



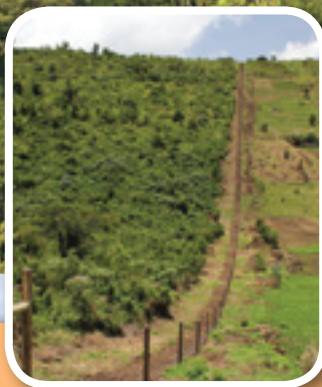
ARK*ive*

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RHINO ARK CHARITABLE TRUST

NO. 44 MAY 2014



Mau Eburu – pristine indigenous forest cover



- EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S VIEW: P3
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Braeburn School
Summum Appeto



Primary School Students 1986



Trip to Meru 1982



School Drama 1980

OUR FUTURE IS IN HISTORY

Over its thirty-five year history, Braeburn has grown from a single primary school caring for the educational needs of approximately 70 children, to now looking after the well-being of over 3000 pupils between 2 and 19 years of age.

Our responsibilities are not taken lightly. Despite the fact we run fifteen schools in both Kenya and Tanzania, we pride ourselves that our brand values are consistently revealed in all our schools. An educational brand which reflects a desire to ensure children are happy and content in their learning. An educational brand where 'children' really do come 'first'. A brand where children of whatever creed or colour accept each other, don't notice apparent differences, but respect each other for what they believe in and what they are. Our children become confident individuals, responsible citizens and are learners enjoying success.

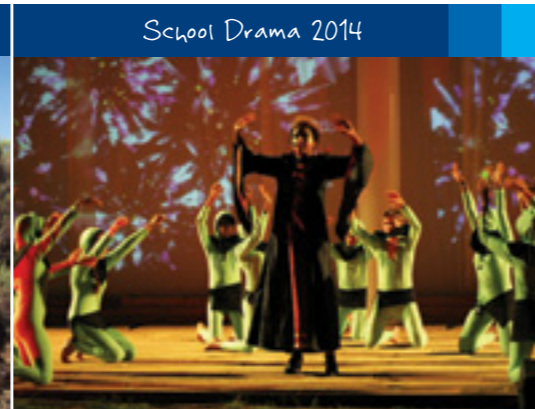
All Braeburn schools offer an education based on the National Curriculum of England and Wales. If you would like your child to be part of a growing future, visit our website www.braeburn.com and find out more about the Braeburn Group of International Schools.



Primary School Students 2014



Trip to Mt Kilimanjaro 2013



School Drama 2014



Rhino Ark Objectives

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

- Conserve such ecologically precious indigenous forests and their provision of vital environmental services;
- Create a sustainable and harmonious environment that enables people and wildlife, including all flora and fauna, to coexist;
- Create and provide sustainable programmes for forest edge communities based on payments for ecosystem services. Such programmes and projects will be tailored to create income generation for the communities that support the conservation of natural resources.

Rhino Ark is committed to:

- Mobilizing 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;
- Raise funds and other forms of support to develop sound management processes over entire ecosystems;
- Create frameworks 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 so doing all stakeholders will benefit and the flora and fauna, particularly endangered species, will be better secured.

Our conservation work is anchored in three key values:

- Protecting ecosystem integrity;
- Ensuring full involvement of and participation by local communities;
- Forming effective partnerships.

Act now!...

help us to continue our work

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Pictures by: Eric Kihuu, Christian Lambrechts, Kate Mwangi, Joseph Mutongu, Adam Mwangi, Bruno Shultz, Akhil Varma, Perfect Pics, Pat McMullin
Cover picture by: Eric Kihuu



Christian Lambrechts

Executive Director's view

The past few months have been marked by the achievement of significant milestones, consolidation of our expanded conservation portfolio and an improvement in Rhino Ark's international visibility.

Our fencing initiatives are progressing well. In Mau Eburu, over 50% of the 50-kilometre fence has been built since the project commenced in March 2013. The northern boundary of the forest is now completely fenced. In Mt. Kenya, construction of the 53-kilometre long Phase One section that spans the area between Kiringa and Thuchi Rivers is nearly complete, accounting for over 11% of the projected 450-kilometre total length. In the Aberdares, rehabilitation of Phase One section along the Eastern Salient of the National Park has commenced. The 38-kilometre phase that was completed in 1992 has now outlived its intended lifespan. The rehabilitation will extend the fence lifespan by another 20 years. This investment underscores Rhino Ark's long-term commitment to conservation of the Aberdare ecosystem and to providing sustainable solutions to the challenges facing Kenya's water towers.

Our expanded programme is getting firmly established. Seven joint aerial reconnaissance flights have already been conducted above Mt. Kenya and the Aberdares. The quarterly flights are an important tool to support the management of these mountains. The environmental curricula for primary and secondary schools around Mau Eburu have been developed and are being implemented in over 30 schools.

Rhino Ark continues to support the war on wildlife crime by facilitating appropriate capacity building for partners KWS and KFS. Tactical training was provided to 50 rangers from KWS and KFS with the support of the British Army Training Unit Kenya. In addition, we also facilitated training in the prosecution of wildlife crimes to 19 KWS wardens in collaboration with KWS and Space for Giants.

