gate National Park, Ndabibi Environmental Centre, Rubiri Primary School, the Olkaria Geothermal Park and the biogas unit at Gorge Farm-Green Energy Park.)

Teachers were challenged to take a key role in developing annual action plans of eco-projects, integrate them into their school calendars and implement them in both the school and the community.

What our participants thought of the course . . .

"The serenity of Elsamere is paradise, present day Eden where wildlife, humans and nature are living in harmony. The life changing modules and management by a small team doing great conservation education work for sustainable development."

Ruhiniriwa Francis William, Educationist from Uganda Wildlife Education Centre
Email: rfwilliamxtra@gmail.com

"I have learnt to be passionate about conservation of environment while realizing that human life is dependent on the environment. Just like Wangari Maathai her tales of the humming bird (I will do everything in my small ability to conserve the environment."

Buyi Ronald of Eastern Uganda Email: buyilyoburonld@yahoo.com

"Passion and selflessness of the conservationists - Mark, Anthony & Susan, has given me a challenge to initiate projects on environmental conservation in my area; listening to success stories of different participants and trainers from different countries gave me a blend of expertise for environmental conservation; long live Elsamere".

Anthony Omondi Owera, Moi Girls high school, Sindo Email address: omondianthony@yahoo.com

First solar lights given to needy families

In September we visited Kamere township to take some photos of children trying to read inside their house using a home made kerosene oil lamp. Such lights are not only inefficient, they are smoky, unhealthy and downright dangerous. We gave the eldest girl one of our affordable S20 D lights which gives up to 4 hrs of good light after being left in sunlight to charge during the day. Judge the difference for yourselves!



Thanks to a generous donation from a UK supporter, we are now able to provide another 30 or so lamps (depending on the model) to deserving families. If you'd like to consider sponsoring a solar lamp, the cost starts at £UK10 (\$US15) for a single basic lighting unit. Use of solar energy in this way offers so many benefits, enabling children to study in the evening, saving money on kerosene, and above all, helping to combat climate change which is already impacting on many rural communities. Lights are on display at Elsamere in the Lodge and the shop; if you'd like to sponsor a child, email us for details. Donations can be gift aided.

Elsamere Annual Open Day

The yearly climax of Elsamere's educational programme is the open day conducted in September every year. Schools and partner organisations are given an opportunity to showcase/share experiences & best practices in environmental education, conservation and sustainability at Elsamere grounds. Awards of recognition are given to groups/partners that have supported the centre over time. Children participate in an Elsa competition whose theme this year was " *our environment our future* ". The competition entries comprised creative poems, art work, environmental projects and essay writing.

The best schools overall this year were St Andrews Tarambete High school, from the Northern part of Lake Naivasha and Unity primary school, Kayole, Naivasha. Two flower farms, Nini farm and Deruiter EA Limited were also recognized for their kind support given through their Social Corporate Responsibility programme.

Free gas for the kitchen and good fertiliser for the garden

During September we installed a new demonstration Flexi Biogas Unit to supply gas for the kitchen.



In less than four hours Dominic and his assistant from Biogas International KE assembled the entire unit behind the CES kitchen and, after an initial test carried out by introducing some bottled gas to check for leaks, had the gas burner in the kitchen heating up water by 5.00 pm. Using a variety of plant and kitchen waste - including water hyacinth - with a little added manure, we expect to make significant savings in gas over the coming months as well as producing excellent fertiliser for our tree nursery.

Elsamere tree nursery brings on hundreds more tree seedlings



Elsamere donated 1850 trees to schools and communities during the rainy season (June-August) and over the past decade has distributed tens of thousands of trees. The tree nursery supports reforestation and rehabilitation efforts in and outside the Lake Naivasha Catchment. Various school around the catchment and those visiting the centre have benefited from this distribution. Elsamere also provides opportunities for school children to become actively involved and plant at least one tree in school and one at home. Langa Langa Primary School in Gilgil provides us with seed of diverse species to plant in our nursery. Alex hour gardener has already planted 3000 tree seedling tubes with five species and a good percentage have already germinated; 340 seedlings (white & red bottle brush, *Greviella* spp, and Nandi flame - *Acacia xanthopholea*) have already been transplanted. Funding is currently being sought for our 'Forests for the Future' programme which plans to set up satellite nurseries at key locations in the region with the aim of planting a million trees over the next five years.

Climate Change - critical talks at UN Climate Conference in Paris Nov 30 - December 11 2015

Just a reminder, should you need one, of the Paris climate summit which will attempt to produce a global agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions - talks which have major outcomes for the future of the planet. Kenya, like other sub-Saharan African countries, faces the uncertainty and potential risks of climate change. The country's fragile ecosystem will be put under intensive pressure arising from species migration due to habitat destruction. Already, almost 50% of the country's key biodiversity warehouse is at risk due to reduced habitat and other human induced pressures. Combating climate change is one of CES's major objectives.

Thanks to our volunteers and supporters

Elsamere recognises the remarkable support international schools provide for the Elsamere programmes during their field trips, particularly Premier school, Rosslyn Academy, Brookhouse School, Nairobi International School of Kenya - NISK, International School of Kenya- ISK, Greensteds Academy and many others. All their proceeds help sustain environmental conservation in local schools and surrounding communities. Thank you all for your support.

International School of Kenya grade-2p children (7 year olds) adopted a tortoise because they have been carrying out researchi about them and have been fundraising to buy one. The children have been working hard to do jobs for their parents to be sponsored to help towards the cost of rescuing the tortoise and for its upkeep. Many thanks to Miss Jo Print and the grade 2p children for supporting Elsamere's work.

We would also like to record our thanks to our volunteers at CES both from UK (Lizzie & Charlotte) and from Kenya. We recognize their timely and tireless contribution to our work especially Alex & Megna, Allan & Steve who designed the Permaculture centre, not for getting the Kamere Environmental Group who work at the tree nursery. Thanks too to both international and local schools who dedicate their time to plant trees, participate in waste management, and work in the tree nursery.