



# ARKive

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RHINO ARK CHARITABLE TRUST

NO. 38 MAY 2011



Mount Kenya: Marcus Church

## Charging for Mt. Kenya and Mau Mt. Eburu

Two new projects to comprehensively fence Mt. Kenya and Mau Mt. Eburu – one of the Mau’s 22 forest blocks – will become Rhino Ark’s prime forward conservation thrusts from 2011 onwards.

These projects will be the recipients of Kenya’s home-grown, astonishing fund-raise initiative and world unique annual event - The Rhino Charge. The next Rhino Charge will be staged on June 3, 2011. It attracts global interest. “Rhino Chargers are known for their daring at the event. We are daring to take on the huge challenges in Mt. Kenya and Mau Eburu,” said Colin Church, Chairman of the Rhino Ark Management Committee following the Rhino Ark Trustees endorsement of the new initiatives at its 2010 year end meeting in December.

“Rhino Ark will be seeking to work closely with other partners to support these conservation projects,” he added. Among those private sector bodies already undertaking significant conservation work in the

Mt. Kenya area are the Bill Woodley Mt. Kenya Trust, with whom Rhino Ark work, together with the Bongo Surveillance Project, supporting community surveillance units, the Laikipia Wildlife Forum and the Kenya Forest Working Group (an action initiative of the East African Wildlife Society).

The two projects will be undertaken in full collaboration with the local communities around Mt. Kenya and Mau Eburu who wish to work with Rhino Ark. Rhino Ark will continue its close partnership with the Government to roll out these projects – working with the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

“Rhino Ark will be seeking to work closely with other partners to support these conservation projects”

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### 2011 RHINO CHARGE

#### Daring New Mountains

Daring to charge for an even bigger challenge than the Aberdares – two mountains: Mt. Kenya and Mau Eburu – has begun to turn things upside down as cars are tested, re-booted, finely tuned and teams go flat-out to find their funds!

Rhino Charge 2011 is fast approaching. All slots were filled super fast, almost before competitors engines had cooled from the 2010 Londuroj Lunge that gave everyone who entered so many surprises.

In July, seventeen Ksh 1 m slots were snapped up. By the end of August, once people had signed up for the Ksh 750,000 slots, there were only sixteen places left for the final September offer.

The queue outside Rhino Ark’s door on Wednesday, September 1st had several names with arrival times as early as 6.30 am. On a strictly first-come-first-served rule, registrations for the last places trooped in from the 8 am opening time until all 65 slots were booked and pledged on the records by 10.02 am that morning!

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## Rhino Ark Objectives

Rhino Ark seeks solutions in the mountain range ecosystems of Kenya, and for the benefit of Eastern Africa in general, to:

- Conserve such ecologically precious, indigenous forests and their total habitat.
- Resolve human / wildlife conflict.
- Create a sustainable and harmonious environment for people and wildlife – indeed for all flora and fauna within them.

### Rhino Ark is Committed to:

- Mobilise stakeholders nationwide and internationally for initiatives to protect and conserve the habitat and promote managed use of forest products for the benefit of present and future generations.
- Become a service provider for creating sustainable programmes for forest edge communities across a range of eco-systems including, but not limited to, carbon sequestration. All such programmes and projects will be targeted to create non-exploitive income generation for the communities.
- Raise funds and other forms of support to develop sound management processes over entire eco-systems.
- Create a framework where wider society and forest edge communities become involved in the management processes through public-private partnerships.
- Build mechanisms and management structures to prevent illegal exploitation of the forest habitat wherever it is threatened.

In doing so, all the stakeholders will benefit and endangered species – indeed all flora and fauna – will be better secured.

## Act now!...

### help us to continue our work

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Colin Church

## Chairman's view

### What is this all for?

Its Rhino Charge fever time! Once more Kenyans across the social strata – and a sprinkling of our great following of overseas friends – become grease monkeys, spanner hefters, money collectors, safari camp planners and yes, get fit freaks – on bicycles, in gyms and on the track!

What is this all for?

Now that the Rhino Charge has come of age and is an institution in Kenyan life and lifestyle, who could ask: what for?

Not only is the Rhino Charge a unique concept still – battling bush, thorns, holed radiators, friging everyone about WHERE, but also it has conceived a fun way of playing to raise cash – sacks of it – for conservation.

Now we are on a roll and have two hugely exciting and challenging mountains to secure. We will help in the process of managing them for the sake of our sons and daughters.

We welcome and hope that the concept for having fun for conservation can roll out the 'Charge' concept in other countries particularly in Africa. Like the Olympians, again Africa leads.

We salute the efforts in Zambia for creating 'Elephant Charge' out of the concept of Rhino Charge.

Africa remains the most rugged landscape for off-road challenges in the world. It is what we all know and do – drive tough in deep dust, over rocks, rivers, desert and bush. It is in our blood. It is great we have a sport that uses these talents for conservation.

You may recall that it was the Safari Rally and its great gallery of volunteers who made the event 'the toughest rally in the world' according to the best and most daring drivers in the world. This was not the view of Bernie Ecclestone and his successful bid for ownership of the World Rally Championships. He created a business out of what Kenyans volunteered to make 'the toughest of all'. WTC has gone from strength to strength but the world rally fraternity will always rate East Africa as the heartland of the harshest, toughest and most grueling of them all.

Japan and other nations framed its motor industry marketing on those 'little cars roaring through the African landscape and winning'!

Sadly WTC dropped Safari Rally and the volunteers were not wanted any more. But out of the ashes has arisen a concept mixing sport – serious sport, adrenalin charged sport – with something we all need to conserve in a world staggering under over population and dwindling resources.

It is a cause for reflection that some of the greatest philanthropist organizations in the world throw millions of dollars at down stream effects of over population – health, education and social welfare – all are vital but so many of them do NOT allocate proportionately for our natural resources and investing in ways to make them make money for those who are disadvantaged.

So Rhino Chargers, we are on track. We are going to continue to tackle the core problem. That is our strength. We remain recognized in that field.

We will attract serious players for conservation. We have already started to convince our own Government and as tax payers that right is ours. The Kenyan Treasury has supported our efforts to a value now of over Ksh 140 million. This is small change in what is needed for Mt. Kenya and Mau Eburu – our next targets and for which a section in this ARKive are devoted (pages 9 - 13).

We need Ksh 1.0 billion to fence Mt. Kenya. We can do it in five years if we have the funds. Mau Eburu needs Ksh 100 million and could be done in 12 months given the money. We are committed to build both at the same time with whatever money we raise.

But on Page 11 you will read that the Aberdares – our first great project – is worth in goods, services and biodiversity value (yes including black rhino and much more) an annual Ksh 55.8 BILLION.

So your money is an investment in that right to those great resources.