With the support of our Rhino Ark United Kingdom office, a parliamentary reception was organized at Westminster Palace in December 2013, on the importance of Kenya's water towers and the successful conservation approaches of Rhino Ark in addressing the challenges facing them. The event was also designed to provide new fund raising opportunities. A positive outcome of the event has enhanced visibility for Rhino Ark in the international media, including The Independent, The Guardian, the New York Times, as well as Kenya Airways' in-flight magazine *Msafiri*.

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Eburu bioenterprise initiative: Honey production steps up

The Eburu Bioenterprise honey production initiative is geared towards enhancing the capacity of local farmers to produce and market high quality honey as an income generating activity (IGA). Providing forest adjacent local communities with skills and opportunities to engage in non-destructive IGAs is an effective long term strategy to reduce unsustainable dependence on forest resources.

Stage 1 of this initiative involved providing basic training in bee keeping best practices to selected Eburu community groups, and was conducted in 2012/13.

Stage 2 of this process has now commenced, starting in January 2014. It was facilitated by a bioenterprise consultant engaged by Rhino Ark and involved the following activities:

- Audit of current honey production by farmers in the Eburu ecosystem;
- Assessment of local pricing for raw honey and a survey of bulk produce prices for competing bee keeping enterprises in neighbouring sub-counties;
- Practical training on semi-processing techniques to honey production groups;
- Collection of semi-processed honey samples and presentation to potential bulk honey buyers;
- Assessment of the honey market and identification of potential bulk buyers from Nairobi and Naivasha towns.

A key outcome observed from this process was the 29% increase in number of hives since May 2013.

Current knowledge gaps of the local community in honey production were identified. 28 local community members from various groups received training in honey semi-processing methodology. Discussions with bulk honey buyers that were presented with Eburu honey samples indicate that there is potential for good sales.

Rhino Ark will continue to work with the Eburu communities as well as other stakeholders to further develop the bioenterprise honey production initiative.



Examining log hive



Honey comb freshly extracted



Filtering honey during semi-processing

Eburu fence: 50% completed

A major milestone has been achieved in the Rhino Ark project to conserve Eburu forest: 25 of the projected 50 kilometres of the electrified fence have now been constructed since the project commenced in March 2013. The fence is being built along the gazetted Eburu Forest Reserve boundary. It stretches westwards from 'Fire Tower' in Eburu Location, through Ole Sirwa and Morop areas of Ol Jorai Location, traverses steep-sided valleys in Kahuho area, curves sharply east at Gachuma Centre in Kiambogo Location and onwards to Centre One in Ndabibi location.

Fence construction work is being undertaken by a crew of up to 32 team members, comprising a mix of experienced technicians from Rhino Ark partner Kenya Wildlife Service, and labour drawn from the local community. A standing Fence Technical Committee comprising project partners Rhino Ark, Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service meets monthly on site to assess the work done. The committee ensures the quality of work by physically walking the most recently completed section of fence line, inspecting every metre of the fence built, and addressing any technical issues that impact on the fencing work.

Governance of the project is supported by a Fence Management Committee constituted for this purpose. This committee comprises top management of the three partner organizations, and exists to provide corporate level support and guidance to the project.



Corner strainer assembly at completed section of fence in Gachuma area

One year has passed since commencement of construction, and with 50% of the fence now completed, clear impacts are beginning to emerge. Farmers adjacent to fenced areas are protected from wildlife. Illegal activity in the forest has declined sharply, and the forest management has seen a doubling of revenues from forest user groups due to better control of access into the forest.

At the present rate of construction, it is anticipated that the fence will be completed by the end of the year.



Conservation education classroom session at Cypress Primary School

Conservation education programme kicks off in Eburu schools

Teaching of the newly developed conservation education curricula has kicked off in 32 Eburu schools in the January 2014 school term. The comprehensive curricula for both primary and secondary schools aim to provide pupils with essential environmental conservation knowledge and skills. The lessons contained in the curricula provide relevant content for pupils from Class Four in primary school, all the way to Form Four in secondary school.

The curricula are contained in 4 books developed by Rhino Ark in partnership with the Ministry of Environment, Water and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Education. Environmental education teachers in each of the schools were in late 2013 trained on the curricula in preparation for the roll out in the New Year.

This initiative by Rhino Ark marks a distinctive step forward for conservation education: it brings together relevant knowledge from diverse areas and packages it into a harmonized form that can be taught to school children in a systematic manner. It facilitates continuous and consistent learning through the mid-primary to secondary school academic life of pupils, and in so doing, provides a solid foundation for them.



Eburu Secondary School receives curriculum books



Fence crew unloads delivery of wooden fence posts at Kahuho Camp



Fencing crew member stapling tight lock wire mesh to fence wire

First Eburu fence energizer house commissioned

Friday 28th March marked another milestone in the Rhino Ark Eburu fence project, with the commissioning of the Morop fence energizer house in Ol Jorai Location. The chief guest at the event was Francis ole Nkako, Acting Managing Director of the Kenya Water Towers Agency.

The well-attended event was organized by Rhino Ark with core project partners Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service. Senior officials of Nakuru County, members of the local community, friends of Rhino Ark, key project donors (MPESA Foundation and Finlays), conservation partners, administration and law enforcement officials convened at the venue to participate in the event.

