WILDLIFEDIRECT

Newsletter
Issue #7
July 3rd, 2020

WILDLIFE WARRIORS KIDS

Hello Wildlife Warriors!
Stay connected to nature even when you are at home in this seventh edition of the weekly wild update.

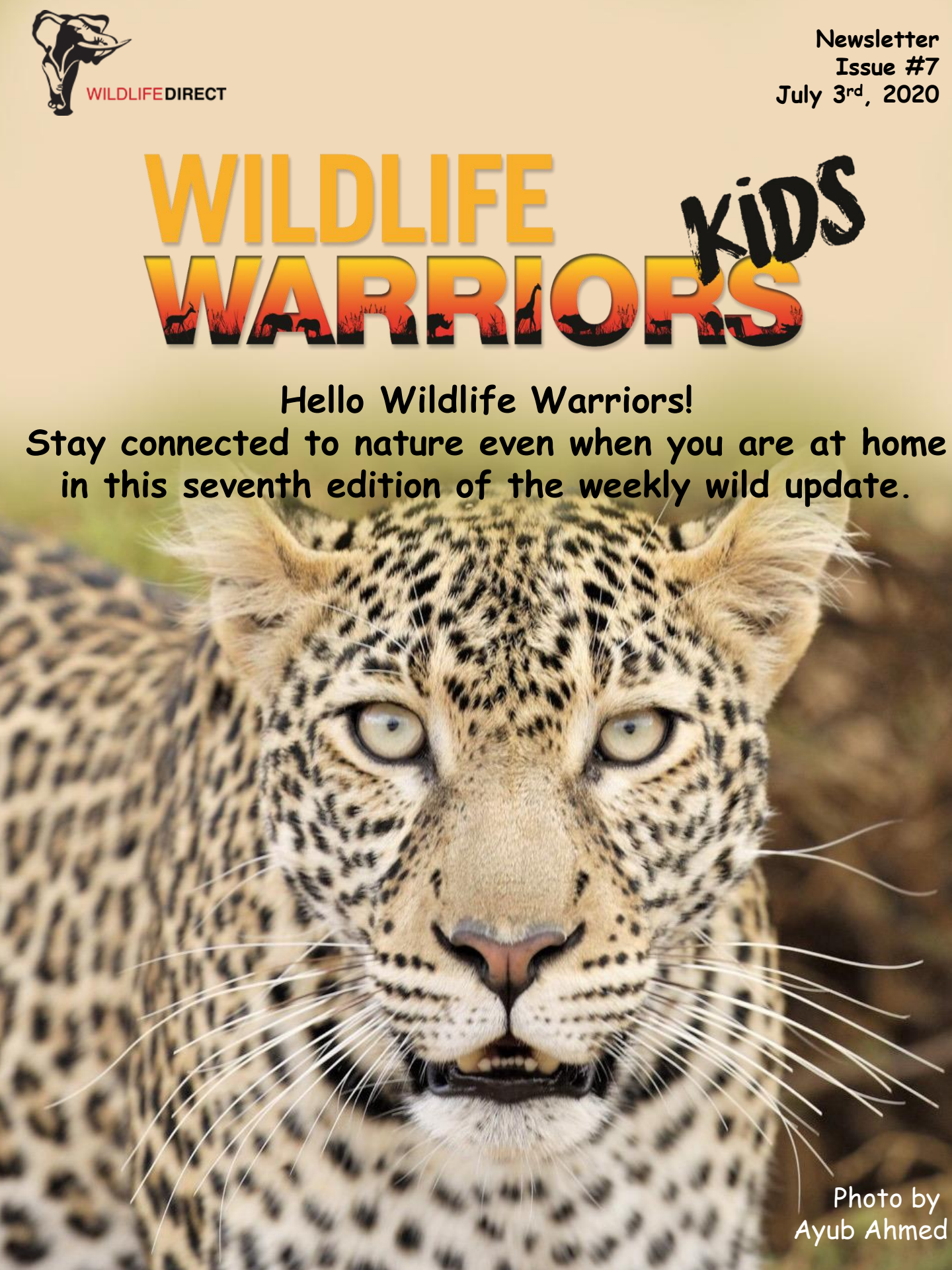


Photo by Ayub Ahmed

In this issue, we bring you one of the BIG 5, the **Leopard!!** Have you ever seen a black leopard? Please read on! We continue to give you tips on how to take the **BEST** photographs as you prepare for season two of the Nature's Treasures Photo Competition, wild jokes, a section with a leopard expert and much much more…

Stay with us on this fun filled adventure. Always remember to share with your family and friends.

HOW JAY GOT INTO PHOTOGRAPHY!

Hello! My name is Jay Vaghela and I am 11 years old.

Last year I visited the Nairobi National Park and after a while of no luck of any of the big 5, I considered taking a few pictures of the lovely plants around.

I got the hang of it and started taking pictures every time I see a good body for the photograph. Till today. I love taking pictures of wildlife.