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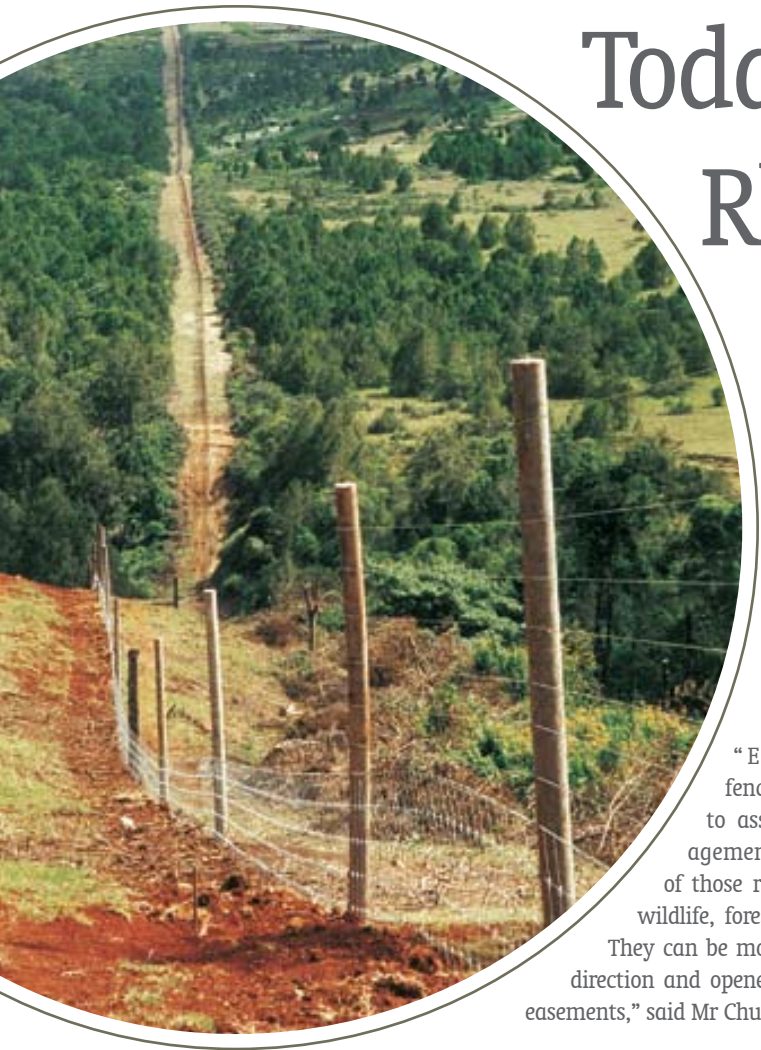
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# Today the annual Rhino Charge raises up to Ksh 70 million.

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## Charging for Mt. Kenya and Mau Mt. Eburu

“Electrified fences are tools to assist the management processes of those responsible for wildlife, forest and water. They can be moved, changed direction and opened for wildlife easements,” said Mr Church.

“But they also make it clear to Kenyans what is state land and there for the benefit of all Kenyans. It helps to ensure land is not stolen, excised or degraded by illegal activity. Kenyans are showing that such actions are no longer an option,” he added.

Rhino Ark remains committed to implementing a policy for wildlife easements and corridors as embedded in the new Constitution and which received overwhelming support in the August 2010 Referendum. Rhino Ark will remain totally committed to the Aberdares. We will be completely involved in an overall ecosystem integrity

master plan and for the long-term management of the Rhino Ark Aberdare fence.

Completed on August 28, 2009, the Aberdare fence was Rhino Ark’s first project. It was built at a materials and labour cost of Ksh 800 million. It has provided a successful blue print for mountain forest ecosystem conservation.

The Aberdare Trust is currently in formation. It will be a public/private partnership in which Rhino Ark and the fence adjacent communities will be working together with the Government agencies responsible for the conservation of the Aberdares.

When Rhino Ark began its conservation work 22 years ago, it raised just Ksh 200,000 (USD 2500) in the first year.

“In recent years the Government of Kenya and bi-lateral donors are contributing to the cause. In order to complete the proposed projects swiftly we are inviting more donors to join the process,” said Mr Church.

“Time is not on our side and Kenya’s five ‘water towers’ need to be secured urgently,” he concluded.

The Aberdare Electric Fence completed in 2009, was built at a cost of Ksh 800 million.



Mount Kenya viewed from the Aberdare National Park

## Rhino Ark to fence Mt. Kenya & Mau Mt. Eburu

### Mount Kenya

Mount Kenya is an internationally significant protected area inscribed in 1997 by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. The World Heritage Commission recognised Mount Kenya as “one of the most impressive landscapes of Eastern Africa, with its rugged glacier-clad summits, Afro-alpine moorlands and diverse forests, which illustrate outstanding ecological processes”.

The Mt. Kenya fence will encircle over 2000km<sup>2</sup> and will be at least 400 kms long – equal or possibly longer than the now complete Aberdares fence. It will require Ksh 1 billion to

build. The project could be completed within five years subject to a regular flow of funds and committed support from Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service.

Mt. Kenya is a prime ‘water tower’. With the Aberdares these two adjacent mountain ecosystems are the source of four of Kenya’s seven largest river systems providing water and energy - both surface and geothermal - for Kenya’s population and the city of Nairobi in which over 50% of GDP is derived.

Mau Eburu will require a fence of about 50 kms in length – a little longer than the now completed Mt. Kipipiri section Rhino Ark undertook in 2008/09.



*Mau Eburu's 50 km<sup>2</sup> forest - one of the Mau complex's 22 forest blocks*

## Mau Eburu

Straddling part of the Great Rift Valley, the Eburu volcano is a prime recipient of subterranean water inflows to Lake Naivasha and Lake Elementaita. Mau Eburu forms part of the Rift Valley conservation and ecology ecosystem stretching from Nakuru, Lake Nakuru National Park, the Soysambu Conservancy, Lake Naivasha, to Longonot and Hell's Gate National Parks.

Mau Eburu is about 80 km<sup>2</sup> of pristine forest – hugely infiltrated by illegal loggers but whose forest adjacent communities are already trying to conserve its water catchment and indigenous forest. In Mau Eburu, Rhino Ark is already providing

support and mounts major awareness initiatives over the plight of the Bongo – now on the IUCN's Critically Endangered Species listing. Remnant groups of Bongo survive in Eburu and local community patrols are already at work to protect them.

Mau Eburu will require a fence of about 50 kms in length – a little longer than the now completed Mt. Kipipiri section Rhino Ark undertook in 2008/09. Mau Eburu is just 20 kms from Mt. Kipipiri and the Aberdares. The Kipipiri fence adjoins the Aberdares with a wildlife corridor and was built in 18 months. Mau Eburu's fence will cost Ksh 100 million to build.



