



KENIA VOLUNTARY SERVICE ORGANIZATION

WORLD HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS

FROM 14TH TO 28TH OF JULY 2018

Tsavo National Parks & Chyulu Hills Complex

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ABOUT KVSO

OUR VISION

Everyone in this world seeks to make a difference. Making a difference in a world which is as connected as ours, is just possible if we try to understand and embrace other cultures as they are. All over the world, voluntary service has been highlighted as the most impactful venture to make people experience and appreciate different cultures and traditions. It is from the same spirit that the Kenya Voluntary Service Association was formed to offer a platform to those seeking a possibility to learn from and contribute the most they can to make a difference in their lives and the lives of the people in the communities they serve.

OUR MISSION

KVSO was founded to give an opportunity to all those who want to explore the enriching field of volunteering.

Our mission is to promote peace, intercultural exchange and sustainable development through volunteering. We truly believe that each person has something to bring in the process of sharing, discovering and promoting cultures.

Our team and all our partners are involved in this wish to make things better through volunteering, and to give the chance to all of us to make a step towards action, change and empowerment.

Our community based association encourages the local community to consider its responsibility in its own development and aims to support this development through new projects, partnerships and volunteering actions.

OUR VALUES

- Respect and open-mindedness
- Sustainability and equity
- Volunteerism and non-formal education
- Empowerment and development of the local community
- Heritage and wildlife conservation, protection and preservation
- Multiculturality and peace



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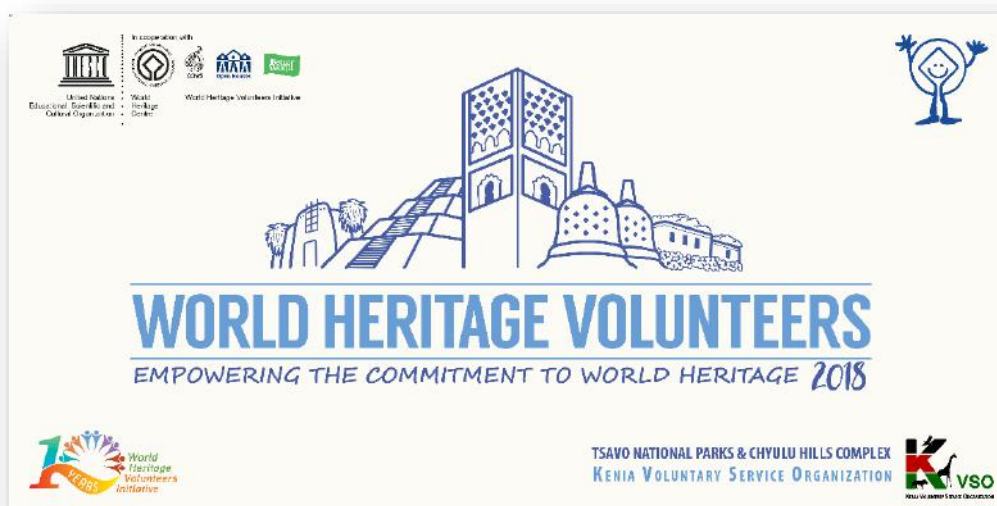
OUR PROJECT

WHY JOINING THE CAMPAIGN?

The “World Heritage in Young Hands Volunteers” program was launched by the UNESCO headquarters in Paris in 2008, to encourage young people to undertake concrete action and play an active role in the protection, preservation and promotion of the Wildlife and the World Heritage Sites.

The Forestry and Wildlife sectors form the cornerstone of Kenya’s economic foundation. Wildlife based tourism is the second largest economic sector of Kenya's economy and this tourism provides a multiplier effect in agriculture, horticulture, education, transport and communications among other sectors. To generate an annual economic growth rate of 10% is also one of the three pillars for Kenya’s vision 2030, which also aims to create a cohesive, equitable and just society based on democratic principles. Protecting and preserving Kenya’s rich experience and diverse nature, cultures and traditions is therefore not only vital to attract tourists and support the economy, but also to ensure the cohesion of our society in general.

