

## 1. The Founders of AFEW-Giraffe Centre

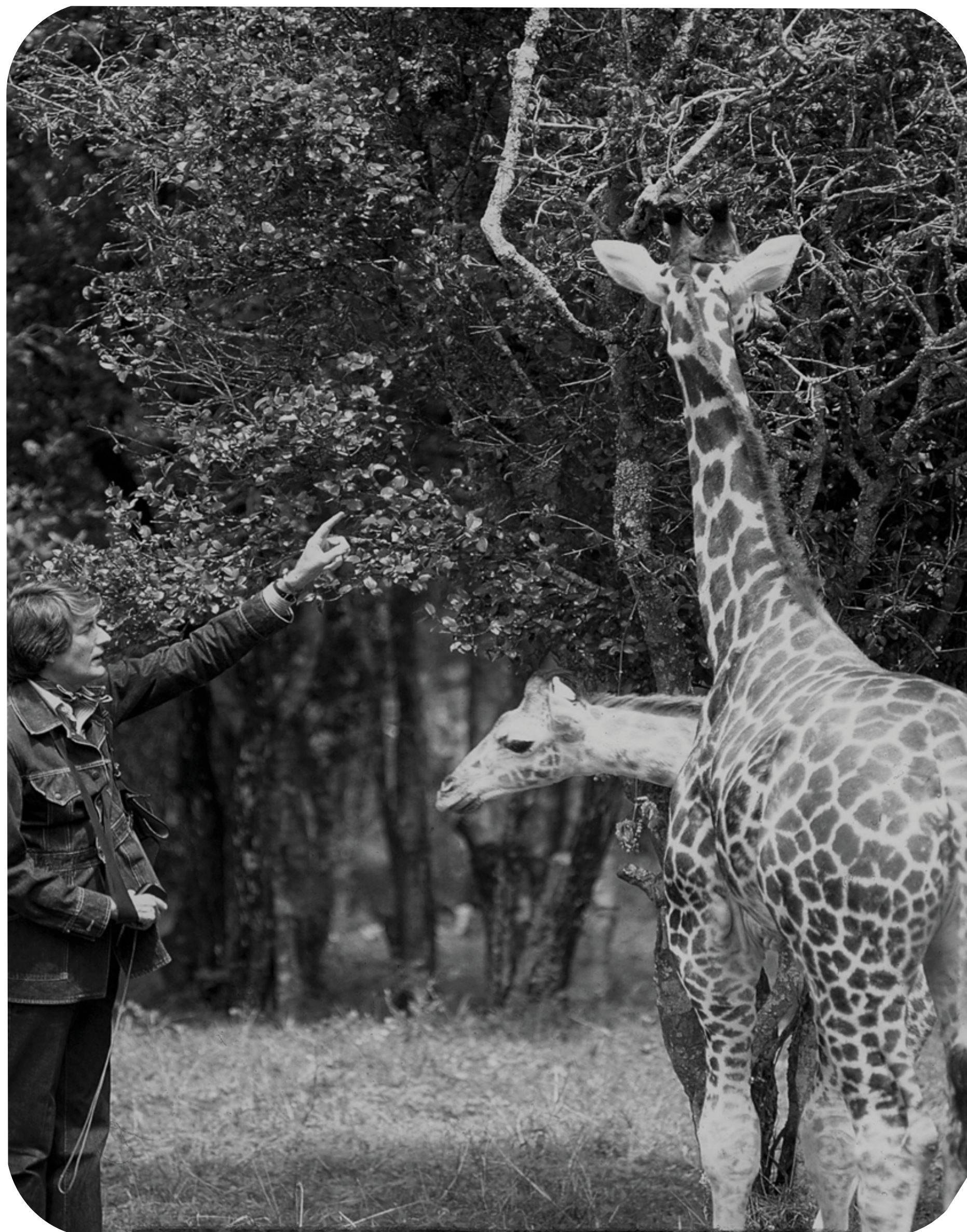


Mr. Jock and Mrs. Betty Leslie-Melville

## 2. Who was Mr. Jock and Mrs. Betty Leslie-Melville?

Mr. Jock Leslie-Melville (1933 - 1984) was a Kenyan of British descent, Author, Lecturer, involved in tourism and participated in Kenyan parliament at the time of independence.