*Mau Eburu's pristine forests near Lake Naivasha*

Continued from page 1

## Daring New Mountains



Like the Charge which takes no prisoners, the Committee does not keep a waiting list. Those who commit are in except for a get-out clause for exceptional circumstances up to 28 February in the year of the Rhino Charge when deposits are banked. After that there is no turning back. The limited entry policy ensures a manageable event and that we leave our venues – scattered all over the most

beautiful, ruggedly wild and remote places of Kenya - clean and undamaged. Every year the Committee finds a new venue and this years marks the 23rd event.

Briefing for the teams is all set for the popular new venue at Braeburn School on Gitanga road on May 7th from 11 am followed by a curry lunch. Clerk of the Course Anton Levitan, well known for being very economic with the details, will announce Check-In and give drivers and teams a (very) vague idea of where the actual Charge Venue is.

Great care is taken at each venue – and each year a new venue is located – to ensure cleanliness and that it is left undamaged. After each Charge, entrants and organizers make sure rubbish is totally cleared. Re-visits to venue sites are made at random and records maintained.

With the exception that pre agreed tracks be made as requested by host communities, re-visits overwhelmingly record that sites return to their natural state very quickly – often within weeks.

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# 2011 RAFFLE PRIZES

Our thanks go to the following donors who have pledged prizes for the raffle



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## MANY THANKS TO OUR RAFFLE COMMITTEE:

Jenny Davey, Henrietta Remnant, Alex Njiiri, Devina Seipp and Belinda Levitan for their voluntary efforts to secure these prizes

## Raffle tickets and prizes



The 2011 raffle books are ready for collection at the Rhino Ark offices. Teams that have not yet collected theirs should do so immediately. More tickets are available on request.

New exciting prizes have already been received.



## Camping 2011 Charge - Tarpo Appointed

Tarpo Industries Ltd is the appointed spectator camp outfitter for this year's Charge. There will be two distinct areas for camping:

**Competitor Camp:** Car Entrants are being requested to submit the names of those in their campsites at the Rhino Charge Driver Briefing (Braeburn School, May 7th at 11.30 am).

**Spectator Camp:** This will be in its own identified area.

During the Charge, there will be a payment of a Ksh 500 per head Venue Area entry fee (under 18 years old, free entry). The same wrist band system will be in force – a three colour coded one for

- a) Competitor Camp entrants
- b) Officials and sponsors
- c) Spectator Camp visitors.

All persons who enter the check-in gate, including camp staff, must wear the wrist bands at all times. Those found without a band by officials and KK Guards, our security service team, will have to pay again.

Please contact Vicky or Violet: [info@tarpo.com](mailto:info@tarpo.com) Tel 0722 204747/0733 958400 for details.

As has always been the practice, the appointed outfitter can accommodate competitors, sponsors and media teams in their designated spectator area.

Rhino Ark wishes to thank Tarpo for its provision of HQ and other facilities.

## Rivercross - Vehicle Monitoring & Results

For the fourth year running, Rivercross Tracking Ltd shall provide GPS tracking units for all competitor vehicles. Each unit is fitted with panic buttons which alert us in the event of serious injury to a competitor. It will also manufacture electrical harnesses which will be issued to competitors at the Driver briefing, with installation instructions.

In addition, Rivercross has been appointed to generate, produce and

publish the results of the 2011 Rhino Charge. It shall provide and maintain hardware and software at the Charge venue in order to produce the results in a timely manner.

There will be two public access areas for vehicle monitoring: The HQ Tent and the Rivercross Tent where any information required will be disseminated and ongoing logging processes followed respectively.

## Rhino Charge Driver Briefing on May 7th

For the 3rd year running, Braeburn School, Lavington is the venue for this year's briefing. All teams must have a representation of at least one member. Guard Post officers and sponsors are also expected to attend.

You will be briefed on pre-Charge check-in details and receive the Rhino

Charge programme. The competitor bags will be handed out then. Car sponsorship will also be collected.

Lunch and beer will be on sale at the venue afterwards.

The new Rhino Ark website will also be launched at the briefing.



# TEAM TATTLE

A packed entry is on the cards this year for the 2011 Rhino Charge. All but eight newcomers have done it before.

Bundufundis – Car 38 with Mzee Sean Avery firmly at the wheel is all set to defend his 2010 title ‘Event Winner’. Once again his runners are agile and well under half his age. They say once he goes into his ‘zone’ they can only pray and keep running ahead.

Alan McKittrick’s Car 5, a red Land Cruiser hybrid built to tackle anything and still power on, will be hot on Bundufundi’s heels. Last year’s superhuman effort by Car 5’s runners to winch the car up a near precipice, eating over 4 hours of the ten hour’s permitted, and still completing all guard posts and coming 5th overall, is enough to send shivers through those going for the top slot.

The Glen/Llewellyn team of Car 48 in a Range Rover hybrid – the same car which won former three times Charge winner

Rob Collinge his laurels – which had GPS problems last year, will be at the heart of the chase again.

There could be other surprises from Car 10 of Tim McKenna/Chris Welles (Wags) who has given the mantel of driving and running for the car to members of Car 42 who missed entering their own vehicle this year.

Ben Woodhams’ Land Rover Cat 39 – a big car with even bigger wheels and a big reputation for raising funds is always one to watch. Peter Kinyua remains a strong competitor in Car 23, Asit Patel Car 26, and Nish Lakhani Car 59 all have high ambitions to secure a good finish.

Rally ace Ian Duncan, three times winner and who came second at Lunduroj 2010, will be battling it out in his customary way.

Edward Johnstone’s Range Rover Car 30, a surprise outsider raised the tempo taking 4th place last year.

The pack out to win includes Eric Goss Car 54, Lars Svensson Car 29 and Pieter-Bonde Nielsen’s team in Car 64.

The ladies teams in the charge this year out to win the Coup des Dames include Petra Somen/Sabine Kontos, the Bushbabes in Car 19, the indomitable Caroline Armstrong in Car 18, the elegant Sapieha sisters in Team Wacus Car 47 and the competitive Gai Cullen’s Car 58.

For the first time the Charge will have a team from Nigeria in addition to teams from Tanzania, South Africa and the UK. Grant Mowat and Yen Choi have entered Car 32, formerly of entrant Jonny Havelock, under the title of ‘Proudly Nigerian’ and a pledge of Ksh 1 million.

## KK Security: Sponsoring Rhino Charge 2011



KK Security is proud to sponsor Rhino Charge 2011! This will be the 7th consecutive year. During this time Rhino Charge has made significant contributions to conservation in Kenya and we have been part of that important development.

