

**THE GREAT RIFT VALLEY TRUST**  
in association with  
**THE GALLMANN MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**



**2009**  
**LAIKIPIA HIGHLANDS GAMES**  
**SPORTS FOR PEACE**



**19 & 20 September 2009**  
**LAIKIPIA NATURE CONSERVANCY, NORTHERN KENYA**



organized by the Great Rift Valley Trust in association with the Gallmann Memorial Foundation  
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## Background

In the region of Laikipia and neighbouring Eastern Pokot and Samburu districts, young warrior pastoralists from different tribes have been indulging in cattle rustling for many years now raising insecurity. This, coupled with the proliferation of small weapons and rampant unemployment due to lack of work opportunities has made cattle rustling a way of life and a serious problem affecting every community in the region.

With no prospects for the unemployed youth and no job alternatives, tribal clashes and violence have become the order of the day and have been exacerbated by the post-election turmoil.

Sports as a means to promote peace dates back from the time of the first Greek Olympic games, and has recently been recognized by the Secretary General of the United Nations who has appointed a Special Adviser on sport for development and peace as a powerful means to promote peace. It challenges gender roles and myths and crosses social and cultural barriers to bring about peace and development. It results in a sense of personal achievement and fulfilment that promotes self-esteem, better conduct and tolerance towards others, thus strengthening civil societies.



## Laikipia Highlands Games - a new sporting initiative on the High-

In October 2008, a new annual sporting initiative that aims to use the fundamental values of sport and play in fostering goodwill amongst communities, build relations, bridge divisions and contribute to improving the living conditions of youth across the tribal divide, by harnessing the natural competitive spirit of youth and the recognized high potential of the Kenyan highlands athletes, was initiated at the Laikipia Nature Conservancy in Western Laikipia.

The games are an unusual and exciting combination of modern athletics and of colourful traditional tribal games played amongst African tribes since generations.

Following a successful trial run of the games in April 2008, sponsored by the Gallmann Memorial Foundation, that saw 150 competitors from various ethnic backgrounds, and over 1000 community members participate in a day of spirited competition and social cohesion, the inaugural Laikipia Highlands games took place on 19<sup>th</sup> October 2008.

In partnership with the Olympic Committee of Kenya and supported by world known Kenyan athletes Kipchoge arap Keino, Paul Tergat and Tegla Leroupe, the diplomatic sector, including the Embassies of the United States of America, Switzerland, and the Australian High Commission, the corporate world including parastatals, government and tourism agencies, The British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) and the media, and attended by the Minister for Sport and Youth Professor Ellen Sambili, the games were an extraordinary success. Over 1200 participants across the tribal divide, and several thousands members of the public and local communities took part in what promises to become one of the most exciting and unusual sport events in the continent.

The events included 3000, 1500, 400 and 100 metres for both men and women, five a side football and volleyball tournaments, javelin and long jump and tug of war. Traditional games were performed by tribal teams of Pokot, Samburu Turkana and Njemps (Ekilel, Narungu, Anyu, Eweit, Kiruk). In 2009 we expect diverse tribal groups to join us from different parts of the country.

## Community benefit outcomes

- The ongoing construction of a sports stadium for the local communities in Kinamba Ngarua, West Laikipia. This will benefit a vast number of citizen and school children by providing a safe and environment for training and sport events.
- Identified by Olympic Committee of Kenya observers, two young athletes, Agnes Napeyok of the Turkana tribe, -who won the 400 metres girls and the 100 metres races, and Jacob Korere of the Tugen tribe, winners of the 100 metres race and long jump, have been in training by Olympic coach in the month of April 2009 at the Kipchoge Keino High Altitude Performance Centre in Eldoret, a terrific incentive.
- The LHG benefit extensively local communities and rural small business who are given employment in the preparation of grounds, transport, food and supplies.



## Other community benefits

During the protracted drought of early 2009, we have been supplying food for several months to thousands of local community members in West Laikipia, East Pokot and Tugen in East Baringo.

