

Richard Long & Co

INSOLVENCY · INVESTIGATION · ASSET RECOVERY

CASTLEGATE HOUSE
36 CASTLE STREET
HERTFORD
HERTS SG14 1HH
TEL: 01992 503372
FAX: 01992 503373
www.richardlong.co.uk

22 February 2022



Girls outside their new dormitory at Enkereri Primary School

“CHALK WOULD BE A MIRACLE”

It is two years since we were in the Mara and we have really missed seeing the schools, pupils, medical and maternity centre and all our friends. Not to mention the beautiful landscape and wildlife of the Maasai Mara. I feel privileged that I have been able to enjoy the Mara as many times as I have. God willing, I will travel there again for my 40th visit.

Some of you may know that I have been diagnosed with slow progressive Motor Neurone Disease. I can no longer walk and am now permanently in a wheelchair. This makes travelling more challenging, but I am not one to let little things get in the way! I am planning to return to Kenya later this year and am very grateful for the help and personal support from my fellow trustee Nigel and of course my wife Pola.

During the past two ‘Covid’ years we have been able to communicate every week with Julius, our Community Officer in the Mara. When I first visited the Mara in 2003 there was no telephone reception. Now we can communicate free of charge via video calls from our computers or phone. Indeed many of our Maasai friends have solar chargers for their telephones.

Julius is an employee of Governors' Camp, he has been an immense help in dealing with the schools, pupils, and our projects. He visits the primary schools as well as the secondary schools which are over three hours away in Narok. Julius is responsible for meeting the Principals at the secondary schools in order to secure places for those students that receive a bursary. He then advises and helps the students get to the schools and visits them during the year. He also visits and reports on our various projects. Julius is extremely efficient, and we hear from him virtually on a daily basis.



Julius our community officer

As mentioned in my last newsletter we have received an extremely generous donation to build initially a girls dormitory and then upon its completion a boys dormitory at Enkereri primary school.

Nigel, who is a building surveyor, has been able to remotely supervise the building. Julius and Ambrose, our builder, have frequently provided live walk around the project videos. Our builder Ambrose really values Nigel's expertise and he was able to visit the Mara last November to view the project and advise in person on finishing the girls dormitory.



The girls dormitory is now completed and in use. It is amazing that such a large project, with remote supervision from 4000 miles away, can be completed so quickly. Ambrose and his team have done a most wonderful job.



Whilst most of the children are from the nearby villages, being able to stay at school in a dormitory will enable them to study after school as their mud hut homes are not conducive to this.

The boarding facility will also safeguard the girls, especially from pregnancy and early marriage.

Work has commenced on the boys dormitory and is now nearing completion. Materials are purchased in the town of Narok, which is over three hours away, or in Nairobi which is a day away, and transported to the Mara.



The boys dormitory under construction



Wherever possible Ambrose employs local labour. However skilled labourers come from Narok or even further away.

Ambrose tells us that on the first day when the foundations were being dug for the girls dormitory he employed anyone who wanted to work and paid them per foot they dug. On the second day less than half the labourers turned up. It is clearly very hard work.

These two dormitories will make a huge difference for the children.

Tourism is the primary source of income in the Mara. Not only do the tourist camps offer employment but visitors to the manyattas (Maasai villages) are also a source of income as tourists pay to visit them, hear about their traditions and customs and are able to purchase the colourful jewellery. An amazing experience, especially for first time visitors. Pola and I always enjoy going to the manyattas, because we are visiting the homes of friends.



The lack of tourism created by Covid caused enormous problems in the Maasai community, as it did around the world. With your help and support we were able to send over £31,000 to purchase essential food and produce for the community whilst the camps were closed. Governors' Camp most generously dealt with the logistics of delivering everything from Nairobi to the Mara and then overseeing the local distribution which was done on a regular basis.

We were delighted to hear from Julius that the medical clinic we had built in 2013 has been fully utilised in providing the Covid vaccination free of charge to the community. I understand that booster vaccinations are now in the process of being given. All the staff at Governors' have been fully vaccinated.

We thank you also for your continued support for secondary school education. It is always wonderful to hear from past students as they are so grateful to you for changing the course of their life.

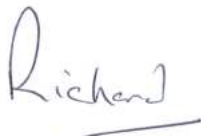
Support is always welcome and greatly appreciated. There is always a need for new books, sports equipment, and general school supplies as well as assistance with capital projects. Should you wish to give any support please make cheques payable to The Mara Rianda Charitable Trust or contact me for bank details.

With Gift Aid your donations will be increased by 25%. If you are interested in providing support or assisting a child with secondary education, please let me know and I shall send you a Gift Aid and Standing Order form.

I am delighted to inform you that Somak Luxury Travel, a long-established UK travel company, has very recently agreed to donate £20 for every person that books a holiday to Kenya through them. To date, even during these Covid times they have been able to make a substantial donation, and this is before the peak holiday season. This wonderful and extremely generous support allows us to provide even more support to the local schools and community. You may wish to look at their website www.somak.com

Pola and I are constantly encouraged by your interest, support, and prayers and this we will never take for granted. Your support is literally life changing. As usual I do apologise if you feel this letter is an intrusion and should you not wish to receive any further letters then please do let me know.

Yours sincerely



Richard Long
TRUSTEE AND DIRECTOR
THE MARA RIANDA CHARITABLE TRUST
Charity Number 1102255
Company Number 05035681

www.mararianda.com

rlong@richardlong.co.uk



And what does the Lord require of you?

To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6 v8 (NIV)