Photo by Jay Vaghela at the Nairobi National Park

HOW JAY GOT INTO PHOTOGRAPHY!

Photo by Jay Vaghela at the Masai Mara Game Reserve

Today, there are several aspects of photography that keep it fresh to me. These are- **there can never be too many good photos, wildlife is beautiful, you can enjoy that amazing view even after that wonderful trip is over.** There are indeed many more things that are unique about photography, and that's why I take photographs 😊

I love taking photos of the majestic lion prides, and the amazing wildebeest migrations the most.

PHOTOGRAPHY TIP
BY USHA HARISH!

Show the habitat

Showing the habitat gives your image better context.

These hartebeests are living in Nairobi National Park which is seen with the SGR in the background.

USHA HARISH
PHOTOGRAPHY

WILD FACTS ABOUT LEOPARDS!

Photo by Kirtan Patel

Leopards are big cats, scientifically known as ***Panthera Pardus*** and are related to lions, tigers and jaguars.

They are distinguished by the 'spots' on their fur called rosettes which are different from the ones on the cheetah.

Leopards are found in many countries across Africa. They are also found in Eastern Europe and the Middle East, Asia and some parts of China.

Photo by Ambrose Letoluai

Because of their beautiful glossy coat, leopards are hunted for their skin which is used to make coats. This has now been declared illegal and a person who does it and is caught, goes to jail.

Did you know there are 8 leopard sub species? These are ***African, Amur, Arabian,Indian, Indochinese, Javan(these are critically endangered); Persian and Sri Lankan.***

Leopards are among the seven big cats. Can you name the other six? Send your answers via text or WhatsApp to 0746 511 787

Leopards are fast cats and can run at speeds of up to 58 Kms per hour! How fast can **you** run?

They jump high too! They can leap up to 6 meters through the air, and therefore can easily climb up trees. They are also very strong and usually climb trees with prey to hide it from other predators.

They are mainly **nocturnal**, meaning that they are most active at night but can be seen in the early hours of the mornings. This is one reason why they are very hard to find in the wild.

Leopards have a wide diet! They eat antelopes, monkeys, almost anything they can find and some have been known to eat fish!

Photo by Ambrose Letoluai

Females give birth to 2 – 4 cubs and stay with them for about 2 years.
By this time, the cubs are able to hunt and take care of themselves.

Other than this period when the mother has cubs, Leopards are largely **solitary** animals.

The average life span of a Leopard in the wild is between 12 – 17 years.

The oldest leopard recorded was a female leopard in a wildlife Sanctuary in Florida, USA who lived for 24 years 2 months and 13 days while the oldest recorded male reached the age of 23 years and lived in a zoo in Poland.

WILD QUIZ:
What are the spots on the Leopard's coat called?

Send your answer via **text** or **WhatsApp message** to
0746 511787.
The winner will be mentioned in the next issue

ASK AN EXPERT!

This week, we speak to Ambrose Letoluai, a young Kenyan researcher who is working to save the elusive leopards.

Wildlife Warriors Kids (WWK): Tell us about yourself - where were you born? Where did you go to school?

Ambrose: I was born in Angata Nanyokie; Samburu County in Northern Kenya and was raised by my grandma in Laikipia County which borders Samburu. I went to Ewaso Primary School, Doldol High School and Kenya Wildlife Service Training Institute in Naivasha in Central Kenya. I am now studying Environmental Science at African Nazarene University for my degree.

You can watch Ambrose and his amazing work on Wildlife Warriors TV, Season 1 Episode 11 using this link https://bit.ly/2Ai9mTV

...ASK AN EXPERT!

Ambrose showing children in his community how the camera equipment works

WWK: What was your favourite subject in school? How did you get interested in leopards and why?

Ambrose: My favorite subjects were History and Science. I love the environment and I started Environmental and Wildlife clubs when I was in high school. I got Interested in leopards when I was an intern at the Loisaba conservancy because my community had a lot of trouble with leopards and other carnivores. Predation of our livestock was the order of the day. I wanted to protect the leopards and also help my community handle issues of human wildlife conflict in a better way.

ANIMAL OF THE WEEK!
THE BLACK PANTHER

WWK: What is a black leopard? Are they born black? Does the color change as the leopards grow older?

Ambrose: A black panther or black leopard is the melanistic colour variant of any Panthera, particularly of the leopard in Asia and Africa, and the jaguar in the Americas. Black panthers of both species have excess black pigments, but their typical spotted markings are also present. Black Panthers are born black and they retain their black coat as they grow.

Photo of Ambrose, right with a community ranger, left setting up the camera equipment

WWK: What is the most exciting part of your job?

Ambrose: I really love setting up the camera equipment to capture videos and images of the animals at night. That's how we got footage of the black leopard. Another exciting part of my job is visiting the local communities living around the conservancies and having the kids help us with checking the cameras around the *bomas* .That's really kind of them.

WWK: Lastly, how can we see the Blank Panther?

