

Eco News from



Malewa Wildlife Lodge + Kigio Wildlife Camp

Outstanding Eco-lodges in the heart of the Great Rift Valley



Best New Safari Camp
Best Ecological Safari Camp
Best Safari Camp Cuisine

Newsletter July 2009

Kigio Matters

On our endeavor to spread the word about environmental conservation, we have gone a step forward to host school children of ages between 6-12yrs. Apart from local school groups, so far 2 groups of 22 students each from Aga Khan Junior Academy, Nairobi have been hosted at Kigio. The students learnt about utilization and conservation of natural resources, use of solar as a source of energy, water conservation and recycling. Hopefully, several seeds have been planted and many of the keen participants will grow into committed conservationists.



Budding conservationists make beads from old magazine paper

Wildlife Censusing



The annual Kigio wildlife census took place on the 20th May 2009, with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) rangers in our conservancy. The two KWS training institute trainees who were hosted in our camp for six months field research, completed their studies successfully and submitted their report.

The wildlife population was found to be stable and well balanced, and the main aim was to get the correct number of Rothschild giraffes, the endangered species which was translocated from Lake Nakuru National Park to our conservancy mainly for breeding. Eight giraffes were introduced in 2002 and as per the census; the number has risen to 27, indicating the success of the program and the Conservancy for its suitable habitat. The conservancy of 3,500 acres can only hold 30 giraffes, therefore only three more to go before we hit our target and relocate ten of them, especially the males.

All 27 giraffes now have names and are identifiable by birth marks. In addition we have a complete list of plant, wildlife and birdlife species at <http://www.kigio.com/jpg/Species List.pdf>

The Sad Demise of the Organic Farm and Newly Planted Trees

It is with great sadness that we report the demise of the Lamwe Organic Farm, which the lodges were supporting, and the donated trees planted at a local school. This is due to the prolonged dry weather conditions in Kenya and unavailability of a reliable water source in the area. We have realised that without a water borehole the area's villagers will continue to struggle to grow any food or trees successfully.

We would like to raise USDollars 35,000 for a borehole and a piping system that would benefit 3 local villages with over 1000 residents and thus stop the endless cycle of poverty and hunger in the area. If you would like to donate towards the Borehole for Kigio Community Project, then please email conservation@kigio.com. We will be unable to initiate the project until all the funds are raised.



Community Eco Projects

Fortunately for some members of the community we have other ongoing projects we support that are not reliant on water.

Maua womens' group which makes beautiful jewellery out of old magazines and milk cartons is one of the most successful projects we support. Many guests have bought up to 10 necklaces or bracelets each when they realise how much difference each piece of jewellery makes to the community.

Our lodges only sell what is made by the local community and the sales are helping the group members purchase food and clothing and send their children to school.

Necklaces made from old magazine paper



Community Tours

Scheduled community tours commenced in January and nearly 200 guests have taken the tours. Guests visit three community groups whom we work closely with - Gilgil Spinners and Weavers, Tumaini Widows group (baskets) and Maua Women's' group (jewellery).

Each visit takes place at the home of one of the group members so that guests can also understand the way of life in rural Africa. They learn how to make baskets from Sisal, necklaces from old magazines and rugs from local hand-dyed wool using hand-made looms. These interactive visits have had guests in tears (including men!) and fits of laughter. Many have formed an emotional bond with the communities and commented on the visit being spiritually uplifting and their safari a lot more fulfilling. All the sales from this merchandise are shared between the women and some saved in the fund for future community projects.

Kigio offers a very simple yet very effective ecotourism experience for visitors, one that gently engages the guests in all aspects of community, conservation and environment. It leaves a lasting impression on guests. You can find some of the guest comments at <http://www.kigio.com/guest link.htm>.



Guests learn to make baskets out of raw sisal

Staff Profiles

Virginia is a guest room attendant at the lodge, servicing guest rooms and public areas. She, like several other lodge staff members, is from the neighbouring Mwitumberia community. Virginia also sorts waste into recyclables, compost and waste. This is one of the ways we encourage our staff to participate in environmental conservation.

Virginia Wanjiru



1 Ton of Plastics Less

By encouraging guests to refill their water bottles in their room, we estimate we will use 1 ton of plastics less every year. The complimentary refill is from 20 liter recyclable water containers. Those who complain are charged for the new bottles!



Malewa Leek & Sweet Corn Quiche

Pastry Dough:

Ingredients:

- " 1 Cup white flour
- " 2.5 Table spoon Whole meal flour
- " 100gms Butter
- " 3 teaspoons Sesame seeds(Toasted)
- " 1 Egg yolk
- " 4 Teaspoons water
- " 80gms Extra butter

Vegetable Filling:

Ingredients:

- " 1 Kg Chopped Leeks
- " 325gms Sweet Corn
- " 125gms button Mushroom
- " 80gms Cheddar Cheese
- " 250ml double cream
- " 2 Eggs
- " 2 cloves of Garlic
- " 1.5 teaspoons mixed herbs
- " A pinch of Spanish Paprika



Method:

1. Grease a 23cm flan tin
2. Sift flour through a fine sieve into a bowl
3. Add butter in the flour, stir in the Sesame seeds
4. Add the egg yolk and water to mix to a firm dough
5. Refrigerate the dough for 30 minutes
6. Roll the pastry, large enough to cover the flan tin
7. Lift pastry into the flan tin, ease into sides and trim edges
8. Place tin on an oven tray, line the pastry with grease proof paper.
9. Fill the pastry with any pulse and bake it for about 8 minutes or until browned
10. Cool the paste
11. Sprinkle grated cheese in the pastry case
12. Heat extra butter in a pan, add chopped leeks, garlic and mixed herbs until the leeks are soft.
13. Stir in Sweet Corn and chopped Mushroom
14. Add double cream, seasoning and cook for about 5 minutes.
15. Add a little of the grated cheddar cheese and remove from heat
16. Cool and then add whole eggs
17. Put the mixture into the pasty case and sprinkle more cheddar cheese and top with Spanish Paprika
18. Bake the mixture until golden brown

Serve the Quiche hot or cold with salads



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