Once again, our security officers will be on patrol for your security and our paramedics will be on call for the entire event.

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# Environment Assessment



*Elephant and farmers are secure thanks to the 400 km long Aberdare Fence (background: Mt. Kenya)*

Aberdares  
Annual Value  
**Ksh 55.8  
Billion,**  
says study

## Farmers are richer, river flows improving, forests and wildlife more secure.

With the completion of the Aberdare fence in August 2009, an independent study of the fence's impact upon the ecosystem was required.

Funds for a full study and report by experts in the fields of social impact environment, river flow and water off-take, biodiversity inclusive of wildlife impacts, forest cover regeneration and economic net benefits to fence edge farmers as well as the considerable regional, national and global benefits was needed.

The report contains a major section on remote sensing and Geographical Information Systems (GIS) to study land use/cover changes from 1987 (before fencing started), 2000, 2005 and the SPOT 2010 image down to a 10-metre spread. This section gives conclusive data on the results.

Rhino Ark initiated a consortium of experts and secured the support of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the East African Wildlife Society's Kenya Forest Working Group (KFWG) to help with funds and information gathering.

The report's steering committee included Rhino Ark partners – KWS and KFS.

The Environmental, Social and Economic Assessment of the Aberdare Conservation Area (ACA) Fence Report will be published next month.

ARKive readers are presented on these pages with some of the pertinent issues and findings.

Rhino Ark wishes to thank Biotope Consultancy Services for producing the findings and the report, and UNEP and KFWG for their funding and inputs.

## Key Findings

The following are the key findings of the study:

- Progressive increases in indigenous forest cover by a substantial percentage will be presented in the report - all attributed to the fence and the improving management framework.
- Progressive decrease of unwarranted and illegal land cultivation within the Aberdare Conservation Area (ACA). This peaked in 2000 (when only 111 kms of fence was in place) at 6188.8 ha. By 2010 the GIS images record a reduction to 1281.5 ha or 0.7% of the 200,000 ha (2000 km<sup>2</sup>) inside the Aberdare fence.
- Wildlife populations have increased in many areas within the ACA.
- In spite of the positive changes and the pre introduction of both adequate funding and focused management of the fence (by way of the proposed Trust), the fence and overall ecosystem continue to be weakened by inadequate resources (human and capital). It recommends the introduction of an autonomous management structure and an integrated management plan for the ecosystem. Such a plan to be committed to jointly by KWS and KFS as the principle parastatals responsible for national park and forest land.
- Monitoring and compliance of illegal activities is weak in several major phases of the fence where forest access policies remain unresolved and governance issues inadequately addressed.
- This situation will get worse as forest margin communities exert more pressure if farm investment and improvements are not accelerated.
- It stresses that payment for ecosystem services (PES) and carbon offset funding could assist the drive for better farm incomes. Carbon offset has the benefit of being results based and thus requires direct participation by farmers on the fence line.



From L to R: Community members, Mathew Waitthaka, Peter Maina and Gathigia Kariuki strolling along the fence with children

### Fence gate and access policy

The report confirms that whilst the original aims of fencing around the ACA have been achieved, certain issues flagged in earlier studies (The Butynksi Report of 1999 and Rhino Ark's in 2006) should be revisited. These include:

- Gate management guidelines for each gate type.
- Establish gate monitoring to keep track of all movements and non-exploitive extractions.

### Improve enforcement

Introduce more stringent laws and punishment for poaching of wildlife and illegal logging.

Establish stronger links with recognized local community groups to develop gate (and by inference ecosystem) management responsibility.

### Human-Wildlife conflict – reverse

Human-wildlife conflicts involving large mammals – elephant especially and buffalo have 'reduced considerably'. There are areas that remain exposed to baboons and monkeys, though these animals always exist throughout the farmed areas anyway.

### Illegal activities – down

Illegal activities have reduced due to access restrictions mainly in KWS managed areas. In KFS managed areas a fully transparent policy with full community buy in – aware of the constraints to indigenous forest uses or non-uses, and a firmly implemented policy, remains illusive. The findings emphasise that the lack of a gate policy and continu-

**The policy to replant with indigenous trees and natural regeneration inside the fence will restore additional forest cover.**

ous abuses of access are a severe handicap to good governance of the ecosystem.

### Socio-economic effects – positive

- Food security and household incomes have improved.
- Land values are up by as much as 400% in some areas and everywhere by more than 100%.
- Children are more secure and are able to attend schools without interruption from marauding wildlife on farmland.
- On-farm tree planting has increased with tighter management and reduced uncontrolled access to the indigenous forest.
- Cattle rustling using the forest as an escape route has virtually stopped.
- Farm management efficiency is up. Man hours to deal with wildlife conflict down. The reality of a demotivated labour pool due to wildlife risks and poor returns has been reversed and farmers' productivity greatly improved.
- Costs of fuel wood soon after fence sections are completed is higher but reduces partially once farm woodlot production starts, thus removing the pressure on the indigenous forest, habitually exploited before the fence.

### Carbon values – Aberdares

The report confirms that against a conservative estimate of USD 3.50 per metric ton per year, the annual total value of carbon to offset in the ACA is Ksh 375 million annually (Ksh 76 /USD 1).

The complexity of carbon offsets as they relate to Aberdares is at the forefront of new thinking and focuses on REDD+ (Reduced Emissions through avoiding Deforestation and Degradation Plus) formula that is still informally certified and awaiting compliance to the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).

## Water Resources – Better River flows

Aberdare river flows were reported more stable and less silted than the Mt. Kenya rivers – a fact attributed to better land cover in the ecosystem.

The report censures the hydrological and climatic data for the ACA rivers due to information 'gaps and inadequate coverage' and calls for urgent

attention by the various water authorities to fulfill this need. It recognizes that water is the prime value of the Aberdares with huge implications to the economic well being of farmers, for agriculture, tourism, and both rural and urban centre needs.

Nairobi for example is contributing 60% of GDP.

As a result of the fence intervention in historical forest destruction, the report's GIS results indicate strong re-growth of indigenous trees. The Aberdares range is now better able to offer itself as a more secure carbon sink. Logging has stopped. In order to ensure long term stability forest edge communities are being encouraged to re-plant inside the fence on results based formulas under Rhino Ark support.

The policy to replant with indigenous trees and natural regeneration inside the fence will restore additional forest cover. The acceleration of wood lots on farms outside the fence within the 5 km buffer zone and the policy to replant and conserve the riverines are all 'value areas' for results based carbon offset.

Payments are possible for reforestation, agro forestry in the fence adjacent zone and to boost conservation with indigenous in fill where logging and excisions had occurred pre the fence.

