



Scientific research has met four objectives –

1. Seven adult male lesser flamingos satellite tracked, yielding new data about their use of lakes and frequency of movements

Map labels: Baringo, Bogoria, Nakuru, Natron, Eyasi, Bahi Swamp, Kirjirit Swamp, Elmenteita, Naivasha, Masinga Reservoir, Magadi, Embagal Crater Lake, Manyara.

2. The three key Kenyan flamingo lakes - Bogoria, Elmenteita and Nakuru - intensively monitored over three years to provide new insights into their limnological stability and flamingo use of them.



QuickTime™ and a Photo - JPEG decompressor are needed to see this picture.

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3. Causes of past flamingo mass-mortality events investigated through post-mortems; flamingo health through morphometric analysis and blood sampling. Preliminary conclusions are that mortalities are not caused by direct pollution, as had been feared.



4. The biodiversity of Lake Bogoria National Reserve quantified for dragonflies & damselflies, moths, birds, beetles, flowering plants and grasses



The local communities have been assisted in four ways –



1. Three short films in Swahili made with local farmers, for them, about sustainable farming



2. Local people trained in ecotourism skills



3. Langstroth bee hives made and benefits of their use disseminated



4. One new laboratory brought to Baringo District with enough equipment to rehabilitate existing labs at three other Rift Valley lakes.

Capacity-building has been at four levels amongst project partners –



1. Two postgraduates trained (1 Darwin Fellow, other M.Sc.)



2. Eight undergraduates trained (2 f-t in Nairobi & Mweka; 6 Leicester D-L)



3. Over twenty attended intensive 2-week training as part of Earthwatch field research camps at two soda lakes



4. Over 100 young professionals from 3 East African countries trained on 1-week field workshops in conservation issues - "Ecosystem Health" "Taxonomy for Biodiversity Conservation" and "Ramsar Management Plans".



Educational work has reached over 2000 local children in nursery (2), primary (9) and secondary (2) schools –

1. All schools adopted an animal logo, incorporated into headed notepaper, to promote local identity. Wall maps also given to all.



2. Secondary schools given microscopes and computers. Top pupils visited each research camp. Earthwatch Teacher Fellows took classes.



3. Primary schools given wall posters and work books.



4. Story books written and produced to bring flamingo biology and conservation into pupils lives



5. Films made with them, for them, singing songs and reciting poems about conservation and water

What next?

2006-8

Soda lake surveys Kenya + Tanzania together

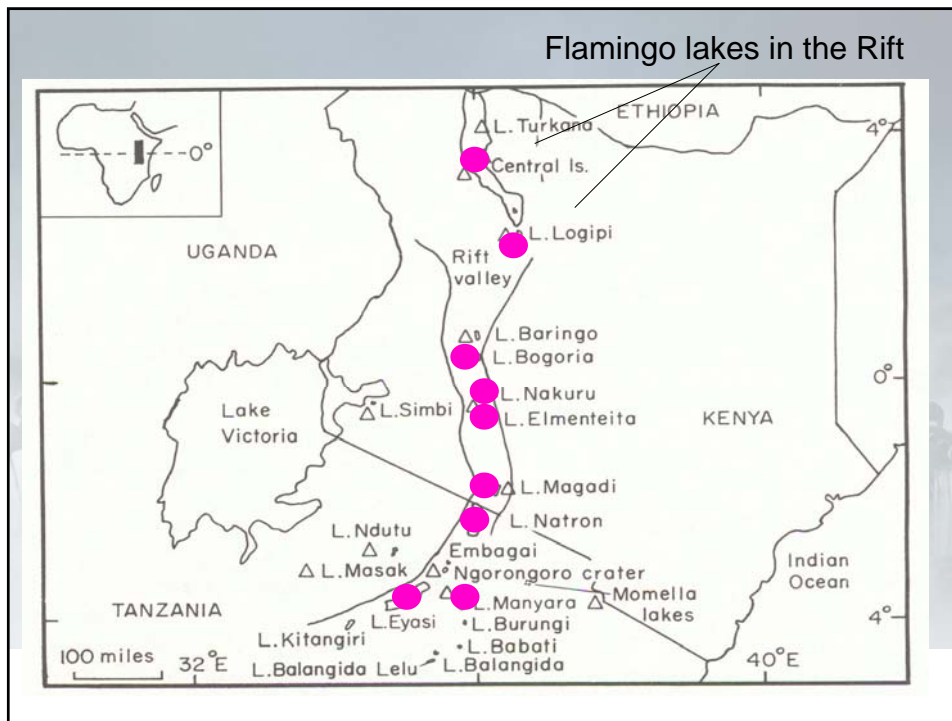
Three “Earthwatch” training camps - Elmenteita (2007),
Shompole (Natron & Magadi; 2007), Manyara (2008)

1-day community workshop at beginning and end of each camp

Scientific themes developed and tested further

Education extended down the Rift (book 3 & beyond)

Films extended (from ‘Naivasha series’ to ‘Soda Series’)



March 2007 – 1st 16-day team at Lake Elmenteita. Research focus - ecosystem structure and the alternative feeding strategies of flamingos on shallow water benthic diatoms

August 2007 – 2nd 16-day team at Shompole (Lake Natron & Lake Magadi). Research focus - ecosystem structure in most extreme saline lakes.

