

# ARK*ive*



## MAU EBURU:

## INTENSIVE BONGO MONITORING BEGINS

### ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

#### **PAGE 7**

MAU EBURU:  
COMMUNITY  
LIVELIHOODS  
UPDATE

#### **PAGE 13**

MT. KENYA FENCE  
PROGRESSES AS FOUR  
ANIMAL GRIDS ARE  
BEING BUILT

#### **PAGE 15**

RHINO ARK  
NYERI OFFICE  
OFFICIALLY  
OPENED



HUMANS IN HARMONY WITH HABITAT & WILDLIFE



With over 40 years operating, Braeburn is a well established group of International Schools, providing a world class education to over 4000 pupils. Our schools actively value and celebrate diversity, nurturing personal growth by providing a friendly and supportive environment.



Confident Individuals



Responsible Citizens



Learners Enjoying Success

P O Box 45112 00100 Nairobi Kenya • Tel: +254 (0)722 386 679

Email: [enquiries@braeburn.com](mailto:enquiries@braeburn.com)

[www.braeburn.com](http://www.braeburn.com)



Cover picture by Eric Kihiu

## INSIDE ARKIVE

03 Executive Director's View

04 Mau Eburu Ecosystem

09 South Western Mau Ecosystem

12 Mt. Kenya Ecosystem

15 Aberdare Ecosystem

17 Rhino Ark News

18 Hog Charge

20 The Raffle Donors

21 Events

22 • Thank You

• Friends of Rhino Ark



**Photography by:**

Christian Lambrechts, Eric Kihiu,  
Adam Mwangi, Joseph Mutongu,  
Donna Sheppard, Kate Mwangi, Car 8,  
Car 49, Peter Munene.

## RHINO ARK OBJECTIVES

Rhino Ark seeks solutions to the challenges facing the mountain forest ecosystems of Kenya, also known as the water towers. More specifically, Rhino Ark aims to:

- (i) Protect Kenya's mountain forests, other threatened habitats and their rich biodiversity;
- (ii) Engage and educate adjacent communities in conservation;
- (iii) Secure the connectivity between mountain forests and other threatened wildlife habitats;
- (iv) Establish sustainable financing mechanisms for the conservation of mountain forests and other threatened wildlife habitats;
- (v) Advocate nationally and internationally for the conservation of the mountain forests and other threatened habitats, their wildlife and their ecological functions; and,
- (vi) Use science to assess the impacts of, and review conservation interventions.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S VIEW

CHRISTIAN LAMBRECHTS

### MANAGING KENYA'S WATER TOWERS: A NEW DAWN

Since its inception, Rhino Ark's conservation work has focused on implementing practical and tangible solutions to the challenges affecting Kenyan mountain forests and their biodiversity. At the core of our conservation are our fencing projects, implemented in all the ecosystems where we are operating. Rhino Ark does not work in isolation. All our conservation interventions are implemented through public/private partnership that involve the two main government agencies in charge of the management of the montane forests: Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service. As such, over the past 30 years, Rhino Ark has gained a unique wealth of experience and understanding, including from the perspective of KFS and KWS, of the continued challenges and emerging issues impacting on the conservation of our mountain forest and the wildlife therein.

Based on these 30 years of experience, but also the in-house expertise at Rhino Ark, we were recently invited to be part of the Government Task Force on the inquiry into Forest Resources Management and Logging Activities in Kenya, where I chaired the Forest Conservation Committee.

Through the work of the Task Force, we were able to highlight critical issues that require policy decisions. These are, among others, the need to: (i) rationalize the forest zonation, in order to establish well-defined core conservation zones, with buffer multiple-use zones; (ii) address the barriers to the development of forest plantations on private land, in order to close the current wood supply deficit in the country and reduce the pressure on our protected forests; (iii) enhance governance in the forestry sector by, among others, establishing Forest Conservation Committees at the Forest Station level, that will involve key stakeholders; (iv) strengthen the law enforcement capacity of the KFS to better address illegal activities in the indigenous forests and enhance good governance in the forest plantations; and, (v) address the illegal logging of cedar trees, which is currently the single most targeted tree species in our mountain forests.