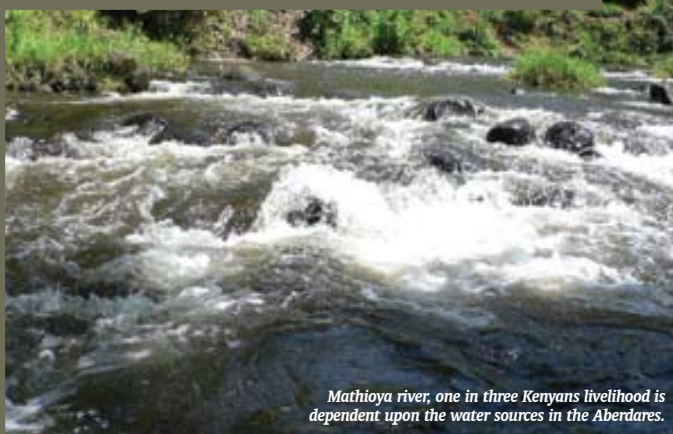
**Tourism – new opportunities**

The report confirms that a stable area now three times greater in size than the gazetted Aberdare National Park (767 km<sup>2</sup> – now 2000 km<sup>2</sup>) enabling wildlife – indeed all biodiversity to flourish and provides a stable foundation for further tourism investment.

Such investment to abide rigorously within the confines of an agreed integrated overall plan which KWS and KFS sign up and conform too, which meet NEMA's requirements and takes careful cognizance of the zoning concept – for high use, low use, wilderness and what the report calls the “fence adjacent landscapes” bordering the fence and the ACA.



Children from Bondeni Primary School in Mweiga running along the fence



Mathioya river, one in three Kenyans livelihood is dependent upon the water sources in the Aberdares.

**Aberdares - worth Ksh 55.8 billion in annual benefits to Kenyan economy**

Total annual benefits of products and services currently provide Ksh 36.52 billion and biodiversity a further Ksh 19.2 billion totaling Ksh 55.8 billion.

The identifiable benefits include domestic water supply to populations in Central Kenya, some parts of the Rift Valley and downstream Tana River valley with a value of Ksh 569 million.

It provides all of Nairobi's water – surface and sub-surface - at a value of Ksh 1.465 billion.

Irrigation water in Central Province and the Tana is worth Ksh 6.3 billion.

Contribution of river in-flow water is estimated at 58% for all Tana water and thus that same percentage of value to the hydro-power dams of the Tana. Value is Ksh 3 billion. The remainder is sourced from Mt. Kenya rivers.

It provides all the irrigation water for Lake Naivasha horticulture and floriculture – surface and sub-surface – with an estimated economic annual value of Ksh 931 million.

Contribution to agriculture in the region is Ksh 21.9 billion

The contribution to carbon sequestration and soil erosion

control is estimated at estimated Ksh 1.38 billion.

Direct benefits to the 40,000 families whose land borders the 400 km fence totals Ksh 712 million or just under Ksh 70,000 per family.

Tourism and other non-exploitive benefits is Ksh 227 million annually.

Biodiversity is valued at just under an annual Ksh 20 billion.

All these values were reached using recognised Cost Benefit Analysis (CBA) methods.

**Distribution of the benefits**

The Ksh 35.515 billion of non-biodiversity values in percentage terms shows that the regional benefits were highest at 73.1% (Central/Nairobi and parts of the Rift Valley region).

The community benefits for those on the forest edge and within 5 kms of the fence was 7.6%, national benefits identified at 12.4% and the global benefit (tourism/carbon etc) 6.9%.

For commercial users Aberdare water to farm households, irrigation, and agriculture totals Ksh 31.98 billion. Irrigation accounts for 68.6 %, Nairobi 18.3% of that total.

# Recommendations for future management



Milk yields by zero grazing and improved field grasses is the way forward.

The report recognizes Kenyan society’s enormous achievement through Rhino Ark’s action over 20 years not only to resolve human/wildlife conflict but to alert the general public of the threat to the very survival of the Aberdares ecosystem and in consequence to all Kenya’s ‘water tower’ mountains facing a myriad of threats.

It warns that without a clear management mandate through some form of a legally constituted public/private partnership, the dangers of failure remain ever present.

It stresses that the long term solution is to remove pressure from indigenous forest areas by finding alternative sources of income for fence and forest adjacent farmers and for community forest associations (CFAs) that are results and merit based and which are non exploitive of forest products.

It states the economic value of the Aberdare ecosystem is Ksh 55.8 billion annually. As a consequence the need for holistic management is indisputable. That such management requires the involvement of government working within a Trust with level private sector and fence line communities as decision partners and supported by an endowment.

It censures the “issue of breach of licensing conditions for fuel wood and grazing” within the indigenous forest areas (inside the fence).

It calls for a review of access points – all of which were discussed with local communities at the time of construction. However

over time these are now in need of a mechanism that enables a review and that communities are involved in the management process once core principles for non-exploitive activities have been agreed.

It reports that traditional forest revenues are still regarded as key values of indigenous forests, rather than as water catchment treasures that require conservation more than anything. It recommends that key stakeholders – fence edge communities, users of power and water services (the entire population of Kenya) should have some form of representation in the proposed management Trust citing them as key players in the payment for and use of ecosystem services (PES). It singles out Kengen, Nyao Tea Zone, the private sector via KEPSA, the Water Services Boards and the Water Resource Management Authority (WARMA). A more equitable process for PES could evolve with a legal framework and independent management of the fence and of the ecosystem.

To boost farm revenues outside the forest areas for fence adjacent communities, it proposes that a major effort should be made to develop high value crops to boost farm income.

Stimulations are needed to find alternative energy sources from biogas, energy saving jikos, and use of solar for domestic households. These too would earn carbon credits.

To boost farm revenues outside the forest areas for fence adjacent communities, it proposes that a major effort should be made to develop high value crops to boost farm income.

It urges fence adjacent communities to invest in their value source – the forest – by replanting indigenous trees inside the fence line.

Planting of trees to meet local building needs and generally to improve the ecological environment, are just some of the farmland opportunities.

It suggests that if farmers intensify livestock fodder production – zero grazing – as a more cost efficient form of farming, it would eliminate the current interaction of livestock with wild animals inside the fence where disease and predator attack are permanent threats.

Herding livestock into forest areas has a time efficiency loss for the owner.

It recognizes that livestock grazing inside the fence destroys newly planted trees and is in conflict with its conservation as a water source.

It recognizes that managed frameworks for ecotourism startups should be encouraged.

Alternative revenue sources such as bee keeping, butterfly farming and controlled herbal plant harvesting are ready for development.

The report concludes that in order to ensure a sustainable fence maintenance funding – and as a blueprint to follow in other forest water tower ecosystems - the major stakeholders need a meaningful dialogue to find an equitable process for PES.