March 2008 – 3rd 16-day team at Lake Manyara. Research focus - ecosystem dynamics and history of this shallow lake.

Overall research foci - samples of all lake waters for analysis of cyanobacterial toxins and presence of infectious diseases.

Contact:

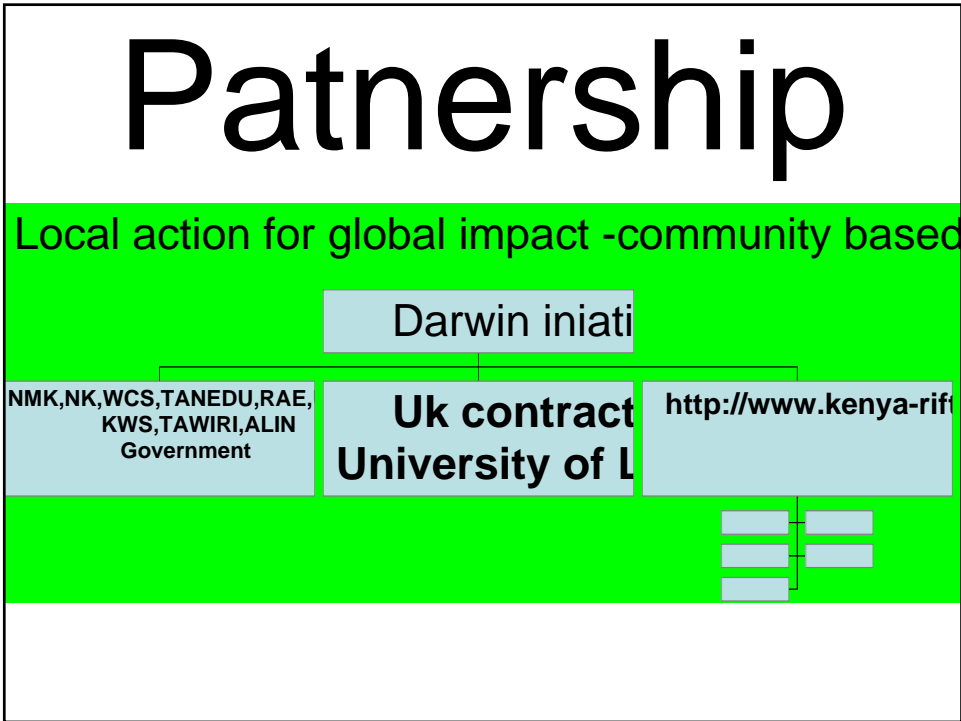
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DARWIN INIATIVE -LOCAL ACTION FOR GLOBAL IMPACT -COMMUNITY BASED BIODIVERSTY CONSERVATION FILMS

- Funded in 2006 after the initial made in Bogoria by Richard Brooks (Living planet productions)BBC Nature history freelancer
- His objective is to train young conservationist so called "Bright green sparks" in Richs philosophy.
- Maji ni uhai(water is life) with Ben please and other patners about the flow of the Ruaha Basin with stake holders ,Schools and communities.
- Awarded Film makers for conservation prize at wild screen festival 2006