The data we have collected over the past decade and in particular the past five years were used to their full extent in the work of the Task Force. This includes data from our periodic surveillance flights as well as from the most extensive elephant censuses and forest health surveys ever carried out on Mount Kenya, the Aberdares and the entire Mau Forests Complex, that we undertook with key partners in 2016 and 2017.

The above led to the development of key recommendations that will help transform the forestry sector, bring critical changes in the conservation of our mountain forests and strengthen our partner, the Kenya Forest Service.

# MAU EBURU ECOSYSTEM

## INTENSIVE BONGO MONITORING BEGINS: 60 TRAP CAMERAS FOR FOREST



BSP team scouting locations in the forest.

With the support of Calgary Zoo, an exciting new mountain bongo monitoring initiative has kicked off in Eburu forest. Starting in April 2018, for a 12 month period, a systematic camera-trapping effort will be the primary means to gain information on the remnant mountain bongo population, its habitat preferences and threats in Eburu Forest. A total of 60 camera traps will be set throughout the forest along a regular grid spaced approximately 1 to 2 kilometres apart. The cameras will remain in place for an entire year to capture potential seasonal differences in mountain bongo distribution, movements, and threats. Donna Sheppard, seconded to Rhino Ark from Calgary Zoo, will take lead in coordinating this initiative, which promises to greatly enhance existing knowledge on the Eburu bongo population.

Six local trackers (three new ones to be added to three experienced Eburu Bongo Surveillance Project trackers) will be trained to monitor the cameras on a monthly basis to collect and exchange sim cards and replace batteries as needed.

The local team of trackers will also collect bongo faeces for genetic analysis and record bongo tracks and other signs of bongo presence as an alternative means of estimating the size of the remnant mountain bongo population. If feasible, faeces collection and analysis will be extended to include scat from predators.

Images retrieved from the camera traps will be used to identify the distribution and size of the remnant mountain bongo population in Eburu, as well as its age structure and sex-ratio. Additionally, camera-trap images will contribute to the analysis of threats to the bongo, including from predators. Mountain bongo population distribution will be paired with vegetation maps and satellite imagery to determine habitat preferences, and to determine the carrying capacity for mountain bongo in Eburu Forest.

Outcomes of the study will be shared with Kenya's National Bongo Task Force to enlighten a responsible species survival plan with

respect to the existing wild population of bongo in Eburu and to inform sound management decisions around the possibility of captive bred translocations.

In addition, focus community group interviews, with 20 participants in each, will be held in each of the 4 administrative Locations (Ndabibi, Eburru, Oljorai, and Kiambogo) neighbouring Eburu Forest to gain insights into: a) forest usage, natural resource requirements and other socio-economic needs within the communities; and b) the traditional and local ecological knowledge among elders, men, women and youth regarding the mountain bongo and forest ecosystem more generally.

### In particular, this research aims to:

1. Determine the size, sex-ratio, age structure, distribution and habitat preferences of the remaining population of mountain bongo within Eburu Forest;
2. Document threats, both anthropogenic and ecological, to the persistence of mountain bongo in Eburu Forest;
3. Record traditional and local ecological knowledge about mountain bongo and the forest ecosystem among members of the communities neighbouring the Eburu Forest, as well as attitudes towards conservation and a potential conservation translocation;
4. Determine forest usage, natural resource requirements and other socio-economic needs within the communities neighbouring the Eburu Forest;
5. Identify the feasibility of minimizing threats and potential human-wildlife conflict, and of addressing pressing socio-economic needs in an environmentally sustainable and bongo-friendly way; and,
6. Serve as a template for assessment of the biological and social suitability of other potential release sites for conservation translocations of captive-bred mountain bongo.