The fence adjacent communities will play a pivotal role especially as they see most clearly the added value the fence is giving them.

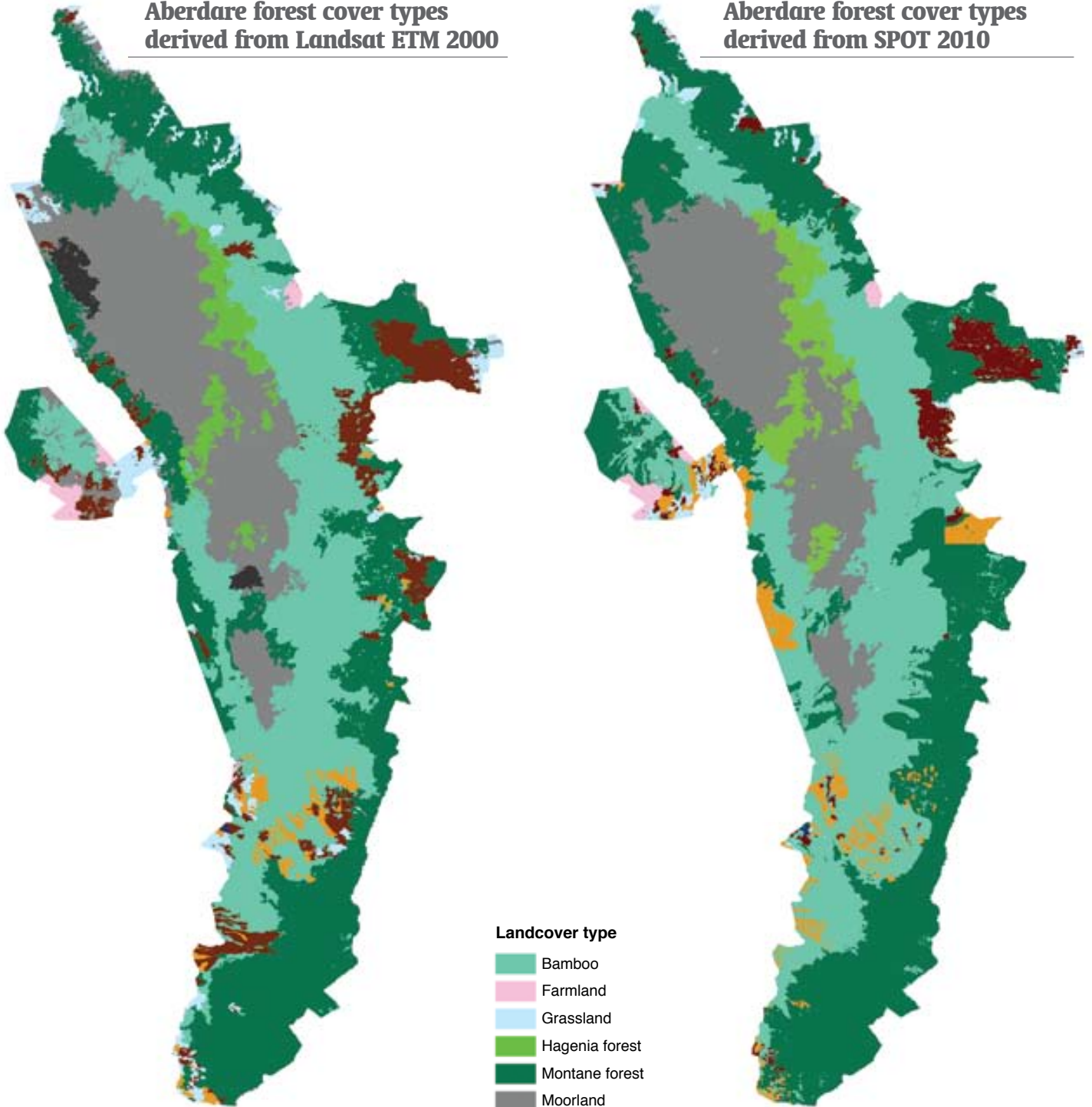


Farms are secured from the marauding elephants by the electric fence.

# The two map indicators over a ten year lifespan 2000 and 2010 give indications of strong forest cover recovery within the Aberdare Conservation Area

**Aberdare forest cover types derived from Landsat ETM 2000**

**Aberdare forest cover types derived from SPOT 2010**



**Landcover type**

- Bamboo
- Farmland
- Grassland
- Hagenia forest
- Montane forest
- Moorland
- Moorland (Burnt)
- Plantation forest
- Shrubland
- Water areas

This Landsat 2000 map is currently undergoing careful appraisal and which may result in a finer presentation of the various vegetation covers in the final publication of the report.



Karui group celebrating at the award ceremony

## 2010 Winners

The Michael Werikhe Award, 2010 for services to conservation in the Aberdares was awarded to the Karui 91 Self Help group from North Aberdares on March 25th 2011. The award was conceived by the East African Wildlife Society (EAWLS) in memory of the great conservation pioneer, Michael Werikhe. Richard Rono, Chief Administrator of EAWLS, handed the award to the Chairman of the group Catherine Nyambura who received it on behalf of other members.

The self help group planted over 25,000 indigenous trees in the Aberdare Ecosystem last year. They have announced they will be planting a further 75,000 during this year. Kenya Forest Service (KFS) have provided them with an area inside and adjacent to the fence to develop an indigenous tree nursery.

The Karui 91 group started out in 2008 with the goal to improve community livelihoods through environmental conservation and management for sustainable utilization of the natural resources. Since then, some of the group's achievements include:

- Raising and planting 27000 tree seedlings - 25000 in the degraded forest areas and 1600 exotic seedlings in members' farms, schools and churches;
- Clearing fifteen kilometers of fence line (from Mugaka to Rhino gate);
- Erecting gabions and planting grass along the fence line to curb soil erosion.

## Karui 91 Aberdare group wins Michael Werikhe Award

### Previous winners of the award have been:

**2002** - Capt. Charles Wachira - Kenya Pipeline Company pilot for services to Rhino Charge

**2003** - The Gatamaiyu/Karimenu Community - Which raised Ksh 1.54 million in donated labour charges for Phase Five of the Aberdare Fence

**2004** - Sarah Higgins - for her services particularly to water catchment conservation in Lake Naivasha basin

**2005** - George Odhiambo - the anchor person in KWS for the fence's construction for over 15 years

**2006** - KEKIKI Community - that raised over Ksh 2.4 million for Phase Six fence construction and re-forestation of indigenous trees inside the fence

**2007** - The Bongo Surveillance team - for their work for Bongo conservation in the Aberdares and elsewhere

**2008** - Christian Lambrechts - For his services with the KENVO group and for providing his expertise and creating national attention about the critical state of our water towers, in particular the Aberdares

**2009** - Kipkiama Cecaaffe and Geta Communities - For providing no cost labour to build sections of the Aberdare Fence near their farms on Mt. Kipipiri



Richard Rono, Chief Administrator, EAWLS hands over the Michael Werikhe Award to Catherine Nyambura, Chairperson of Karui group.