Mrs. Betty Leslie-Melville (1927 - 2005) was an American from Baltimore Maryland, Author, film maker, lecturer and involved in tourism.



*Jock teaching Daisy and Marlon on what tree leaves they can eat.*



*Jock and Betty with the first two giraffes (Daisy and Marlon)*



*Betty feeding Daisy the giraffe*



*Betty with Daisy the giraffe and Shirley Brown the dog*

### 3. Saving Rothschild Giraffes from Extinction



*The remaining Rothschild giraffe herd in Soy, Kenya*



*Initial capturing of the first Rothschild giraffes from Soy, Kenya*

Mr. Jock and Mrs. Betty Leslie-Melvile bought the Manor House (now known as the Giraffe Manor) in 1974. They learned of the last 130 Rothschild giraffes in Soy, Kenya and their potential loss of habitat to subsistence farmers. They arranged to capture and move a baby giraffe they named Daisy, joined shortly after by another named Marlon.



*Restraining of the rescued young giraffe*



*Loading the young giraffe to the combi van*

## 4. The first Rothschild Giraffe Translocation from Soy to other Conservation Areas in Kenya

In 1977, Mr. Jock and Mrs. Betty Leslie-Melville raised money through AFEW USA and together with the Kenya Wildlife Service (the Game Department then) managed to translocate 26 Rothschild giraffes from Soy to Lake Nakuru National Park.



*The first Rothschild giraffes being translocated to the safety of Lake Nakuru National Park as the Students look on.*