The UNESCO World Heritage Volunteer Program stimulates significant changes in the relation of individuals, communities, wildlife and nature and thereby contributes to a major shift in the people’s mentalities towards a shared sense of ownership and stewardship of our cultural and natural heritage.





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TSAVO NATIONAL PARKS & CHYULU HILLS COMPLEX

Tsavo National Parks and Chyulu Hills are not only one of the most important expressions of Kenya's natural and cultural diversity, but also enlisted on the UNESCO tentative list of world heritage sites. As much as they are protected and guarded as an attraction for tourists, they are also endangered due to ongoing human-wildlife conflicts. Since heritage sites can power both local and national economic development, the World Heritage Volunteer Project provides a rare opportunity to retool current indicators and evaluations by considering initiatives that support sustainable development.

The World Heritage Volunteer Program in Tsavo National Park was comprised of a work camp and a workshop where the volunteers were solidly involved in awareness-raising and preservation activities under the supervision of KWS and the local communities.

The relevance of these activities were in line with the international fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) and the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered species of Wild fauna and flora (CITES) where in a meeting in South Africa, it was discussed that there was great need to end rampant illegal wildlife trade and encourage active youth involvement in wildlife protection.

OBJECTIVES

- ✓ Conservation, protection and rehabilitation of the Tsavo World Heritage Site.
- ✓ Create awareness on the importance of safeguarding, promoting and preservation of the Game reserve.
- ✓ Use Education as a tool to promote heritage conservation.
- ✓ Promotion of Culture.
- ✓ Maintaining a rich biodiversity that benefits the present and future generation and ecosystem functions.



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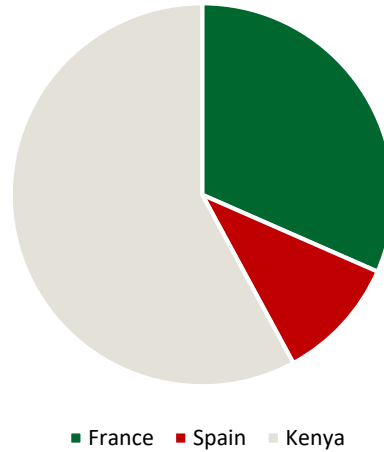
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KVSO put in immense efforts in the promotion of the camp through different channels such as Facebook, Twitter, website & Instagram

These communication campaign had a wide viewership in priority areas such as Western Europe where we got a wide response from countries such as; France, Spain, Italy and Great Britain. Some last minute cancellations explained the strong participation of French and Spanish volunteers in this

Participants from





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PROGRAMME

The program was based on two main parts: on one hand we went theoretical, which allowed us to acquire knowledge on the current situation of the World Heritage site, its unique function in the ecosystem, challenges such as the human-wildlife conflict, poaching and how these challenges could be met and their main causes.

Following many meetings and negotiations to organise this World Heritage Volunteers camp, these 14 days mainly focused on Tsavo National Parks, East and West. At the Chyulu Hills Complex we planned various activities too with the Senior Warden in charge but due to logistical challenges in terms of transportation, this was not realized.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

- ✓ Training young world heritage ambassadors.
- ✓ Door-to-door awareness-raising campaigns, tree planting sessions
- ✓ Discussions and debates to develop the symbolic dimension of Tsavo World Heritage site and create a sense of ownership by the local population.
- ✓ Running classroom programs related to the promotion and preservation of the world heritage site
- ✓ Field games, sports, competitions
- ✓ Cultural exchange between the local and international volunteers.
- ✓ Create awareness on the work of national commissions, the Kenya UNESCO youth forum and its activities.
- ✓ Community outreach on wildlife education
- ✓ Meetings with the local authorities to help assemble the villagers and the community as a whole.
- ✓ Coordination of the wildlife education programme with the Kenya wildlife service (KWS)



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The project purpose was to create an enabling environment in which the key partners, which were The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Tsavo East Community Development Initiative (TECDI), the Kenya UNESCO Youth Forum and Kenia Voluntary Service Organization, acted in a sustainable comradeship approach where they both mobilized and directed human and financial resources towards environmental conservation and cross-culture-learning that improved massively on the quality of life and livelihoods of the people and animals in Tsavo National Parks.