We have started:

- an ongoing children feeding programme.
- a nursery school for under-privileged children (feed/play/learn) within the premises of Laikipia Nature Conservancy
- an adult literacy class for Pokot women

We have also committed to the re-construction of a primary school in Mutaro Location and kept up our ongoing programme:

- Supply of medicine and personnel, maintenance and volunteers doctors to the clinic and health Centre donated to Ol Moran by the Gallmann Memorial Foundation
- Bursary for the most needy bright children to secondary schools.
- Free school visits and supply of footballs to local school
- Training in music and art to local school children
- Tree planting and reforestation
- Peace meetings and community free visits



## Support

- a local and international committee made up of world athletes, personalities of sport and tourism, corporate and media
- Budget includes:
  - Transport and accommodation of athletes and volunteers
  - Grounds preparation and stands
  - Sports equipment
  - Prizes and sponsorships
  - Secretarial staff/Office administration expenses
  - Sport Manager and Event Manager
  - Media and PR including PA system and MC, guests ID, transportation and accommodation
  - DVD of event

Donations in cash and kind are welcome.

Schools are invited to send competition teams for field and track events.

## 2008 Sponsors

2008 major sponsors included:

The Embassy of the United States of America  
The Australian High Commission  
The Embassy of Switzerland  
The Delegation of the European Commission  
The National Olympic Committee of Kenya and

and

Coca Cola East Africa, Brookside Dairies, Keino Sports Marketing, Total Eco-Challenge Comcraft Industries, PUMA, Orbit Chemicals, Alive and Kicking, Complast, Nairobi Sports House, Bidco Ltd, Capwell, Mjengo Industries, Techpack, Broadway Bakery, BTB, Chloride Exide and Chandaria Industries.



# LAIKIPIA NATURE CONSERVANCY



Laikipia Nature Conservancy of the Gallmann Memorial Foundation is a spectacular wildlife sanctuary and biodiversity oasis stretching over 100,000 acres on the edge of the Great Rift Valley, known as Ol Ari Nyiro, the 'Place of Springs' in the Maasai language. The Conservancy is home to over 450 species of birds; it hosts the largest population of Cape buffalo outside National Parks as well as huge herds of elephant, many lions, rhino, cheetah. An early example of water harvesting, the conservancy has 62 man-made lakes all stocked with fish. The Conservancy is divided in half by the dramatic Mukutan gorge - home to many endemic species, a handful of hot springs and a cascading river. Ancient caves hold human remains from the stone ages whereas on the Eastern plain there is an ancient iron smelting site and a vast necropolis of placed boulders. This is a place that people have chosen as their home since the dawn of humanity.

The Conservancy, led by Kuki Gallmann, author and conservationist, is widely known for its many conservation, cultural and education projects. Over 50,000 Kenyan children have been hosted to see their first wildlife and understand 'sustainability' and undertake creative and confidence building projects. The Laikipia Wilderness Education Centre has outreach programs throughout the area for schools and communities to learn about sustainability and engage in environmental activities such as tree planting or waste management. The 4 Generations project, led by Sveva Gallmann aims to staunch the loss of indigenous oral culture and knowledge through



an innovative questions based course that has been accepted into the Kenyan National Curriculum. The innovative eco-charcoal project uses a fast growing shrub and low-pollution kilns to provide communities with an alternative to illegally produced forest charcoal whilst providing employment. The conservancy's team of researchers and educators monitors the wildlife, the plants, and the insects and records ethnobotanical knowledge from neighbouring herbalists.

The Conservancy is also home to the Great Rift Valley Trust, a locally registered Trust that aims to creatively heal the divisions between cultures and between people and nature by bringing together exceptional artists from all continents and cultures to humanity's common cradle, the Great Rift Valley. In its quest to nurture cross-cultural and cross-generational inspiration based on the ancient elements of earth, water, air and fire, the Trust through the annual Earth Festival continues to highlight and promote humanity's link with nature and our obligation to the environment for sustainable progress.

Here, the artists embark on a project which requires them to work collectively within their different talents towards a performance that transcends cultural barriers, whilst highlighting the imminent need for global action towards the environment. The dawn of the millennium has brought with it a shift in the human consciousness, and an awareness of our global responsibility towards the future of our planet.

Sports like the Arts are a powerful communication tool for 'healing the rift' and the Great Rift Valley Trust in association with the Gallmann Memorial Foundation will continue to build bridges across communities through the annual Laikipia Highlands Games.

The Conservancy has been made available to the Laikipia Highlands Games exclusively and pro bono by Kuki and Sveva Gallmann and the Gallmann Memorial Foundation.