The Nakuru County was represented by Deputy Governor, Joseph Ruto, Environment Minister Prof. Richard Rop and Member of County Assembly Jane Simita. The Ministry of Devolution and Planning was represented by Senior Director of Administration Hassan Noor Hassan, MPESA Foundation by Executive Director Les Baillie, and Finlays by Managing Director Simeon Hutchinson.

The energizer house was built at a cost of KES. 6.6 million, with funding support from the MPESA Foundation. It is a multi-purpose facility housing the system that powers a 20 kilometre section of fence and also acts as the base for the fence scouts that maintain the fence. The facility is the first of three of this type that will be constructed along the Eburu fence line.



From left: C. Lambrechts (Rhino Ark), R. Rop (Nakuru County), S. Mukundi (KFS), F. Nkako (KWTA), L. Baillie (MPESA), J. Simita (MCA, Eburru), H. Noor (Min. of Devolution and Planning), G. Odhiambo (KWS)



Rhino Ark Eburu Fence/Community Manager, J. Mutongu (left) presents Eburu fence map to K. Kamau, Deputy County Commissioner, Gilgil Division. Looking on is S. Koki, OCPD, Gilgil Division



Eburu Forest Manager P. Kiita, shows illegal logging activity in the forest

Top enforcement officers and county administrators visit Eburu fence

Rhino Ark together with partner Kenya Forest Service organized an orientation field visit to the Eburu fence for 6 senior law enforcement and administration officers on 13th March 2014. The officers were drawn from divisions within Nakuru County that are adjacent to Eburu forest. Officers that attended included the Deputy County Commissioner (Gilgil Division), Assistant County Commissioner (Elementaita), Assistant County Commissioner (Gilgil), Officer Commanding Police Division (Gilgil), Officer Commanding Police Station (Elementaita), and Officer Commanding Police Station (Kongoni).

The purpose of the field visit was to introduce the officers to the Eburu project. The guests were provided with a detailed project briefing and useful material on the Eburu Ecosystem Conservation Project. The officers visited selected illegal forest activity hot spots to appreciate the challenges involved in protecting the forest, and had the opportunity to network with members of the project team.

Many conservation challenges facing Eburu forest have their roots in illegal human activities, and the cooperation and support from local law enforcement and administration is often a critical success factor in addressing these challenges.

The field visit provided a good foundation for enhanced future collaboration between law enforcement officers, administration officers and the project team.



Local community members keenly follow proceedings at the event



The completed energizer house



Group at Centre One in Ndadibi Location



Walking through the forest



Fence build progress

Phase One of Mt. Kenya fence is nearly completed. As of 18th March 2014, approximately 49 kilometres of comprehensive fence have been built, as well as 2 kilometres of two-strand fence to protect forest plantations. Phase One (53 km between Kiringa river – Thuchi river) is expected to be completed by the end of April 2014.

Preparation for the building of Phase Two is well underway and Procurement of fence material has been done.



Mt. Kenya Electric Fence between Thambana and Irangi

Protecting one of the oldest plantations of camphor trees

The Mt. Kenya Electric Fence is now protecting some 20,000 camphor trees (*Ocotea usambarensis*) planted in the late 1940's near Irangi Forest Station. Over the past decades, illegal logging has been the main threat to this plantation of hardwood indigenous trees. The newly erected electric fence will assist KFS and KWS in addressing this menace.



Old plantation of camphor trees protected by the newly built fence near Irangi Forest Station

Engaging the communities and their leaders in conservation

Rhino Ark, together with KWS and KFS organized a Community Leaders Sensitization Workshop on 12th November 2013. The workshop was attended by over 70 leaders from all the communities adjacent to Phase Two of the Mt. Kenya Electric Fence that will start in early May 2014. The workshop aimed to sensitize the leadership on the importance of Mt. Kenya Forest, the benefits and management of the fence and other conservation issues. Participants included the Deputy Governor, DCs, DOs, Chiefs, Assistant Chiefs, CFA chairpersons, opinion leaders, womens' group leaders and youth group leaders. Towards the end of the workshop, the leaders fully endorsed the building of the fence and committed themselves to:

- a) Provide leadership in environmental conservation;
- b) Sensitize the communities on the importance of Mt. Kenya Forest, the benefits of the fence, its construction and its management.

Following the Workshop, Rhino Ark, together with KWS, KFS and the local administration held public meetings (barazas) in the twelve locations bordering Phase Two of the Mt. Kenya Electric Fence between 24th March 2014 and 4th April 2014. The barazas aimed to sensitize the communities on the building and maintenance of the fence, the management of fence gates and the need to protect the forest. The barazas also helped air issues related to the management of the forest.

Addressing illegal activities

To identify and help address the threats to the conservation of Mt. Kenya, three surveillance flights were carried out on 3rd July 2013, 15th September 2013 and 13th March 2014. They covered the forests in Kirinyaga, Embu, Tharaka-Nithi and Meru Counties. During the flights, low levels of recent human disturbance were observed. A number of law enforcement interventions have already been conducted by KWS and KFS to address the illegal activities observed during the flights.