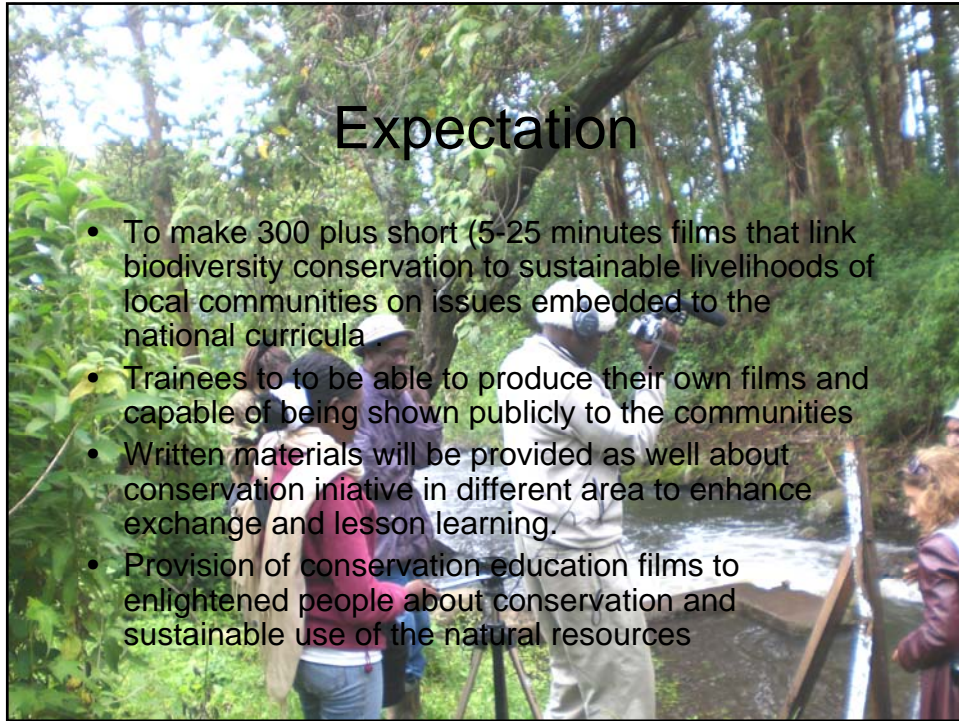
Project progress



- It started in 01/10/2007 and with two themes
(1)planning and start up meetings
(2)commencing evaluation of film impact.K.I.E,TAWIRI Conference 1st Wk Dec.
- All the partners have nominated members to the trainings Olkirimatian,Mkuru ,Lakes Naivasha & Bogoria
- Evaluating maji ni uhai film in Kenya and TZ

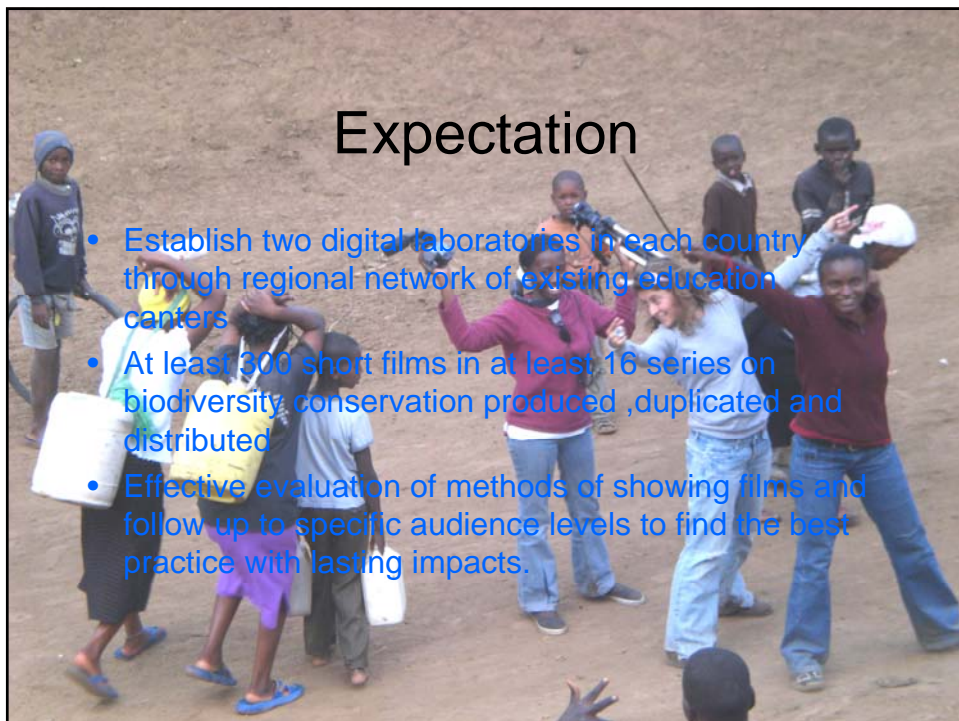
Expectations

- Expect to produce a total of 28 short films plus more through loaning of the equipments
- Target training 36-48 individuals through priority topics identified by K.I.E ,NK & other patners to be in line with current curriculums in schools and lifestyle of the people .

A photograph showing a lush green forest with a stream flowing through it. In the foreground, a person is operating a camera on a tripod. Other people are visible in the background, some looking towards the camera. The scene is bright and natural.