Trap cameras.

## STRENGTHENING FOREST MANAGEMENT: NDABIBI GATE CAMP ESTABLISHED



Gate shed under construction.



Works on uni-huts.

Ndabibi gate, located along the southern boundary of Eburu Forest, is one of the key access point into the forest. Local communities from the area use it to access forest resources as well as to traverse the forest, to reach the other locations (Eburru and Ol-Jorai) found along the northern boundary of the forest. Completion of the Eburu electric fence in 2014 and construction of a gate helped in the control of access into the forest. However, a camp for forest rangers had not yet been established, and the management of the gate has been done on part time basis by volunteers from the Community Forest Association. Due to the busy nature of this gate and the need for improved forest protection in the area, it was deemed necessary to

establish a permanent camp at which forest rangers would be based.

Towards strengthening the management of the forest, Rhino Ark is supporting the establishment of the ranger camp, which comprises two unit huts, an ablution block, gate shed and a kitchen shed. This will enable the gate to be manned by KFS rangers on a full time basis and facilitate security patrols in the area. An added benefit will be proper handling of recreational visitors to the forest using the newly established road from the gate to the now well established nature trail that begins at the gate and leads to the main forest glade.

### Kestrel Capital (East Africa) Limited

The leading independent investment bank in Kenya for local and foreign institutional and high net worth investors with a strong focus on market and company research.

- Stockbroking and Bond Trading
- Market and Company Research
- Public Offers and NSE Listings
- Corporate Finance Advisory
- Private Placements
- Commercial Paper and Debt Financing

**Kestrel Capital (East Africa) Ltd**  
Orbit Place, 2nd Floor, Westlands Road  
P.O. Box 40005-00100  
Nairobi, Kenya  
Phone: +254 (0)20 225 1758  
Direct Line: +254 (0)20 222 2193  
Personal Mobile: +254 (0)722 375380  
Email: darshanih@kestrelcapital.com

**KESTREL CAPITAL**  
MEMBER OF NAIROBI SECURITIES EXCHANGE  
SINCE 1995

## ENHANCING COMMUNITY OUTREACH: "EBURU'S GOT TALENT" CONSERVATION COMPETITION LAUNCHED



Pupils from Thome Primary School perform.



Dance by Cedar Primary School pupils.

To sensitize local communities to the value of nature, and to the forests of Kenya in particular, Rhino Ark, in partnership with the Calgary Zoo and the Bongo Surveillance Project, launched a performing arts competition among 33 Wildlife Clubs within the schools near Eburu Forest in March 2018. Pupils in the participating schools were challenged to create songs and poems about the Eburu Forest, highlighting the plight of the critically endangered mountain bongo, and its alpine forest home in Kenya.

**EBURU'S GOT TALENT** uses the joy of music, dance and the freedom of expression to tap into the emotions behind the conservation of natural habitat. Location-wide preliminary competitions in March and April resulted in the top 10 teams appearing in the finals to be held on the 9th of June. Team of 6 pupils and 2 teachers represented their respective Wildlife Clubs and their entries were judged by a panel of 7 community judges.

To ensure that the community judges had the requisite confidence to judge the content fairly, they were given the opportunity to experience the Eburu Forest first hand in a guided day trip and picnic on 1 April 2018. Each judge was invited to bring 2 family members on the forest visit and given a beautiful Mau Eburu Guidebook to ensure that their learning continues at home.

To cap off the day, each participant planted 2 trees in a degraded

area of the forest at Crater Gate, which is under rehabilitation. The group also replaced 80 previously replanted seedlings that had not survived.

