



KPSGA

NEWSLETTER

December 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE SECRETARIAT

As the year 2013 draws to a close and the curtains come down on our Kenya@50 celebrations, let us reflect on our contributions as guides to making our country a better place for us, our visitors and generations to come. We are in a unique position to promote prudent stewardship of our natural and cultural heritage by influencing others, such as our visitors not just through educating them but by taking decisions and displaying actions and behaviours congruent with the values we espouse as members of this association. So far this year we have admitted 212 new members to the association. While we take this opportunity to welcome them to the association, let us also take it upon ourselves as older members of the association to guide the new members in the field and mentor them to grow in the right direction.

This year we bid farewell to two of our members of the Board of Directors Kristina Rogers and Peter Silvester. We would like to sincerely thank them for their selfless dedication to the development of the association over the years. Through the AGM held in June, Preston Mutinda and Edwin Selempo were elected to take up their places. We congratulate these two new members on their election and warmly welcome them to the Board and wish them a productive tenure.

KPSGA is grateful to our partners for our achievements this year. We got the following new corporate sponsors and would like to thank them for their support and steadfast focus on ethics in guiding: Cottar's 1920's Camp, Saruni Camps, Kicheche Camps, Africa House, Cheli & Peacock and Asilia Africa. We are also grateful for the continued support of our old corporate sponsors namely, Origins Safaris, Royal African Safaris,

Southern Cross Safaris, Game Watchers Safaris, The Tamarind Group and Safari Link Aviation.

Finally, we thank you all for your commitment to the ideals of the association in the execution of your mandates and look forward to more commitment in the year ahead.

Tom Lesarge
Chief Executive Officer

BUSH MATTERS

ROAN ANTELOPE IN THE MASAI MARA

For two days, from 24th June 2013, we were treated to a rare sighting of a Roan antelope in the Masai Mara. The antelope, a male, was first sighted near Roan hill to the south of the reserve, just North of Sand river. Now the hill named after this antelope has once again reclaimed its name!

The antelope moved from the area where it was first sighted northwards into the central plains, then Burringat and thereafter crossed the Talek River north, where he settled among some Topi. However, I think he may not stay here for long because of disturbance since the place is a high use zone and many people also are coming to the area to see the rare animal.

Roan antelopes used to occur in the Mara until the early 90s (1993 to be precise, according to Brian Heath, the CEO Mara Conservancy) when the last one was sighted on the Oloololo Escarpment. They used to be found here but since they used to move outside the reserve, they became highly susceptible to poaching. Remaining Roan Antelope in South and western Kenya, are to be found in Lambwe valley, near Lake Victoria. Most believe that these animals used to migrate between the Mara and their current stronghold, the Lambwe Valley at some point when there was an open corridor. This corridor has sadly been eaten up by human habitation. I think even the one in the Mara now, may have strayed from

the Lambwe Valley into Northern Serengeti, then moved northwards into the Mara.

The Roan antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*) is one of the largest species of antelope. They measure 190–240 cm (75–94 in) from the head to the base of tail. The tail measures 37–48 cm (15–19 in). The body mass of males is 242–300 kg (530–660 lb) and of that of females is 223–280 kg (490–620 lb).



The height at the shoulder of this species is typically around 130–140 cm (51–55 in). Named for their roan colour (a reddish brown), they have lighter underbellies, white eyebrows and cheeks and black faces, which are lighter in females. They have short, erect manes, very light beards and prominent red nostrils. The horns are ringed and can reach a metre long in males and are slightly shorter in females. They arch backwards slightly. They are similar in appearance to sable antelope and can be confused where their ranges overlap, but Sable antelope males are darker, being black rather than dark brown.

Roan antelope are found in woodland and grassland savanna, mainly in the tropical and subtropical grasslands, savannas, and shrublands biome, which range in tree density from forest with a grassy understorey to lightly wooded grasslands. They form harems of five to fifteen animals with a dominant male. Roan antelope commonly fight for dominance over the harems.

Paul Kirui

Gold Level Guide

WILD SURPRISES

What really impresses me as a guide is that you never know what you will see in your next safari or game drive. You make a plan and go out to execute it with high expectations, but nature delivers more than you expected. Early this year, when doing what I love most in Maasai Mara, guiding, a fellow guide at Rekeru Camp alerted me to a sighting he said was unusual. I could not get him to tell me what it was, but instead asked me to get to where he was as see for myself firsthand. I knew its must be something out of this world. I informed my guests that we were going to take a detour from our planned route and see what my colleague had spotted. As we approached the sighting my guests and I scanned the surroundings for some big game and listened out for some sounds, but alas it was all quiet except for the ever present bird chirping.

I knew it could be something small on the ground. Sure enough it was not any big game, but the game in the grass was titanic. A Black-necked Spitting Cobra (*Naja nigricolis*) was swallowing a Puff Adder(*Bitis arietans*)!



As we marvelled at the sighting, I could not stop thanking myself for having a camera at hand to capture the moment, which many did not believe until they saw the picture.

Onesmus Irungu
Silver Level Guide

YOUR RIDICULOUS EXAM ANSWERS



Enjoy!

Q: Name four members of the order Sauria.

A: Sakuye, Orma, Rendille and Gabra.

Q: Name two Prosimian species of different families found in Kenya?

A: Islamic and Hindus

Q: What kind of symbiotic relationship exists between greater honey guides and barbets.

A: Sound and colour of feathers.

Q: What is meant by the statement that the giraffe's tongue is prehensile?

A: It does not feel pain.



EXAM DATES FOR 2014

Please note that following a resolution of the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) in June, exam fees for the bronze and silver levels have been reviewed upwards to Ksh. 4000 and Ksh. 5000 respectively.

BRONZE

27 th January	26 th February	26 th March	30 th April
28 th May	25 th June	30 th July	27 th August
24 th September	29 th October	26 th November	

SILVER

20 th February	20 th March	17 th April	22 nd May
19 th June	18 th September	23 rd October	20 th November

GOLD

1 st to 3 rd May	6 th to 8 th November
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Dates and venues for any exams to be done outside the stated dates will be announced in advance.

From 2014, membership subscriptions will change as follows following a members' resolution in the last Annual General Meeting (AGM) held in June:

Bronze Level members Ksh. 2500 per annum;

Silver Level members Ksh. 3500 per annum;

Gold Level members Ksh. 4000 per annum.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

We wish all our christian members a merry christmas and all of you a very prosperous New Year.