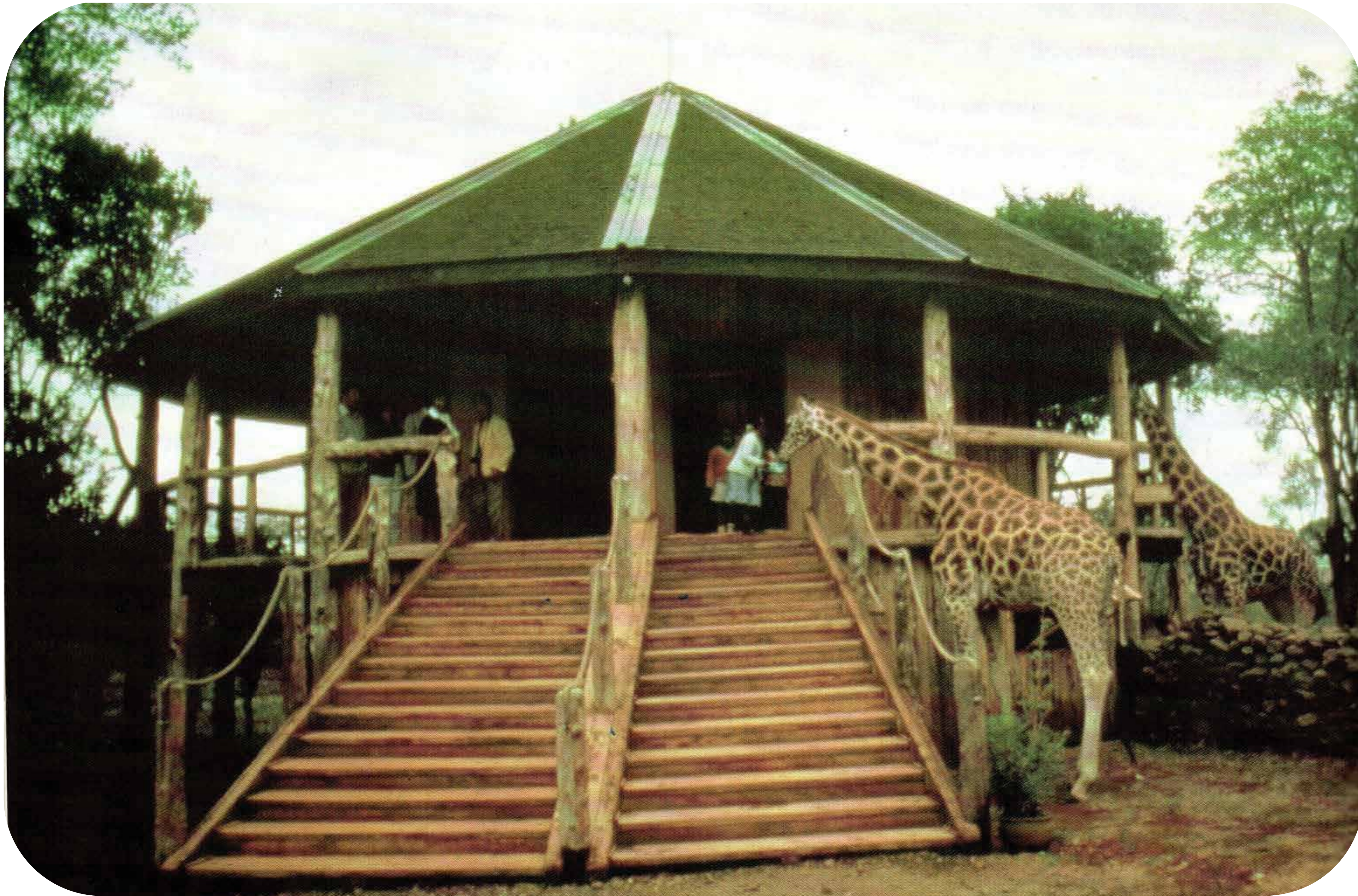
## 5. A Film On The Last Giraffe



*The Five Giraffes and Horses*

In 1979, as part of their conservation efforts, a film (*The Last Giraffe*) based on the book *Raising Daisy Rothschild* was made at their property and five baby giraffes were brought in as actors. There were now seven Rothschild giraffes. Having so many giraffes on the property gave Mr. Jock Leslie-Melville the idea to build an education facility for Kenya school children.