More than reaching the project objectives, KVSO succeeded in bringing together international, national and local stakeholders in the implementation of a worldwide known initiative.

On behalf of all our volunteers and our team, we would like to send a special thank you to Kenya Wildlife Service for the great support we received during the entire duration of the World Heritage Volunteers project. Its expertise and wise guidance was the reason of the success of this UNESCO volunteers camp in Tsavo National Parks.

We are thankful to all our partners, our friends and our volunteers who helped us to organise this World Heritage Volunteers camp in Tsavo National Parks. We are glad to be the first organization in Kenya to bring local and international volunteers in Tsavo National Parks to work for the betterment of the protection and the preservation of our heritage and our wildlife.

OUR PARTNERS





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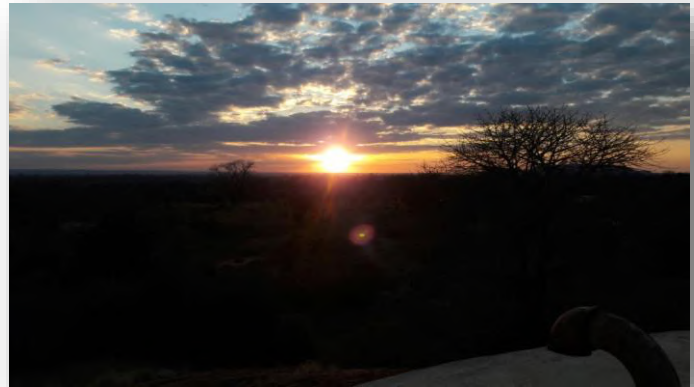
WORLD HERITAGE VOLUNTEERS 2018

TSAVO NATIONAL PARKS & CHYULU HILLS COMPLEX

DAY 1

All volunteers were in Kenya by this day and there was a bit of orientation and debriefing before travelling to the project site.

We organised some getting-to-know each other activities and ice-breakers all along that day to ensure a positive group dynamic for the rest of the project.



DAY 2

The group spent the whole day travelling since Tsavo National Parks is quite far from Nairobi. The trip was the occasion to enjoy name games and other activities, contributing to making the trip an unforgettable moment.





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DAY 3



So many meetings and activities happened during this 3rd day that launched officially the WHV Tsavo National Parks & Chyulu Hills Complex with the opening ceremony organised in conjunction with the Kenya Wildlife Service.



The group volunteers met the village representatives: administrators, head doctor at the dispensary and the head chief at the occasion of a formal ceremony welcoming the WHV program in the village.

Then, they were later invited to visit the TECDI association, one of the main partners of this project, with their library and museum on Kamba people history and heritage.

To complete this day, volunteers all gathered to enjoy the Kamba traditional dance thus sharing an intercultural moment with the local community and learning from this unique intangible heritage.

They finally visited a water recovery station meant to supply water for the whole village that was drilled by KWS in the 80's but remains a challenge when there are shortage of rains. Volunteers asked many questions about water management and treatment. It was further explained by the village experts to their fulfilment.

DAY 4

On this day, our volunteers worked on traditional eco-construction for the construction of a science laboratory of kasaala secondary school, made of sand, gravel and brick.



After helping for the construction of the building, volunteers gathered for a football and volleyball play and played a lot with the local students.

After lunch, some of the volunteers were invited to address the secondary school students on the importance of education and the role of education in their own empowerment and fulfilment. Volunteers shared their experiences and learnt a lot from the reflections of the Kenyan young people. They further elaborated on the need to safeguard the wildlife since everyone travelled from Europe and all over the world to come see these unique animals.

There is no better way to use song and dance to share emotions and this is how the students thanked the group for coming. The entire group shared a great moment with songs and dances led by the local students.





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DAY 5

The day started with farming to help some members of the local community with vegetable farming and increase their vegetable productions. The volunteers also had a chance to learn how to create animal wooden sculptures with traditional wood chipping techniques.