The flight carried out on 13th March enabled assessment of the efforts conducted by KFS to rehabilitate the Lower Imenti forest. That forest was invaded by *Lantana camara* – a highly invasive plant species from the American tropics - after the eviction of squatters in 1999 [left photograph]. KFS entered into an agreement with neighbouring farmers by which they are allowed to plant annual crops in the forest for a period of three to four years in exchange of which the farmers have to uproot the invasive lantana, plant young indigenous trees and care for them.



Lantana camara before and after

Enhancing patrols on Mt. Kenya

Towards enhancing the ground patrols by KWS, Rhino Ark is implementing a state-of-the-art patrol monitoring system on Mt. Kenya. The system will comprise of two main components: (a) advanced GPS devices with in-built camera and SIM card to be used by the six patrol teams on Mt. Kenya; (b) a central mapping server to be based at KWS HQs that will receive data from multiple GPS devices and display the data in real time in a mapping environment that will be accessible to the senior managers.

To reduce the purchasing cost of this system, Rhino Ark applied to the ESRI Nonprofit Organization Program to acquire ArcGIS software for a nominal administration fee in July 2013. On 3rd September 2013, Rhino Ark was notified by the ESRI East Africa Office that the application was granted. Through that grant, a saving of approximately USD 55,000 over the commercial rate has been realized.

The setup of the server is completed and the training on the multiple modules of the system is near completed. The system is expected to be operational towards the end of April 2014.



Rhino Ark and KWS staff with instructor at ESRI training facility in Nairobi

Rehabilitation of Phase One started

Rhino Ark has begun a rehabilitation programme to upgrade and update part of the fence surrounding the Aberdare ecosystem. The first phase of the Aberdare fence, along the Eastern Salient of the Aberdare National Park, was completed in 1992. The 40-kilometre of the section has now outlived its projected lifespan, as has the 40-kilometre of the second phase, which was completed in 1995.

The rehabilitation of Phase One of the fence began in January 2014, starting with the seven kilometre section between Mitero Gate and Wandare Gate. This segment is one of the most vulnerable sections of the Salient fence and its rehabilitation, which is expected to extend the fence's lifespan by 20 years, will be finished during April 2014. In support of the rehabilitation work, Rhino Ark has already provided 1,400 new fencing posts along with additional funds to cover the expense of fencing equipment and materials and the extra running costs for vehicles used in the rehabilitation programme.

The rehabilitation of Phase One underscores the long-term commitment of Rhino Ark to the conservation of the Aberdare ecosystem.



Rehabilitation of Phase One, between Mitero Gate and Wandare Gate. Fence technician building a new strainer assembly



Rehabilitation of Phase One, between Mitero Gate and Wandare Gate. New posts and strainer assemblies placed next to the old fence



Joint team that participated in the surveillance flight of 24th March 2014

Addressing illegal activities

Rhino Ark is conducting quarterly surveillance flights above the Aberdare forests, together with KWS and KFS.

On 18th November 2013, a surveillance flight was conducted with a team of six field managers from KWS, KFS and Rhino Ark. The flight enabled an assessment of the impact of recent interventions to address illegal activities in the Northern Aberdares. Major improvements were observed in one of the two hot spots detected during the surveillance flights carried out in February and April 2013. Further interventions will still be required in the other hot spot. The flight also covered forest areas in Nyeri and Muranga counties.

On 24th March 2014, another surveillance flight was conducted covering the western side of the Aberdare range spanning the counties of Nyandarua and Kiambu. The flight also covered Mount Kipipiri and revealed low levels of human disturbance in the forest. However, it enabled the detection of one emerging issue near South Kinangop Forest Station. During the debriefing after the flight, the team agreed on a response to address the issue.

Aberdare Fence Essay Competition 2013: Prize giving Ceremony

Rhino Ark presented an award to Teacher Magdeline Wanja of Njogu-ini Primary School at a ceremony held at the school in January 2014. She emerged the Best Overall in the Aberdare Fence Essay Competition 2013. Eighty seven teachers drawn from Primary schools bordering Rhino Ark Aberdare fence entered in the essay competition. The essay was entitled 'Discuss ways to enhance conservation education in your school'.

Aberdare Fence Essay Competition is an annual activity organised by Rhino Ark and Kenya Wildlife Service aimed at engaging pupils drawn from fence-line community in a

competitive process that is used to select schools to participate in the Annual Aberdare Fence Relay Run. The Fence Run aims at raising awareness among the local community on the need to own the 400km Aberdare fence so that they can continue enjoying benefits accruing from the fence.

The prize-giving ceremony was graced by the Deputy County Commissioner, Tetu North. Local leaders, clergy, teachers, parents and pupils cheered as Teacher Magdaline was crowned the winner of Aberdare Fence Essay Competition 2013 in the teachers' category. Certificates were also presented to the participants of Aberdare Relay Run 2013.



Pupils and parents, Njogu-ini Primary School display certificates as Adam Mwangi, Rhino Ark Fence/Community Manager (centre) looks on



WILDLIFE WATCH Bongo spotted at Rhino Retreat - Aberdares

On 26th October 2013, a female bongo visited the Rhino Retreat in the Salient area of the Aberdare National Park at around 10 p.m. Bruno Shultz who has been a frequent visitor to the Rhino Retreat captured this photograph.