Out of the competing 33 Wildlife Clubs, the top three teams overall will experience a further connection with nature through the following Prizes:

**1st Overall:** 3-Day Field Trip with visits to Aberdares National Park, William Holden Environmental Education Centre, the Mt. Kenya Game Ranch, and 2-overnights at the NaroMoru Safari Camp;

**2nd Overall:** Day trip to Elsamere retreat on Lake Naivasha for bird watching nature walk, a hippo river safari and a tour of the museum featuring historical work of two well-known conservationists;

**3rd Overall:** Mau Eburu Forest Reserve Day Trip including Interpretative Hike and Picnic Lunch.

It is hoped that the best song and dance performance(s) can be converted into a quality production music video to be shared more widely throughout Kenya via social media, television and radio. As the nation sings the words of the song, they will become familiar with the Eburu Forest and the plight of the mountain bongo, thereby elevating the status of this Kenyan national treasure.

## WILDLIFE WELFARE: WATER TROUGH MONITORING UPDATE



Augur buzzard



Buffalo herd



Male bushbuck

The steam fed water trough located at the wildlife corridor along the eastern boundary of the forest continues to sustain wildlife in the area. Monitoring of the trough is done using a trap camera as well as regular checking of water flows. Trap camera images taken in March 2018 show regular night time visits by buffalo, bushbuck, porcupine and hyena. A daytime image of an augur buzzard was captured during the day, the first time a raptor has been documented by trap camera.

## COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS UPDATE



Fruit farmers group



Chicken incubator



First hatching of chicks

### Training

As local communities continue to develop their alternative livelihoods activities, Rhino Ark is playing a key role in linking the community groups to various experts who are providing needed training. Between November 2017 and April 2018 Rhino Ark facilitated six field visits by experts from the Ministry of Agriculture to the local community.

The experts provided training in livestock, crop farming (including fruits), alternative/efficient energy (including use of kuni moja jikos and biogas). Groups benefiting from this training were Eburru Fruit Farmers (agriculture, alternative energy) and Bidii Women's Group (biogas).

The field visits are part of an ongoing commitment to build capacity for the community groups to implement best practices on their farms, thereby improving incomes and reducing dependency on the scarce and vulnerable forest resources.

### Chicken Farming: First Hatching

The Eburu-Lake Naivasha connectivity committee is a forum facilitated by Rhino Ark that is helping to create good links between the local community and local as well as international experts.

Through this forum the Eburru Fruit Farmers group was linked with and visited by the Nuffield Scholars group, and received a donation of an 180 egg capacity chicken incubator from one of its members. The first hatching of 38 live chicks from the incubator was done in January 2018. This resource will provide yet another income alternative for the farmers.

## SCHOOL TREE NURSERIES PROJECT UPDATE



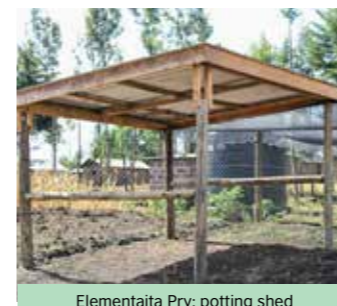
Elementaita Pry: chain link fence



Morop Pry: Fence and water tank



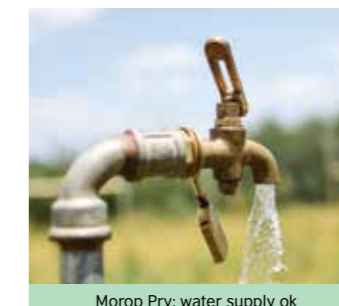
Morop Pry: team during technical inspection



Elementaita Pry: potting shed



Elementaita Pry: stone seed bed



Morop Pry: water supply ok

The schools model tree nurseries project, an initiative supported by the MPESA Foundation continues to grow. Construction of two new nurseries, in Morop Primary School (Oljorai Location) and Elementaita Primary School (Kiambogo Location) respectively, has been completed. The nurseries will help to enrich the pupils' conservation learning experiences and expose them to best practices through training and practical work. Certified seeds have been procured and training is scheduled to take place at the start of term 2.