Ambrose: If you want to see the black leopard, you can visit the wild landscapes of Laikipia and try your luck. I spend most of my time in the wild but it is not guaranteed to spot any black leopard. They are very elusive species of the big cats family. You must be patient and keep trying over and over again!

WILD JOKES! 🤣

- Did anybody see the article about the leopard whose fur was bleached solid white?

  It was recently spotted

- I once thought I spotted a Leopard

  But It turns out they are born like that.

- What did the Leopard say after eating a chili sausage?

  That hit the spot

- Which side of a leopard has more spots?

  The outside

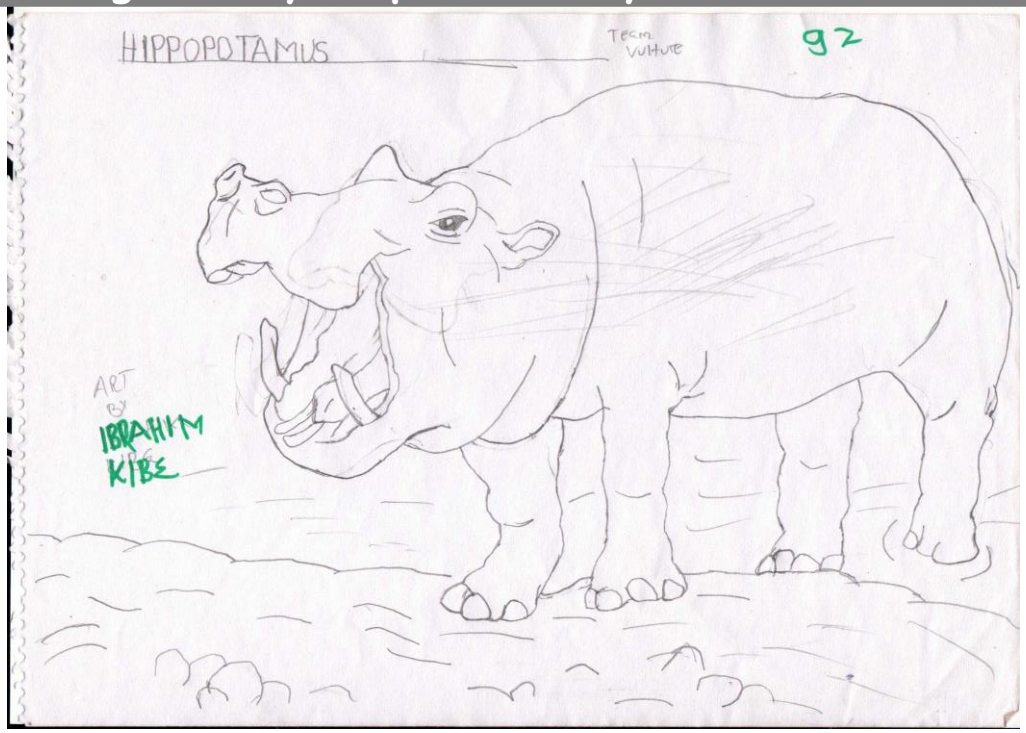
- A tiger, a lion, and a leopard all drive in to work. Only, the leopard's space is always reserved. Why?

  Because...A leopard can't change its' spots.

Wild jokes courtesy of Eric Sasia

ART FOR WILDLIFE!

Do you have a drawing, painting, essay or poem you would like to share with other kids? Please send a photo of your drawing and painting or a text/WhatsApp message with your poem /essay to 0746 511 787



WHAT YOU CAN DO TO HELP NATURE!

Learn about nature (plants and animals) by reading books, magazines or watching wildlife films. The knowledge you will gain will give you the passion to help nature

Develop a relationship with nature by observing the plants, insects, animals, birds and many more around your home. You can see, smell, touch and explore them to be part of nature.

Share with us what you have done this week to help nature by sending an SMS or WhatsApp text to 0746 511 787

THIS WEEK ON MY WILD AFRICA!

We head on to Hwange Estate in Zimbabwe where we meet a herd of elephants known as 'the Presidents' Elephants.'

Did you know just like you, elephants live in families and have names? Do you know the threats facing African Elephants?

Tune in this Sunday on Citizen TV at 5.30 pm and learn more about the gentle giants!

Watch the film with your family and tell us what you learnt by sending an **SMS** or **WhatsApp message** to **0746 511787**

COMING UP… DON'T MISS!

Photo by Veer Sikand (11)

- **Wildlife Warriors on Switch TV at 2:00pm on July 5th, 2020**
- **My Wild Africa on Citizen TV at 5:30pm on July 5th, 2020**
- **World Chimpanzee Day is on July 14th, 2020**
- **Shark Awareness Day is on July 14th, 2020**

FOR PARENTS!

- Please send us your feedback, ideas and thoughts by filling the second part of bit.ly/WWKIDS and we will get back to you.

- If you love this newsletter and would love to support Wildlife Warriors Kids, please make a donation to:

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Email us: info@wildlifedirect.org

Contact us on: +254 746 511 787

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