The main part of the day was then used to raise awareness on wildlife protection and education at the main village square in Kasaala village. In order to reach a larger audience, the local authorities comprising of the chief, sub-chief, village elders and youth leaders organized a community gathering where the volunteers and the KWS team headed by one Joseph Kavi elaborated on the need to minimize and possibly stop Human Wildlife Conflict and poaching. The volunteers had a chance to also learn about the challenges the people face in the area and while at Kasaala secondary some of them sponsored some of the needy students with one year school fees to enable them continue with their education without any hitches. They also addressed the local community with creative and impactful speeches meant to insist of using education as a tool for societal emancipation.





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DAY 6



Volunteers followed a foot patrol with the Kenya Wildlife Service warden (KWS), Mr. Joseph Kavi and helped with clearing the Northern sector of the Tsavo East National Park game reserve perimeter fence that is located in Ithumba. They also learnt about the role of the local organisations meant to maintain and manage the park and its borders to ensure wildlife protection.





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DAY 7

On this day, volunteers had time to share some moments with the local community. They shared on their day to day lives, how it felt to cook using 3 stones and firewood, a taste of the local village dances/festivals and a taste of their language. They also had a walk in the local forest, fished and joined a traditional celebration 'goat slaughter' meant to thank the volunteers for their presence with the villagers. They prepared dinner all together, under the supervision of the Kenyan volunteers who took this opportunity to share their skills to prepare the local food.

They later gathered around the bone fire at the end of the day to hear the story telling sessions as it was done during the olden days and afterwards shared on their feedbacks after this day full of surprises and cultural displays.





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DAY 8

It was a day for the volunteers to visit and interact with the KWS officers at their Ithumba quarters where they had a lengthy session on Wildlife and heritage and the history of the Tsavo national parks. The day was quite interesting in that they had interactions with the officers while some of them joined them in games such as draft and later the whole group helped in maintaining the camp at Kenya Wildlife Service.



DAY 9



Volunteers had a chance to visit the David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust who hosted us for a session on wildlife protection and elephant preservation.

Volunteers had a chance to learn how orphaned elephants were being accommodated and nurtured through the feeding program that rescues elephant orphans, maimed adult elephants and young cubs who are later released in the wild when they are well and fairly recovered.

The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust was founded in 1977 with the aim to protect our rich wildlife and more specifically the endangered elephants and rhinos. At the heart of the DSWT'S conservation activities, we find the Orphan's Project that was visited by the volunteers and where they had a chance to feed the young elephants. More than just a rescuing centre, this project aims to raise awareness on the devastating effects of poaching and the benefits of protecting these animals.

So far, the organisation had hand-raised over 150 elephants and reached its wildlife conservation goals by reintegrating many of them in their natural environment.

This project would not be possible without the dedication of their team and was a great lesson for our volunteers to learn from. Some of the volunteers had a chance to sponsor the young elephants.

Raising awareness on this issue is one of the missions of KVS O that aims to protect and preserve our heritage and our unique wildlife.

www.sheldrickwildlifetrust.org



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DAY 10

KVSO volunteers took part in the WHV educational part of the program where they engaged students from Kaasala secondary school on the need to be at the forefront in wildlife conservation, preservation and protection around Tsavo East National Park.

Volunteers introduced themselves in front of the educational team of the school and later at the parade in front of all the students from the school. They made speeches to raise awareness on sustainable development and environmental protection.

They shared lunch with the local students and had a lovely time mingling with the students to an extent of having an intercultural exchange time sharing on traditions, climate, politics, history and language from their own countries.





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DAY 11

On this day, the KVS World Heritage Volunteers were involved on a door to door heritage campaign exercise to ensure that the message of wildlife protection and preservation was well received.