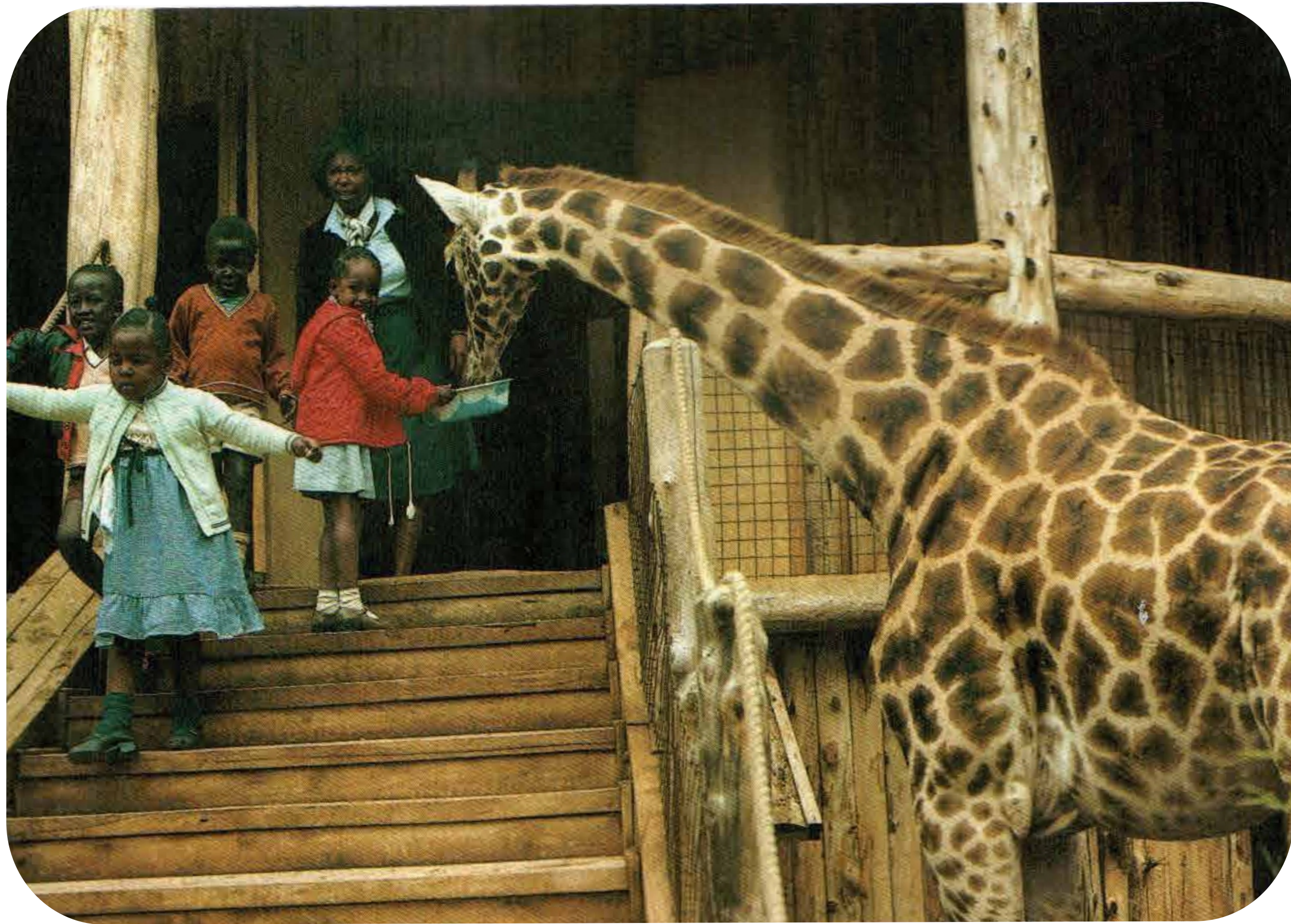
## 6. Langata Nature Education Centre