Halal

HUMPHREY KAYANGE  
LOVES INGOKHO  
ZILE KUBWA



**KENCHIC**

For people who are "Kuku" about chicken!



# SAFARICOM FOUNDATION FUNDS ELEPHANT GRIDS AT KIPIPIRI

Works have commenced on the construction of two elephant grids at the Kipipiri Elephant Corridor. The fenced corridor links the main Aberdare range to Mt. Kipipiri forest, an important elephant habitat (also fenced). The grids are being built on the public access road that bisects the corridor at two locations, 700 metres apart.

The grids are innovative metal and concrete structures designed to prevent wildlife from escaping the national park at the points where the park fence intersects a public access road.

The cost of the two grids, Ksh 3.068 million, is fully funded by the Safaricom Foundation. This grant brings to a total of Ksh 4.6 million the grants by Safaricom for the construction of elephant grids. In 2009, the Safaricom Foundation funded a grid at Kieni in south western Aberdares, where the busy C66 tarmac road crosses the Rhino Ark Aberdare fence.



*The elephant grid at Geta, Kipipiri under construction*



*A completed elephant grid*

2000  
Watt  
inverter



Chloride Exide's Marketing Manager, Louis Nyamwaya (right) and Brand Assistant, Julie Ng'etich (left) are pictured handing over an Outback Inverter to Kate Mwangi, PR/Promotions Officer at Rhino Ark.

Chloride Exide (K) Limited donated an inverter for use at this year's Rhino Charge Headquarters. The inverter which has a load capacity of 2000 Watts and is 24-Volt based, is essential for power backup at the venue.



## CAR 22 GOLF TOURNAMENT



Rhino Charge 2011 team Car 22, 'The Smiling Shenzie's', organized a fund-raising golf tournament at the Royal Nairobi Golf club on 21 January. The event was organized by Gray Cullen, competing in this year's Rhino Charge in his own vehicle for the first time.

A mix of novice and seasoned golfers competed in the 18-hole event, which featured an amusing twist, with a special 'Rhino Charge' 15th hole, in which the hole was off the green.

A post-game evening's dinner and auction rounded off a great event.

## RHINOTHON MARATHON FOR CAR 27



Rhino Charge team 27 organized a cycling marathon on April 2nd 2011. 31 teams including children and adults participated in the adventurous race held at Gigiri. The two sections were 750 metres and 1 km long. The race is done in teams where each member cycles the entire track before handing over to the next team member.

Billabongo, a team from Notre Dame School won the event. The Rhino Cubs collected the highest sponsorship of Ksh 501,111 with Suleiman Tejani collecting Ksh 284,861 by himself. Over Ksh 1m was raised in the event. All proceeds go towards fund raising for fencing the Mt. Kenya and Mau Mt. Eburu under Rhino Charge Car 27.



## Greensteds Run-a-Ton Success

On 26 February 2011, 63 pupils and staff from Greensteds International School showed exceptional teamwork and courage to take on 110 kms of hilly and mostly rough and dusty roads to raise funds for charity. The inaugural "Run-a-Ton" relay event required participants to run in teams from Narok, through the Mau Forest and on to Nakuru in a single day. It raised Ksh 153,000.

Each participant was required to seek sponsorship at the rate of one shilling for every metre run. Top fund raisers included Henry de Thierry (16 yrs) who raised Ksh 57,500 and Faith Wambui (13 yrs) who raised Ksh 6,300.

All pupils covered at least one leg, and many ran much more to help out their team mates. Greensteds teacher and Run organizer Nick Martyn commended the exceptional teamwork shown by the pupils.

The funds raised will be used primarily for Greensteds' sponsorship of a Control in the 2011 Rhino Charge event.

In an epic demonstration of stamina and commitment, pupils Eddie Cunningham (16 yrs) and brothers Kunal (15 yrs) and Kush Patel (14 yrs) cycled the entire distance in exactly 10 hours. This feat is the stuff of legend and sets the bar high for participants of future events.





## Quattro Charge 2011



# KSH 1,653,313 RAISED - IAN DUNCAN WINS

Rhino Charger and rally ace Ian Duncan beat 29 other drivers to emerge the winner at the Quattro Charge held on 27th March 2011 in Lukenya Hills. This is the third time he has won the Quattro Charge. Ian completed all the 17 tasks by losing only 50 points ahead of first time Quattro Charge entrant and 2010 Rhino Charge winner Sean Avery with 160 points down.

Crowd favourite Jas Sehmi powered through the rocks and boulders in his now famous jeep amidst cheers from over 1500 spectators who turned up at the event.

A total of Ksh 1,653,313 was raised. Rob Collinge, former three time winner of Rhino Charge and organizer of the Quattro Charge announced that 19 Rhino Charge 2011 entrants competed and that some of the Ksh 1.65 million would go towards their respective fund raise pledges for 2011.



## Hog Charge 2011

# KSH 3.5M RAISED FOR CAR 35

Ksh 3.5 Million was raised at the 13th Annual Hog Charge event for Rhino Ark's new projects – fencing Mt. Kenya and Mau Mt. Eburu and continuing maintenance of the Aberdare Fence. Funds go to organizers of Rhino Charge Car 35, Mark Tilbury and his Hog Charge team.

Kahawa Sukari Ranch, Ruiru, was the battleground for this year's event which saw 125 teams from 20 schools participating in the exciting, fun-filled experience. Five teams entered from local schools in Ruiru with 20 bicycles provided by World Bicycle Relief. The

event, sponsored by Brookside and Peponi School, registered a record 17 more teams and 5 more schools than last year.

Peponi School's Team 87, The Mad Hogs was this year's highest cash sponsor. The team raised a notable Ksh 188,100. In second place was Team 88, Strong Hogs from Kenton College who raised Ksh 81,500. Team 98, GP Karting Maniacs, also from Kenton College emerged a close third position, raising Ksh 75,000.

In the Top School Sponsorship category, The Banda School came first with

a total of 22 participating teams contributing a remarkable Ksh 722,350. Following closely was Peponi School, which had 16 teams participate and raised Ksh 627,460. Kenton College was third, with its 12 teams raising Ksh 442,862.

Pembroke House was the event's Best Checkpoint Sponsor.

Since its first event in 1988 to date, the Hog Charge has raised Ksh 24.5 million for Rhino Ark.