They took the opportunity to learn from this door-to-door exercise to join a campaign organised by the Community Health Workers of Kasaala, meant to check the health of the youngest ones of the community. They visited houses and talked to their parents to make sure that children were vaccinated and had the best sanitary conditions possible. The economy in this part of the country is quite weak and the local families have to struggle hard to maintain a sustainable livelihood. People from this part of the country still use flying toilets; there is a huge cholera outbreak and illiteracy is at its all time high. Volunteers had to face the reality of really tough life conditions and lack of viable opportunities for this community. It was also a platform to learn on how most communities especially in the semi arid areas like Kasaala depend wholly on agriculture.



DAY 12



A stray lion had crossed from the park to the community. Our volunteers together with the Kenya Wildlife Service officers carrying the lion cage trap were trying to trap it and get it back to the Tsavo National Park. It had killed some cows and goats and caused havoc in the community.



Wildlife can sometimes interfere with the local community and be seen as a threat. This is why wildlife education is important. Our volunteers participated in this effort of trying to understand each and everyone's reasons in order to find the best compromise for a sustainable development and co-existence with the wild.



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DAY 13

On this last day, the group had a meeting with the warden of the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Kasaala headmistress made an analysis of their experience since they debuted in Tsavo east national park. From theoretical to practical activities, our volunteers understood the role of each actor in this unique and outstanding heritage that is Tsavo National Parks. They shared their knowledge about wildlife protection and preservation and acknowledged that they learnt a lot from the different experiences they had during this camp.

The last activity of this camp was the tracking of animal population in the park together with the Kenya Wildlife Service officers. This common activity gave the end of the practical activities of this first World Heritage Volunteers camp in Tsavo National Parks and Chyulu Hills Complex.





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DAY 14

It was time to leave this amazing Tsavo National Parks and go back to Nairobi. Most of the volunteers were in tears since the bond that had been created amongst them was one that they termed unbreakable.

For some volunteers, it was just a step towards new volunteering projects with KVSO , others to pore more into the field of wildlife and heritage conservation and for some others, it was the moment to go back and look back at all the things they discovered in Kenya during the World Heritage Volunteers camp. Our volunteers certainly met new friends, learnt new knowledge and discovered a new culture but more than anything, they learnt to accept and to respect intercultural diversity through volunteering.





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COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN DURING THE CAMP

We put a lot of efforts to promote the camp during these 14 days in order to increase the impact of the camp at the national and international level. Thanks to all our partners and volunteers for following us on our channels!





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CONCLUSION

Our volunteers appreciated all the activities that had been conducted by the experts who joined the project and they learnt a lot from this experience. This knowledge will be of great impact for their own fulfilment and for the betterment of their own communities, by implementing new projects in their own countries.

More than anything, they are all willing to visit Kenya again and participate in new projects that involve preservation, conservation and the protection of our wildlife. We are happy to say that we reached our main objective by encouraging our volunteers to become the ambassadors of our heritage, our traditions and our country.

Also through many sessions and discussions we encouraged our volunteers to develop this interest of volunteering and to get involved in other organizations, all around the world, promoting at the same time the great work that is done by the network through CCIVS and the members.

Hosting this first World Heritage Volunteers camp under the umbrella of KVSO was a great opportunity to prove our motivation and our professionalism in welcoming volunteers from all over the world and offering innovative projects, based on the empowerment of our volunteers, encouraging them to become not only ambassadors of our territories but also decision makers in their own countries, allowing them to implement ideas they had during the camp. More than sharing about culture, heritage and traditions, the camp was a place to discuss stereotypes, prejudices about Africa and to confront these images with their realities.

Although we had a few challenges on transport due to the budgetary deficit, we tried to make the camp as exciting, informative and inspirational as it was possible.

Volunteers faced cultural shocks and took this opportunity to reiterate and raise more awareness on the strength of our diversity and the importance of being open minded in a world that needs more than anything that people understand each other and make the best of our multi-culturalism.

We sincerely thank all our partners, our volunteers and the experts who joined the project. The contribution of each single person is of great importance for us and means a lot for the development of Kenia Voluntary Service Organisation. The success of this project is the result of the involvement of many people, willing to make a change in our community and to raise awareness on our heritage, tangible or intangible, cultural or natural.



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