Collaboration with BATUK

Rhino Ark is coordinating the support by the British Army Training Unit Kenya (BATUK) to KWS and KFS in the Mt. Kenya/Aberdare area. The support includes provision of training and the rehabilitation of key infrastructure in both mountain ecosystems.

On 3rd - 5th December 2013, a tactical training was provided by the 3rd Battalion of the Parachute Regiment (3rd PARA) to 20 KWS rangers and 30 KFS rangers near Nanyuki Forest Station.

Through BATUK, an expert from the London Fire Brigade was provided to help draft an Emergency Response Plan for both Mt. Kenya and Aberdare ecosystems. The plan, once completed, will help secure a prompt and coordinated response to address, among other issues, wildfires on Mt. Kenya and in the Aberdares.

With the support of BATUK, the rehabilitation of Nanyuki Bridge has been successfully completed. The bridge is the first among the eight key infrastructure components identified in Mt. Kenya and Aberdares to be rehabilitated with the support of BATUK.



Award ceremony of certificates to rangers upon the completion of the training

Opening ceremony of the Nanyuki Bridge on 9th April 2014

Training of KWS wardens in the prosecution of wildlife crimes

Rhino Ark, together with KWS and Space for Giants, organized a two-day training programme on the administration of justice to address wildlife crimes. Participants included 18 KWS wardens from Mt. Kenya, Aberdares, Mau Eburu, Laikipia and Samburu areas. Mount Kenya Trust also participated in the training.

The purpose of the training was to address weaknesses in the prosecution of wildlife crimes, that were identified during the Retreat for Magistrates that was organized last year in Meru National Park. The training focused on: 1) the trial process; 2) drafting of charge sheets; 3) handling of evidence; 4) recording of witness statements; and 5) the Court Users Committee. It also covered the new 2013 Wildlife Conservation and Management Act. The training was given by Stephen Githingi, Thomas Muraguri and Florence Mwacharia, all three magistrates and Mike Muya, public prosecutor who provided their time and expertise *pro bono*.



Training of KWS wardens in the administration of justice, Mpala Research Centre, 10th - 12th April 2014



Here's to Recharging the Rhino Charge.

In the interest of conserving the Aberdare Range, Highlands Mineral Water Company Limited has supported the Rhino Charge for over 18 years.

Through the noble Rhino Ark Charitable Trust, the Aberdare has remained one of Kenya's biggest water catchment areas, supplying more than half of the water that keeps Nairobi and its environs alive. It's also thanks to the teeming streams of the Aberdare rainforest, that our products have become part and parcel of Kenyan history.

For more than 60 years, we've been refreshing the East African region with world class soft drinks. Value, quality and innovation are the gears that drive the Highlands Water Company. In line with this, all our products are certified by the Kenya Bureau of Standards and our water carries the Diamond Mark of Quality, ensuring that you drink assured.

So here's to the Rhino Charge. Here's to the Aberdares. Here's to the Highlands way of life.



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Importance of protecting Kenya's water towers highlighted at parliamentary reception in London

The critical importance of Kenya's water towers was addressed at a reception in the House of Lords which was hosted by Rhino Ark Patron Lord Aberdare on behalf of the Rhino Ark. The reception was held in the River Room, by gracious permission of the Lord Speaker, on Tuesday, 10th December.

The event, held during the week that Kenya celebrated its 50th anniversary of independence, highlighted Rhino Ark's important work in the country, in partnership with the Government of Kenya. The High Commissioner of Kenya, H.E. Mr Ephraim Ngare, attended the reception, along with parliamentarians, members of the business community, Friends of Rhino Ark and other environmental organisations. The event was sponsored by Pax Mondial.

The purpose of the reception was to: (1) raise the profile of Kenya's water towers as critical natural assets supporting Kenya's economic development, human well-being and ecological stability; and (2) show case the successful conservation work carried out by Rhino Ark to address the challenges facing these ecosystems, in particular human-wildlife conflicts, forest degradation and wildlife poaching.

The event was also organized to trigger interest from potential donors in supporting Rhino Ark's work. As a follow-up, a portfolio of five project proposals for funding were sent to those invited to the reception.



His Excellency Ephraim Ngare, Kenyan High Commissioner to the UK, attended the Rhino Ark reception along with (from l-r) Lord Aberdare DL, Patron of Rhino Ark and host of the reception; Christian Lambrechts, Executive Director of Rhino Ark; Rory Macdiarmind of Pax Mondial; and Guy Tritton, Chair of Rhino Ark UK

Greening Rhino Ark's Aberdares Operation Base



Solar panels recently installed on the roof of the Rhino Retreat

As part of the greening of its operations, Rhino Ark has installed a solar power system in its operation base in the Aberdare National Park, known as the "Rhino Retreat". Nine solar panels of 250 watts each are now powering the base, together with a state-of-the-art charger-inverter. The system was installed by Chloride Exide Kenya Ltd.

The benefits of the solar system include:

- a) Provision of electricity 24 hours/day, instead of 4.5 hours/day, to the Rhino Retreat, making it a much more effective operation base for Rhino Ark management, and more comfortable retreat for Rhino Ark's guests;
- b) Reduction of fuel consumption by approximately 1,490 litres/year that were used for the running of the generator;
- c) Show case of the use of solar energy to power individual houses; and,
- d) Elimination of the burden on guests to carry jerry cans of fuel to the Rhino Retreat.