Metallic Longhorn beetle



Forest view



Lizard hides in grass



Reptile life



Trees of Eburu



Inside a forest crater



Towering Lobelia



Close-up of stinging nettle



Lichen life

# SOUTH WESTERN MAU ECOSYSTEM

## UPDATE ON FENCING PROJECT



Kipkoris - briefing ward administrator.



Kusumek - briefing to rangers & community.

The South Western Mau Forest Reserve Game Proof Barrier Feasibility Study technical report published in October 2016, recommends construction of an electrified fence along the cut line of the eastern boundary of the SW Mau Forest Reserve. This initiative will help in addressing human wildlife conflict challenges and support forest conservation. In fulfilment of the statutory requirements for carrying out the proposed fencing project for the SW Mau forest cutline, it is necessary to conduct an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA). Through consensus, the key project stakeholders selected an expert team from Kenya Wildlife Service to carry out this assignment. Rhino Ark, as the implementing partner for this project, is tasked with facilitating the ESIA process.

The ESIA team undertook a preliminary 3-day reconnaissance visit to the project

from 8-10 February 2018. The team comprised two senior scientists, two wardens and a fencing specialist from KWS, Rhino Ark Mau Landscape Coordinator and forester manager for Ndoinet Forest station, under which the bulk of the proposed fence area falls. Meetings were also held with forest managers from Kericho and Maramara forest stations.

The purpose of the visit was for the team to gain a clear understanding of the area and develop initial contacts with key stakeholders on the ground. The knowledge gained during the provided the ESIA team with a solid basis to prepare a clear plan and budget for the formal ESIA.

Rhino Ark, as lead partner in the forest conservation component of the SW Mau conservation initiative under the Initiative for Sustainable Landscapes (ISLA) framework,

coordinated field logistics for the team.

Day 1 of the assignment covered the team inception briefing in Molo, followed by visits to Kipkoris, Chematich and Kusumek outposts. Day 2 covered Keringet Centre (briefing to Kuresoi South Deputy County Commissioner) followed by field visits to Kapkembo forest outpost, Tirikoi center along the cut line and Kiptagich. The final day covered Arorwet forest outpost and inspection of the proposed start point of the fence at Timbili River.

The field visit was highly effective in providing the ESIA team with a clear understanding of the project area. All five outposts along the cut line were visited and the team was able to walk sections of the cut line in Arorwet and Kapkembo. A detailed ESIA plan has now been developed in preparation for implementation.



Timbili River - proposed fence start point



Tirikoi - briefing to community

## CONSERVATION EDUCATION: SURVEY OF SCHOOLS COMPLETED



Briefing area Chief at Arorwet.



Briefing at Sub County Education Office.

Under the forest conservation component, the South Western Mau ecosystem conservation project will implement a voluntary conservation education outreach programme in forest-adjacent local schools (those within approximately 5km) of the forest cut line. As a first step to engagement with the schools, a comprehensive schools survey was undertaken. The survey aimed to initiate the process of building relationships with the schools and to assess both the capacity and willingness of the schools to participate in the programme. The survey drew upon previous Rhino Ark experience in the Mau Eburu ecosystem, where a conservation education programme has been implemented.



Briefing at Kapnoo Primary School.

Before the survey was carried out, preliminary inquiries from local sources had identified a potential list of about 50 schools within the area of interest. This data was a key reference point that anchored the survey activity and guided the implementing team, which was led by the Rhino Ark community outreach officer, assisted by three community members.



Discussion with pupils.

After securing the necessary authority from the County Education Office, the survey which was carried out from late February to early March 2018, collected various data, including: (1) Physical location of the schools (recorded by GPS); (2) School operational data (physical area, student population, teaching staff, infrastructure, etc.); (3) Conservation facilities and activities currently practiced; and (4) Challenges and future plans.

During the survey a total of 31 schools were found to fall within the forest community buffer zone, and it is these that will form the basis for follow up engagement. It was very encouraging to find that the schools all overwhelmingly expressed the wish to participate in conservation education activities.