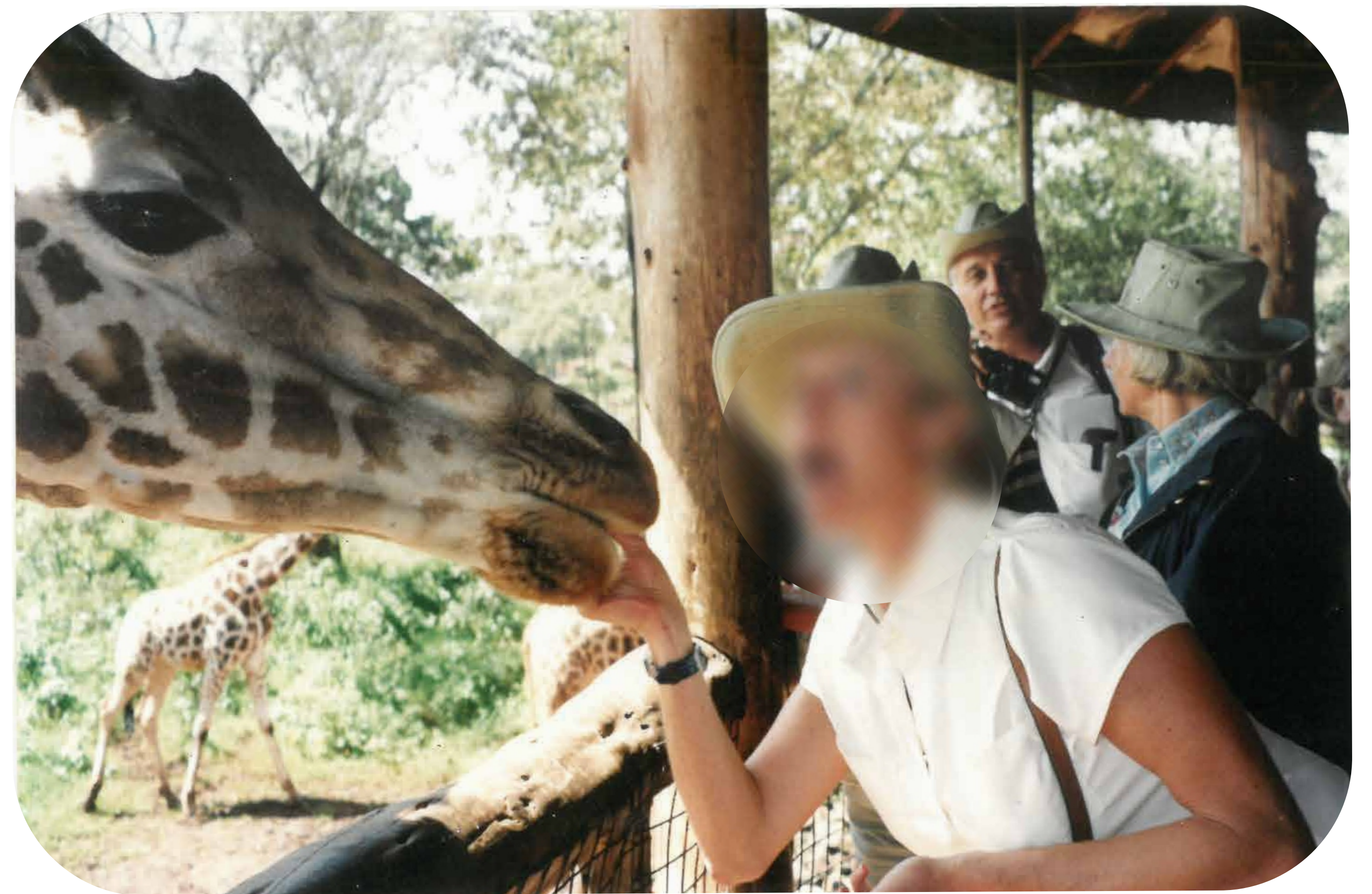
*The First Nature Education Centre in Independent Kenya*