THE TEANIS - ALL MILLIONAIRES

By Kate Mwangi

It is clear that nothing will stop Chargers from coming back every year for more. As at 9.55 a.m. on July 8th 2013, all 65 places for the Rhino Charge 2014 were filled. In a historic turn of events, all places were taken with KES 1 million pledges. Thrills and spills in the yet-to-be announced Charge venue await the mad machines that are set to be steered by millionaires. Vehicles ranging from Mercedes Unimogs, Land Rovers and Land Cruisers will be sure to wow the thousands of enthusiasts who are now gearing up for yet another fun weekend in the bush.

They cut across all sections of Kenyan society and beyond with a lively following of overseas participants – some as entrants and others filling the runner/navigator ranks for veteran Kenyan teams. As for the runners, it will be running and more running in the wild Kenyan bush. The competitors' skills will be tested as their brains and experience will be pitted against some of the seasoned veterans.

Sean Avery's Team Bundufundi in Car 38 is all set to defend their 2010 and 2013 title 'Overall Event Winner'. With Mzee Sean behind the wheel and his runners as agile as ever, the team is sure to be at the heart of the chase again. Having been right in the pod of lead cars for many Charges, Alan McKittrick's Car 5 team will be hot on car 38's wheels.

The Veteran Charger slot is firmly filled by septuagenarian Jas Sehmi of Nyeri in the usual car – a 1947 Willis Jeep. This compact World War II off-road offshoot has kept spectators in the Gauntlet spell bound with it and its driver's wild antics over rocks and ravines.

Gender has no boundary in Rhino Charge. Among the ladies teams registered for this year's Charge and out to win the Coup des Dames trophy are Petra Somen/Sabine Kontos in Car 19, Tanya Church in Car 17 and Rowena White in Car 60. First time entrants set to tackle the course are Anthony Stow in Car 15, Tej Sehmi in Car 18, Ashwin Kapoor in Car 29 and Felix Rembold in Car 31.



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OUR THANKS GO TO THE FOLLOWING DONORS WHO HAVE PLEDGED PRIZES FOR THE RAFFLE



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THANK YOU TO THE RHINO CHARGE RAFFLE COMMITTEE:

CHRISTIAN LAMBRECHTS • VALERIE GUNPUTRAV • KATE MWANGI BELINDA LEVITAN • HENRIETTA REMNANT • GILLIE HUTCHINSON DEVINA MEINZINGEN

FOR THEIR VOLUNTARY EFFORTS TO SECURE THESE PRIZES

<http://www.rhinocharge.co.ke/rhino-charge-raffle/raffle-prizes-2014.html>

RAFFLE TICKETS AND PRIZES



The 2014 raffle books are ready for collection. All teams should arrange to collect them from the Rhino Ark office. For those who have already collected, more books are available on request. New and exciting prizes have already been pledged.

RHINO CHARGE 2014 MERCHANDISE

This year's merchandise will be on sale at the Rhino Charge venue. Kindly purchase your t-shirts, caps, Rhino Charge DVDs and much more in support of Rhino Ark.



RHINO CHARGE PRE-EVENT BRIEFING FOR 3RD MAY

The 2014 Rhino Charge Pre-event Briefing is set to take place on 3rd May at the Braeburn School, Lavington.

Charge entrants must attend or have a representation of at least one member. Guard Post officers, officials and sponsors should also be present.

Among the activities to be briefed on include:

- Pre-Charge check-in details by the Clerk of Course, David Lowe;
- Distribution of competitor bags;
- Collection of car sponsorship from entrants;
- Filling in of camping registration forms.

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



Chris Diaz, Marketing Director at Kenya Airways hands over an air ticket to Valerie Gunputrav, Office Administrator at Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust. The ticket is part of the Charge Raffle donated by Kenya Airways and which was won by Ian Small of the Business Advisory Group who sponsored Car 44 in the 2013 Rhino Charge.

CAMPING ARRANGEMENTS



Tarpo Industries Ltd is the appointed camp provider for this year's Rhino Charge.

As has always been the case, the appointed outfitter can accommodate competitors, sponsors and spectators in their designated camping areas.

To make reservations please contact Tarpo on Tel: (+254) 20 356 1111/2222. Cell: (+254) 722 204747/4949 or (+254) 733 958400.

As part of Tarpo's commitment to conservation and the Rhino Charge they will be providing most of the official tents used to run the event such as headquarters, venue check-in and information.

RHINO CHARGE ENDORSED SPECTATOR CAMP

For the first time in the history of the event, Rhino Charge is collaborating with a professional camp provider to offer high quality accommodation and meals within the spectator camp. The camp is limited to five VIP luxury tents known as the Kifaru deluxe retailing at KES 16,500 ppn sharing and twenty five exclusive tents known as the Maridadi tent retailing at KES 12,500 ppn. For bookings and details please phone 0717 328 202 or email: rhinochargeaccommodation@gmail.com

HOG CHARGE 2014 RAISES 3.09M FOR CAR 35

KES 3,090,734 was raised at the 16th Annual Hog Charge event for Rhino Ark's projects - fencing Mt Kenya and Mau Eburu and continuing maintenance of the Aberdare Fence.