## AERIAL SURVEILLANCE OF SOUTH WESTERN MAU LANDSCAPE CONDUCTED

Rhino Ark, with the support of IDH/ISLA and Finlays, conducted a surveillance flight above the South Western Mau Forest Reserve. The purpose of the flight was to detect illegal activities and monitor the state of the forest. The CEO of the Kenya Tea Development Agency, and senior officers from KWS, KFS, Rhino Ark and IDH/ISLA participated in the flight.

During the flight, only one active charcoal kiln was recorded, showing a significant reduction in this illegal activity. However, livestock grazing remains very high, with several enclosures observed deep in the forest.



Managing Director (L.S. Tiampati), Kenya Tea development Agency (Second Right) joined team drawn from IDH/ISLA, KWS, KFS and Rhino Ark in undertaking an aerial Recce above SW Mau.

## SOUTH WESTERN MAU LANDSCAPES AND BIODIVERSITY



Dragonfly perches along river



New farm along Kipsonoi River



Diverse insect life



View of forest landscape



River meanders through landscape



Powerful rivers



Butterfly on river



Helichrysum flower at Kipsonoi River



SW Mau flora



Blue-banded butterfly swallowtail



Rock feature



Timbili River

# MT KENYA ECOSYSTEM

## MT KENYA- ABERDARES WILDLIFE CORRIDOR COMMITTEE HOLDS MEETING



Landowners within the proposed Mt.Kenya-Aberdare Wildlife Corridor hold a consultative meeting at Sangare Wildlife Conservancy.



Landowners within the proposed Mt.Kenya-Aberdare Wildlife Corridor on an exchange visit to Lake Naivasha-Eburru Wildlife Corridor.

Consultations on the establishment of the proposed wildlife corridor between Mt. Kenya and Aberdare have gained momentum. The third meeting of the Mt. Kenya-Aberdares Wildlife Corridor Committee took place on 12 February 2018. It was hosted at the Sangare Conservancy and facilitated by Rhino Ark. Present at the meeting were all the land owners in the Sangare-Thego section of the proposed corridor, KWS, KFS, Mount Kenya Conservation Forum and Rhino Ark.

Key issues discussed during the meeting included: (1) addressing current human-elephants conflicts in the Mt. Kenya Estate bordering Thego Forest and along the western boundary of Solio Ranch; (2) addressing reported forest degradation in Thego Forest; (3) pre-feasibility study for the establishment of the wildlife corridor.

As part of the building of capacity of the landowners in wildlife corridors, a visit to the Eburu-Lake Naivasha wildlife corridors was organized on 27 January. The visit enabled the landowners from proposed Mt. Kenya – Aberdares corridor to learn from the experience gained in the establishment of the Eburu-Lake Naivasha corridor.

## MONITORING THEGO FOREST

Thego forest is an indigenous forest on the most western part of Mt. Kenya. It forms a critical part of the proposed wildlife corridor between Mt. Kenya and Aberdares, as it hosts a large population of elephants and is on the main route used by elephants when they exit Mt. Kenya to the Aberdares.

Following reports of forest destruction in Thego, the landowners in the proposed wildlife corridor, together with KFS (including Kabarú Forest Manager), KWS (including Assistant Director/Mountain Conservation Area, Senior Warden/Mt. Kenya and Senior Warden/Aberdares) and Rhino Ark, undertook a ground survey of the forest on 10 March 2018 to establish the level of destruction in the forest, tackle some of the observed illegal activities and agree on joint interventions to address the threats to this important forest ecosystem.



Landowners at a section of Thego Forest replanted with indigenous trees.



Landowners spearhead demolition of illegal charcoal kiln.

## MT. KENYA FENCE PROGRESSES AS FOUR ANIMAL GRIDS ARE BEING BUILT



Outriggers added onto Rhino Ark Comprehensive Fence to deter habitual fence breaking elephants at Imenti, Mt. Kenya.



Progress on Fence construction at Lower Imenti opposite Meru University.