The African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW) was formed in the USA to raise funds and in Kenya to receive funds. AFEW Kenya undertook negotiations for land to be bought adjoining the property, fundraising for translocations and the building of the Langata Nature Education Centre in 1983 which is today known as Giraffe Centre. Money donated by the Pew Foundation in Pennsylvania was used to build the Centre which was designed and contracted by Mrs. Bryony Anderson on the property of Mr. Jock and Mrs. Betty Leslie-Melville.

## 7. Early Visitors to the Giraffe Centre



*The first school children visiting the centre in 1984*



*Some of the early paying visitors to the centre*

Mr. Jock Leslie-Melville fell ill and succumbed to his illness in 1984. Mrs. Betty Leslie-Melville returned to the USA and passed the leadership of the Giraffe Centre to her son Mr. Rick Anderson. The original circular, wooden building was completed just before Mr. Jock's death and the first groups of school children were brought to the centre to see the giraffes, walk in the adjoining forest and have a memorable ecological learning experience.

The Giraffe Centre has become a popular stop while on tour of Nairobi and its environs. Visitors pay a conservation fee to access the centre and school children come in for free.

In 1984, when the centre was newly opened there were 120 school children who visited, now there are thousands of children who visit each year.

## 8. Giraffe Centre Nature Sanctuary



*View of the Nature Sanctuary*



*Entrance Point of the Sanctuary*



*Some of the birds species in the Sanctuary*

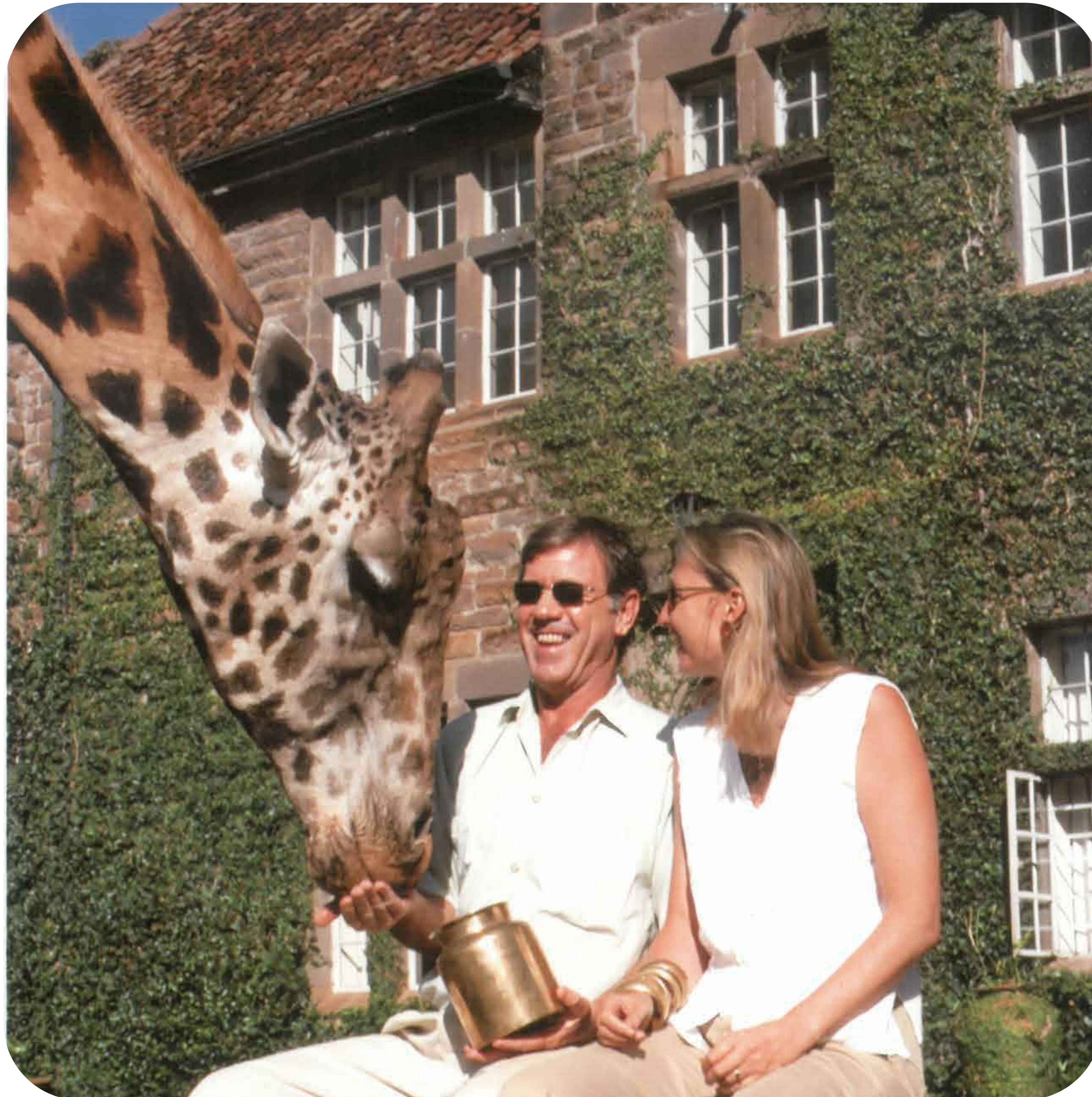
Mrs. Betty Leslie-Melville and family continued to promote projects and purchase land for the Giraffe Sanctuary. Today there is a green space of 100 acres giving sanctuary to over 130 bird species, including many raptors. A prolific amount of wildflowers and indigenous trees.

The sanctuary provides a habitat to not only the giraffe but bushbuck, warthog, dikdik, suni, sykes and vervet monkeys, various mongoose, squirrel, hyrax, bush baby, porcupine, then leopard, hyena and occasionally lion will pass through.



## 9. Support for Conservation Projects in Kenya

Mr. Rick Anderson (son of Mrs. Betty Leslie-Melville), a founder member became the chairman of AFEW Kenya. Mr. Rick and his wife Mrs. Bryony Anderson managed the Giraffe Manor and continued to grow AFEW Kenya by supporting projects all over Kenya, through funds raised by both AFEW USA and AFEW Kenya.



*Mr. Rick and Mrs. Bryony Anderson*

All profits from the Giraffe Manor from 1984 until it became a commercial entity in 1994 went to support the same projects. It became known globally and has been a great promotion for Kenya tourism over the years. Mrs. Betty Leslie-Melville died in 2005 and subsequently the Giraffe Manor was sold to Safari Collections in 2009. Mr. Rick Anderson, past and present Board of Directors and personnel of AFEW Kenya have much to be proud of.