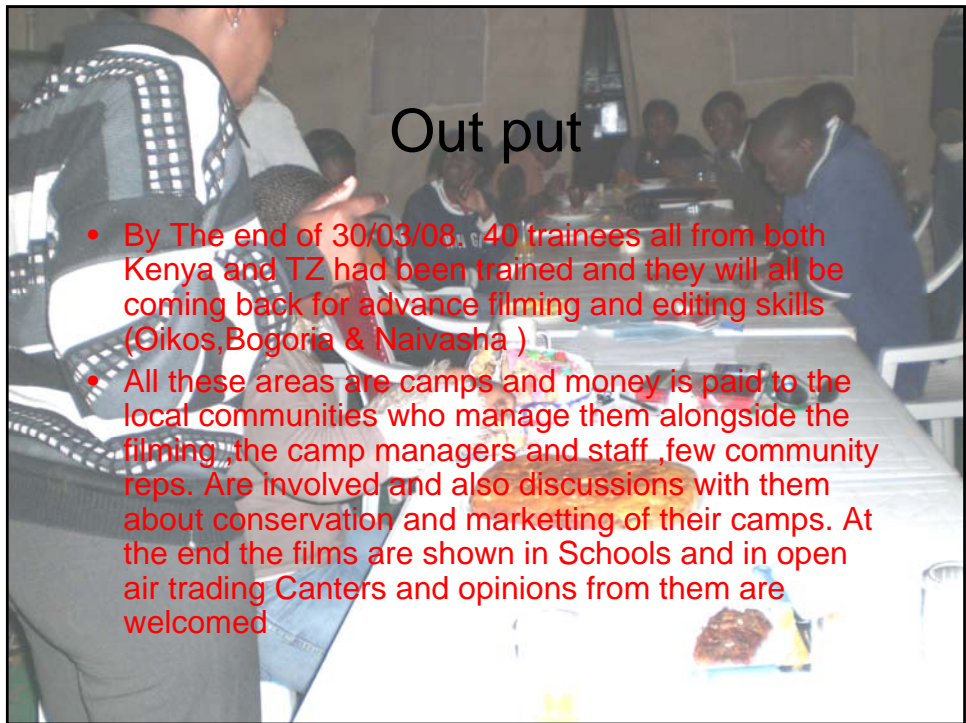
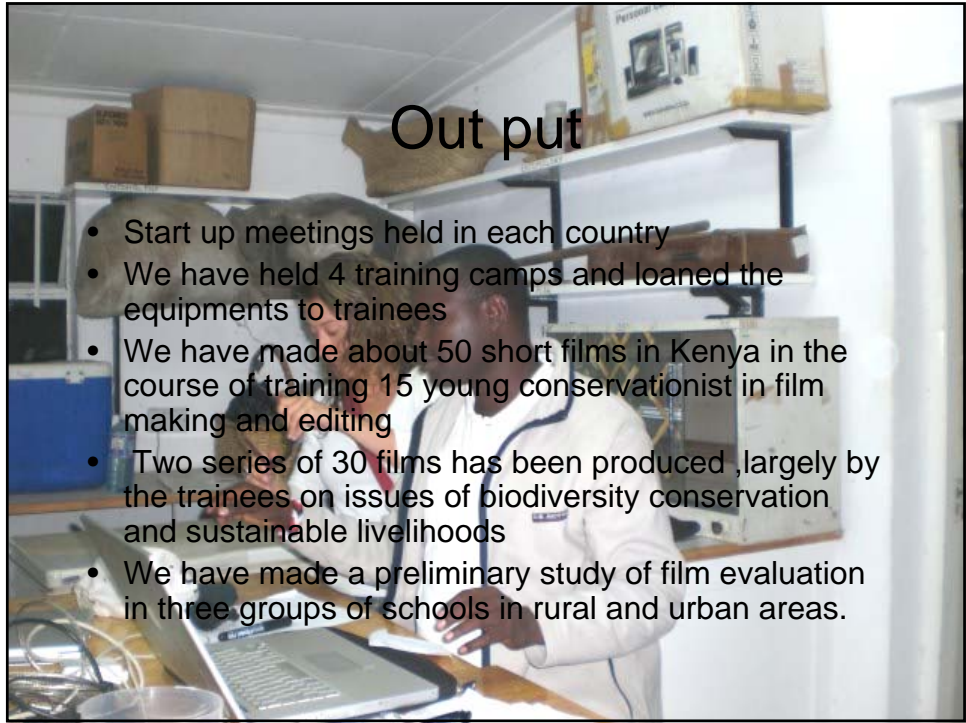
Expectation

- To make 300 plus short (5-25 minutes) films that link biodiversity conservation to sustainable livelihoods of local communities on issues embedded to the national curricula.
- Trainees to be able to produce their own films and capable of being shown publicly to the communities
- Written materials will be provided as well about conservation initiative in different areas to enhance exchange and lesson learning.
- Provision of conservation education films to enlighten people about conservation and sustainable use of the natural resources

A photograph of a group of people, including children and adults, in a dirt area. Some people are holding up their hands or objects, possibly in a celebratory or educational context. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

Expectation

- Establish two digital laboratories in each country through regional network of existing education centers
- At least 300 short films in at least 16 series on biodiversity conservation produced, duplicated and distributed
- Effective evaluation of methods of showing films and follow up to specific audience levels to find the best practice with lasting impacts.



- AHSANTE SANA