Kahawa Sukari Ranch, Ruiru, was the battleground for this year's event which saw 100 teams from various schools participate in the exciting, fun-filled experience on 26th January 2014. The event, sponsored by Brookside and Peponi School, saw hundreds of supportive parents, relatives and friends attend.

Pembroke House Team 87, Beautiful Blondes, was this year's highest cash sponsor. The team raised a notable KES 138,000. In second place was Team 1, Happy Hippos, from Peponi House & Pembroke House, who raised KES 122,000. Team 6, Super Strikers, from Peponi, Aga Khan & Kenton College emerged a close third, raising KES 112,650.

Each team must raise a total of KES 24,000 in sponsorship to qualify to compete in the event. The funds raised are donated to Mark Tilbury of Car 35 (Hog Charge Team) as sponsorship for his Charge entry.

Pembroke House emerged the best check-point sponsor.

Since its first event in 1998 to date, the Hog Charge has raised over 33 million for Rhino Ark.



SPIRIT OF THE CHARGE 2013 FILM LAUNCHED AT GP KARTING



Saturday 30th November 2013 marked an important day in the Rhino Charge calendar. The Rhino Charge fraternity convened at the GP Karting venue, off Langata Road for the premiere of the 'Spirit of the Charge'- the dramatic 26 minute film about the 2013 Rhino Charge that took place at Ol Donyo Nyokie - Magadi.

Chargers and their supporters relived the thrills, spills, scratches and moments of hilarity as they battled it out on the GP Karting course. A change in the venue provided a relaxed, fun filled and memorable atmosphere for the turn out that included children for the first time ever.

One entry into the Rhino Charge 2014 was auctioned and the highest bidder turned out to be Richard Keeley who pledged a minimum of KES 1,150,000.

The top fundraisers were each awarded with prizes. They are:
 Car 5 - McKittrick / Hutchinson / Jessop / Bovard / Knight / Smith
 Car 63 - Tim Carstens
 Car 35 - Mark Tilbury / Hog Charge Team
 Car 62 - Stanley Kinyanjui / Magnate Chargers
 Car 17 - Tanya Church / Team Rhino Rouge

All guests received a copy of the film on DVD which is designed as a promotional tool for the Chargers fundraising efforts. The event's MC, Gavin Bennet charmed the crowd with wit and humour.

A total of KES 90,294,238 million was raised in the 2013 Rhino Charge.

GREENSTEDS 'RUN-A-TON' FOR RHINO CHARGE 2014



The Greensteds International School 2014 'Run-a-Ton' relay event took place on 11th January 2014. The event is a 110-km relay run from Narok town to Nakuru via the Maasai Mau forest organized by the school as part of its fund raising effort for the 2014 Rhino Charge event.

The relay was a test of endurance and teamwork through the hilly landscape of the Mau mountain range, including an incredible 1,000 metre climb from 1,900m to 2,900m before a precipitous descent into the Rift Valley.

Greensteds are a sponsor of the 2014 Rhino Charge, providing one of the 13 competition control points through which competitors must pass.

The annual relay event was flagged off by Mr. Francis Ole Nkako, Ag. CEO of the Kenya Water Towers Agency. Mr. Hassan Noor Hassan, Senior Director of Administration in the Ministry of Devolution and Planning, together with the Executive Director of Rhino Ark welcomed the 70 runners upon their arrival at the school and briefed them on the progress made in the conservation of the water towers.

RHINOTHON MARATHON FOR CAR NO. 27

On 6th April 2014, Rhino Charge Teams 27 and 61 hosted the annual cycling event dubbed The Rhinthon at the Karura forest to raise sponsorship for their Rhino Charge entries. The Rhinthon started off as a 24 hour day and night cycling relay event, 10 years ago, but has now evolved into a daytime only event for the last two years.

This year's event saw 125 cyclists taking part in the cycling challenge. The highest individual collection was KES 37,850 by Dhilan Shah, second highest was KES 25,002 by Jaykishan H Patel and third highest was KES 19,000 by Mwanyumba Mwandime Nganga.

Team 27 has already begun scouting for a suitable venue for next year's Rhinthon.