Bongo photographed at Honi, Aberdares in December 2010

This report by Dr Paul Reillo of the Rare Species Conservatory Foundation in Florida USA provides ARKive readers with the latest developments in this area.

Microsatellite DNA analyses are used to differentiate sub-populations and estimate relatedness between individuals.

Relatedness information is fundamental to the bongo recovery effort because the genetic variation across wild and captive bongo groups and the genetic similarity between fragmented wild sub-populations are presently unknown.

# Bongo endangered

– a global initiative gains momentum

The predicament of the Eastern Mountain Bongo (*Trelogelaphus euryceros isaaci*) is dire. As an inhabitant of high altitude forest and found only in Kenya's 'water tower' mountains – now the focus of a massive effort by the Kenya Government to restore them – the Bongo has become the talisman for conserving these forests.

Rhino Ark has been at the forefront of support for Bongo and in the effort to create global awareness as to their threatened habitat predicament.

The Bongo Surveillance Unit (BSP) has undertaken the work on the ground with patrols travelling deep into the harshest

forest environments to monitor this shyest, most beautiful and largest of all forest antelopes. The BSP has faced threats from illegal poachers and loggers throughout its work. It has however succeeded to record by sightings, use of camera traps, collection of dung as well monitoring habitual feeding areas that there are bongo groups in the Aberdares, Mt. Kenya, Mau Mt. Eburu and in other sections of the Mau.

The importance of ensuring that the genetics of these herds can help in increasing the possibility of introducing captivity bongo back into the Kenyan forests has attracted considerable international support.



Bongo on Mt Eburu - November 2010



## Best Rhino Picture

Wildlife sculptor, Murray Grant took this best picture of the male Black Rhino Kalema in the Salient in March.

# Wild dog on the moorland

The Aberdares continues to throw up many surprises with its prolific wildlife. The latest news of interest is the sightings of wild dog in well-travelled areas used by visitors on the moorland.

In March 2011, the wildlife sculptor Murray Grant was able to capture the picture (left) of two fine wild dog beside the road.

Then again in late March, Colin Church followed a pack of seven for 25 minutes on the moorland road around the junction to the Wandare track.

"The pack was in fine condition and very lively. As I drove slowly along with the pack running in front there was much frolicking. The pack contained six full grown and one sub adult," said Colin.

"After a while they grew curious and came to the door of my car," he added.

The picture of the four and the single animal at the Wandare junction were taken during that sighting.

Earlier in the year, the Bongo Surveillance Unit came across a pack under the Craggs in the headwater area of the Mathioya rivers. There was evidence there that the pack was killing bushbuck. It is a concern too that they may prove a threat to Bongo, though the team found no evidence of recent kills by wild dog.

The largest pack seen was one of 24 individuals near the Gura falls some years back.



By Murray Grant

Wild Dogs spotted in Aberdares



By Colin Church



By Colin Church



Four fine Giant Forest Hog – a common sight in the Aberdares.

By Colin Church

## Spirit of the Charge 2010 Film Launched



L-R: MC Gavin Bennett, Cathy Fraser, Lyn Bennett, Charlie Fraser enjoy their dinner



L-R: Tom Porter, Colin Church and Veronica Finch share a light moment



The Rhino Charge 2010 top 5 fundraisers

25th November 2010 marked an important day in the Rhino Charge calendar. Rhino Chargers, sponsors and friends of Rhino Ark convened at the Carnivore Simba Saloon for the premiere of the 'Spirit of the Charge 2010' film. This fun filled event was characterised by delectable food, competition awards and fine wine.

Gavin Bennett, Master of Ceremonies and editor of AUTONEWS introduced the film - a 26 minute production that is now on sale for Ksh 2,000.

The event's co-sponsor, the Carnivore, provided a grand buffet and barbecue.

Live entertainment was performed by The Itch band. Prize giving for the top five fund-raisers and Rhino Charge website photo competition awards also

took place. Fuji Kenya Ltd donated the photo competition prizes while Access Kenya sponsored the top five fund-raisers prizes including t-shirts and caps. The gate entrance tickets were sponsored by Paraprint Ltd.

The top fund-raisers this year were Alan Mckittrick - Car 5, Chris Welles - Car 10, Mark Tilbury - Car 35, Ben Woodhams - Car 39 and Sean Avery - Car 38 who also

emerged first overall. Rhino Ark's Valerie Gunputrav and Kate Mwangi presented the gifts to the Chargers.

Closing the formal proceedings of the event, Rhino Ark Management Committee Chairman Colin Church reminded the gathering that although fence construction was completed, the much greater long-term challenge of fence maintenance remained.

11a



Eric Kihiu (2nd right) and Priten Patel (extreme right) award the 2010 photo competition winners - Fredrick Leica, Sarah Higgins, Belinda Levitan and Ian Baxter with prizes

12a



Kate Mwangi (R) presents a gift pack to Alan McKittrick, Nick Hutchinson and Tom Porter of Car 5 for the highest sponsorship funds raised in 2010

13a



Valerie Gunputrav (L) and Kate Mwangi (R) present a gift to Sean Avery and Harry Branch of Car 38 for raising the 2nd highest funds in 2010

14a

# THANK YOU!

Rhino Ark wishes to thank the following people and companies who have provided recent services or specific donations in cash or kind to Rhino Ark.

## Lavinia Grant

**Carnivore Restaurant** - Venue for Spirit of the Charge 2010

**Gavin Bennett** - MC at the Spirit of the Charge 2010

**KWS** - RA offices

**Kenya Tourism Federation** - Assistance of conference room

**Braeburn Schools** - Driver's briefing venue

**CMC** - Recce vehicle for Rhino Charge, Venue Support

**Gallagher Power Systems** - Logistical Support, Sponsorship of Rhino Charge, Programme 2011

**Michael Jones Software** - Pre-Press Assistance

**Capital FM** - Promotion

**Guy Combes** - RC 2011 Logo

**Rob's Magic** - Quattro Charge, Vehicle support

**Safaricom Ltd** - Donation of Elephant Grids

**Nigel Pavitt** - Images of Community Life & Wildlife

**Murray Grant** - Images of Kalema the male rhino and wild dog

**Chloride Exide** - Battery inverter

**Good Year** - Sponsorship of RC Vehicle stickers

**Bongo Surveillance** - Project support, Rare Species Conservatory Foundation, Worburn Safari Park

**Bongo DNA Research**

Dr. Paul Riello

Dr. George Amato

Dr. Hendrik Svengren

## Order your copy of:

- **Strategic Evaluation of the Aberdare Fence... transition from fence build to ecosystem management**  
*(Published February 2007)*
- **Aberdare Profile**
- **2010 Spirit of Charge film on DVD Available for Ksh 2,000 only**

All the above are available from Rhino Ark offices in Nairobi, UK and the USA

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