



Press Release

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Davis & Shirliff commissions solar-powered waterhole to tackle human-wildlife conflict in Kajiado County

Davis & Shirliff, through its *#improvinglives* initiative, has partnered with a regional tour operator, Gamewatchers Safaris, to convert a generator-powered borehole to solar, in efforts to help tackle drought-induced human-wildlife conflict at a local conservancy. The partnership saw a 3Kw generator-powered borehole in Selenkay conservancy, Kajiado County, replaced with a silent and emission-free Dayliff Sunverter 3 solar-powered water pumping system.

Davis & Shirliff, the leading supplier of water and energy related equipment in the East Africa region said the recent lack of rains had strained access to water for animals in the conservancy and the neighbouring communities. As a result, increased instances of human-wildlife conflict had occurred as animals try to access water in nearby communities.

“Lack of water in the region has meant animals have been wandering out of the conservancy in search of water which has resulted in many instances of human-wildlife conflict,” said Davis & Shirliff Group Chief Executive Officer, David Gatende.

The Human-Wildlife Conflict in the area has been largely between Elephants and the local communities.

Between August and December 2021, the government announced Kenya had lost 62 elephants due to drought and the Wildlife ministry had begun preparing to build water pans in National Parks to avoid more deaths.

The existing generator powered borehole in Selenkay conservancy was not able to keep up with the demand for water. In addition, rising costs for fuel was pushing up running

costs for Gamewatchers Safaris to fuel the generator which was also noisy and release unwanted emissions into the environment.

Davis & Shirtliff, through its *#improvinglives* initiative which has undertaken over 450 pro bono projects since 2018 benefitting 840,000 people, partnered with Gamewatchers Safaris to fund the supply and installation of solar pumping equipment for the waterhole.

The new solar-powered installation includes a Dayliff 3.7KW Solar Pump – a higher capacity upgrade-with 9no. Dayliff 335W Solar Panels, Dayliff Sunverter 3 controller and state of the art 3m galvanized steel solar support structure. The green solution harnesses the power of the sun to provide water with no running costs.

“It is not only more efficient and environmentally friendly, but it also means Gamewatchers Safaris are able to reduce costs for fuel and maintenance of the previously used generator,” said Gatende.

Daniel Mamai, the Selenkay Conservancy Manager explains “By upgrading the borehole to solar we have been able to increase the amount of water we are able to pump each day for the borehole. As a result, are now able to cater for up to 500 elephants per day, from one single borehole. This is an important partnership to help us tackle the important issue of human-wildlife conflict and already the waterhole has resulted in less instances of elephants, and wildlife in general, wandering into nearby communities in search of water”.

“The transition to a more environmentally friendly and cost-effective solution is also important as it helps us achieve our goals of reducing our carbon emissions, and also reduces our costs for fuel to pump water for the borehole.” Sarah Omusula, the Gamewatchers Safaris Conservation & Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator added.

The waterhole is now able to provide a reliable supply of water and reduce the need for the animals to venture into the community, avoiding human-wildlife conflict.

The companies documented the impact of the borehole through a moving, short film entitled ‘Waterhole’, which can be viewed through the Davis & Shirtliff and Gamewatchers Safaris websites and social media channels.

About Davis & Shirtliff

The Davis & Shirtliff Group is the leading supplier of water related equipment in the East African region. Founded in 1946, our business activities are focused on seven principal product sectors - Water Pumps, Boreholes, Swimming Pools, Water Treatment, Generators, Solar Equipment and Irrigation. The group is Kenyan based and operates through a network of Kenyan branches as well as regional subsidiaries in Uganda, Tanzania, Zambia, Rwanda, South Sudan, DRC, Zimbabwe and a partnership in Ethiopia. More information on www.davisandshirtliff.com.

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About Gamewatchers Safaris



Gamewatchers Safaris has been in business for over 30 years. Situated off the United Nations Crescent road in Nairobi, their office's neighbouring shopping complex could not be in greater contrast to the wild surroundings of their safari camps and the conservancies that they are involved in, which are far removed from the normal safari tourist trail. The company specializes in delivering tailor made safaris to small camps and lodges across Africa. One of a handful of Travelife certified companies in Kenya, Gamewatchers Safaris is committed to helping preserve Africa's unique wildlife, landscapes and local communities through sustainable ecotourism ventures that benefit the local communities and give guests a rewarding experience. Their Porini group of camps is a sustainable model that practically implements these principles. These environmentally-friendly Eco-Camps have been established in exclusive Wildlife Conservancies and are carefully managed to ensure that local communities, the environment and visitors benefit from the Conservancy concept pioneered by the company. More information on www.gamewatchers.co.ke

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