RHINOTHON 2014 – FINAL RESULTS

POSITION	TEAM NO.	TEAM NAME / CATEGORY	TIME START	TIME FINISH	DURATION MINUTES
1	1	RUFF RIDERS (OPEN)	09:00	10:53	113
2	2	FOREST GUMPS (OPEN)	09:03	11:53	170
1	4	THUNDER LIONS (10-11)	09:09	12:40	211
2	3	MIDNIGHT RIDERS (10-11)	09:06	01:37	271
3	5	DIRT RIDERS (10-11)	09:12	3:35	383
1	7	BUSH BIKERS (7-9)	09:18	11:54	156
2	6	SUKUMA TWENDE JUNIORS (7-9)	09:15	12:07	172
3	22	MUD MINXES (7-9) – GIRLS TEAM	09:30	01:33	243
4	9	STORM RIDERS (7-9)	09:24	02:46	322
4	10	ROAD RASCALS (7-9)	09:27	02:49	322
6	8	MUDDY MONSTERZ (7-9)	09:21	02:56	335
1	21	MUD MANIACS (4-6)	10:03	11:40	97
2	18	BIKE-A-THON (4-6)	09:54	12:09	135
3	20	MUD MARAUDERS (4-6)	10:00	12:21	141
4	17	MOUNTAIN BIKERS (4-6)	09:51	12:21	150
5	15	RAGING BULLS (4-6)	09:45	01:25	220
6	16	BUFFALO RIDERS (4-6)	09:48	01:36	228
7	13	RHINO RIDERS (4-6)	09:39	01:53	254
8	19	SHAMBA BOYZ (4-6)	09:57	02:26	269
9	12	FAST AND FURIOUS FIVE (4-6)	09:36	02:29	293
10	14	BIG FIVE (4-6) – GIRLS TEAM	09:42	03:01	319
11	11	HAKUNA MATATA (4-6)	09:33	03:13	340
1	51	MUD MONSTERS (1-3)	62 LAPS		
2	53	BULL RIDERS (1-3)	49 LAPS		
3	52	MUD MONKEYS (1-3)	48 LAPS		

HIGHEST TEAM COLLECTION

YEAR 1-2	BULL RIDERS	KES. 25,550
YEAR 4-6	RHINO RIDERS	KES. 72,850
YEAR 7-9	MUDDY MONSTERZ	KES. 43,102
YEAR 10-11	MIDNIGHT RIDERS	KES. 15,100
OPEN	FOREST GUMPS	KES. 20,000



1. Chargers rev up at the starting grid
2. Jon Bovard (right) of team 5 receives award from Rhino Ark Executive Director
3. MC Gavin Bennett entertains guests
4. Gearing up in the Pit Lane
5. Bouncy fun: kids enjoy the trampoline

THE ATHI 4X4 CHALLENGE FOR CAR 45

This year's Athi 4x4 Challenge was held on 30th March as seasoned veterans set out to take on the best of what the mud wallows and rocky steep ravines in Swara Plains Conservancy had to offer. The course also proved to be challenging for the various teams of amateur 4x4 enthusiasts who registered to take part in this 3rd annual event.

The challenge was divided into four classes: Expert, Intermediate, Motorcycle and Quad bikes. The stages included: Quarry rally, Mud Madness, Axle Twister and Water eruption.

The event attracted over 2,000 supporters and is organized by Rhino Charge competitor Phil Tilley of Car 45. Funds raised in this event go towards his team's entry pledge for this year's Rhino Charge. With the event being characterized by new activities never experienced before, including fishing, game drives and demonstration events among others, it created the perfect atmosphere for a fun family day out.



PATRONS:

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DR. SALLY KOSGEI

DR. DAME DAPHNE SHELDRIK

JONATHAN SCOTT

CHARLES NJONJO

TRUSTEES:

MICHAEL KARANJA – CHAIRMAN

ISAAC AWUONDO

JONNY HAVELOCK

ROSE KIMOTH

DR. PEREZ OLINDO

DR. W. W. JORDAN, OBE

ALAN MCKITTRICK

BRIAN HAWORTH

THANK YOU!

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

- **Gavin Bennett**
MC at the Spirit of the Charge 2013
- **Braeburn Schools**
Pre-event Briefing venue
- **Capital FM**
Promotion
- **Lake Naivasha Growers' Group**
Donation
- **KWS**
RA offices
- **The Levitans**
RC 2014 logo
- **Lavinia Grant**
Donation
- **Longonot Farm**
Donation towards Bongo Conservation
- **James Wilson**
Donation
- **Simon & Lucy Welland**
Donation

Order your copy of:

- *Environmental, social and economic assessment of the fencing of the Aberdare Conservation Area. Available for KES 3,000 only (Published September 2011)*
- **2013 Spirit of the Charge film in DVD and Video. Available for KES 2,000 only.**

CAR 49 - 6-A-SIDE FUNDRAISING HOCKEY TOURNAMENT

On 29th March, Car 49 (Braeburn 7²) held an inaugural fundraising hockey tournament. The event was hosted by Braeburn School in Lavington who also oversaw a number of activities for children including a bouncy castle, water slide, climbing wall and in-line skating.

Entry to the tournament was limited to ten teams and in order to encourage inclusivity, each team was required to field two players who were either female, under the age of fourteen or over the age of 50. The standard of hockey was unexpectedly good with several ex-internationals taking part.

The cup competition was ultimately won by Bunnies + 5, a team consisting of Braeburn teachers, a gap year student and ringers. The plate was won by The Banda Bandits and the wooden spoon by Oak Apple United.

The event was a success with KES 350,000 being raised. These funds will all go towards Car 49's sponsorship pledge for this year's Rhino Charge. The team intends to make this an annual tournament and hopes to see as many people taking part next year.



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ACT NOW AND HELP US TO CONTINUE OUR VITAL WORK

I/We:

of

Please tick your selection and fill in where applicable:

- We wish to receive ARKive, the bi-annual newsletter, and enclose a cheque/Postal Order for KES 1,000 or US\$ 10.
- We wish to make a donation in the form of cheque/Postal order for 2014 KES/US\$
- We wish to complete a Standing Order / Deed of Covenant - please send an application form.



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