

BRIEF ON EXCURSION SITE 2022 AT THE NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK AND THE GIRAFFE CENTRE

1.0 Site Visit to Nairobi National Park

The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) conserves and manages Kenya's wildlife for the Kenyan people and the world. A team of twenty-two (22) Delegates from this year's 12th African RCE Conference visited the Nairobi National Park in Nairobi City County. The park is the "World's only Wildlife Capital" and is accessible by a short drive out of Nairobi's Central Business District.

The visitors were received by a Senior Warden at KWS and assigned a tour guide who accompanied guests to the game drive. The National Park is home to a wide variety of wildlife including the endangered black rhino, lions, leopards, cheetahs, hyenas, buffaloes, giraffes and diverse birdlife. The visitors who entered the park enjoyed a game drive in different places within the park and appreciated the biodiversity and various measures put in place in implementation of climate change action.

1.2 Brief on Climate Change Action by Mr. Ongwae - KWS Senior Warden

The world is undergoing an extinction crisis - the most rapid loss of biodiversity in the planet's history - and this loss is likely to accelerate as the climate changes. The impact of climate change on wildlife is already notable at local, regional and global levels. Kenya Wildlife Service is in the process of developing a wildlife climate change strategy for Kenya. However, various actions are on-going including declaring National Parks as protected areas hence a key action in climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Nairobi National Park is undertaking climate change mitigation and adaptation projects. This among others involves restoration of degraded areas through the planting of indigenous trees, the construction of artificial water dams and the manual removal of invasive species.

1.3 Tour of the Nairobi National Park

Delegates of the Conference were taken on a game drive and various wildlife identified including black rhinos, leopards, olive baboons, black and white colobus monkeys, buffaloes, warthogs, gazelles and bushbucks among others. The Park spearheads conservation and management

programmes of wildlife nationally and in line with the KWS vision – “Saving the last great species and places on earth for humanity” and ensure recovery of endangered species whose populations are on the threat of extinction.

1.4 Picnic Site

The Guests had an opportunity to take their meals at a strategic location overseeing the biodiversity of the park during their lunch meal. They appreciated the natural landscape and gave a positive recommendation for any visitor who would like to visit the country in future.

2.0 Visit to Giraffe Centre

Kenya’s Giraffe Centre has an extraordinary landscape and is home to the endangered Rothschild Giraffe. Through the Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) programme, the Centre is dedicated to environmental conservation by highlighting the practical benefits of conservation to people, as well as animals.

2.1 Raising Rothschild Giraffes

Breeding is one of our main programmes. The calves are then released into the wild at two to three-years-old when they are independent enough to survive. So far, more than 40 giraffes have been released into safe game parks and conservancies across the country.

2.2 Conservation Education

The Giraffe Centre received and welcomed our Delegates by giving them a talk on conservation efforts geared towards protecting wildlife and the environment. A brief about the Centre’s programmes was given by the Centre’s Senior Technical Officer. Guests learnt various environmental themes such as sustainable development, forest conservation, wetlands protection and waste management. Coupled with the thrilling experience of interacting with the giraffes, it is a trip they will never forget. Our guests were also treated to with a take away pack of resource materials for reference.

2.3 Demonstration Projects

2.3.1 Waste Management

This micro project enabled visitors to learn about waste water treatment. The effluent discharge from toilet used water is recycled and reused after going through standard processes of waste water treatment.

2.3.2 A Tree Nursery

Visitors learnt about the Centre's efforts in seed collection, sowing, potting, planting and nursery operations such as watering, pruning and weeding. Most of their tree seedlings are of indigenous nature.

3.0 Conclusion

The excursions were a breath of fresh air and educative for the visitors. The visits were relaxing especially after a week of back-to-back conference sessions. The excursion sites were very accessible and not far from each other hence making the trips convenient for our guests.