A farmer from the fence-line community admires newly built fence at Imenti.



Animal Grid at Maili Kumi, Imenti Mt. Kenya Under construction.

The Mt. Kenya Fence construction has now reached the Muchene corridor linking Mt. Kenya with the Imenti Forest. At the same time, four animals grid are being built on the Kirachene-Mailkumi road that crosses the Imenti Forest. These animal grids are financed by the Kenya Rural Road Authority.

Further work has also been done on the completed Imenti Fence, including the re-alignment of a three kilometres fence section in Tigania West following the upgrade of the adjacent road, as well as the placement of outriggers on all the fence posts.

## STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIP WITH STEPHENSON HARWOOD



Overseas team from Stephenson Harwood, a UK legal firm, participate in fence construction.



As part of Rhino Ark's programme to build strategic partnerships overseas, Stephenson Harwood, a leading law firm based in London, was invited to come to Kenya to visit Rhino Ark's conservation projects in the Aberdares and Mt. Kenya in late April 2018.

Stephenson Harwood sponsored last year the production and launch of the film "Rhino Ark – protecting the mountain forests of Kenya". The film has been produced by the award winning Camerapix TV, headed by Salim Amin.

During their visit in Kenya, Kamal Shah, Charlotte Welsh and Duncan Bagshaw, took part in the construction of the Mt. Kenya Electric Fence near the KWS Meru Station.

## MT KENYA LANDSCAPES AND BIODIVERSITY



Pair of mountain bongo grazing at Mt. Kenya Wildlife Conservancy



Curious male black & white colobus



Waterbuck grazing at the foot of Mt. Kenya



Black-eyed Susan



Bright-eyed young mountain bongo



Malachite sunbird perched on an ostrich plume lobelia



Purple thistle on Mt. Kenya



Glistening in the fresh rain

# ABERDARES ECOSYSTEM

## ON HIGH ALERT FOR THE WILDFIRE SEASON



The KFS Ecosystem Conservator, Nyeri (Mr. F.M. Mathinjili) receives fire-fighting equipments from Fence/Community Manager, Rhino Ark

Our mountain forests got very dry and vulnerable to wildfire due to the October 2017 rain season that fell short of the expectations and the hot weather that characterized the month of January 2018.

The month of January was relatively quiet as compared to last year, with only two small forest fires at Kihari (Mt. Kenya) and Kameruri (Aberdare), both caused by human activities. But late fires are usually much fiercer as the conditions on the ground get dryer.

To reduce wildfire risks, Rhino Ark dispatched the Aberdare Joint Surveillance Unit to the wildfire-prone areas of the Aberdare in order to patrol these areas and intercept human activities that could have caused fires. Together with the KFS and KWS, an inventory of the firefighting equipment was undertaken, as well as a review of the

personnel available to combat wildfires.

Based on the inventory, Rhino Ark purchased 220 fire-beaters, 170 pangas and 220 rakes to equip forest-adjacent communities in Nyandarua, Nyeri and Kiambu counties, who were called upon to assist in fighting wildfires.

Rhino Ark team remained on standby and flew above forest fires as soon as they occurred to assess their extent and provided the teams on the ground with information on the best approach to tackle the fires.

## ABERDARE FENCE UPGRADE CONTINUES APACE

Whilst four animal grids are being built along the Mt. Kenya Electric Fence, the three animal grids that were built in the Aberdare have been upgraded. The rehabilitation the animal grid at Kieni was completed last year, and the two animal grids at Geta have just been repaired and upgraded to sustain heavier traffic.

In the meanwhile, the rehabilitation of Phase I of the Aberdare Electric Fence continues. The 5km fence section at Ruhuruini has been entirely rebuilt. This is part of the long-term commitment of Rhino Ark to the conservation of the Aberdare ecosystem.



Geta Elephant Grid, Aberdare Rehabilitated.



member of Forest Adjacent community at Kabage points at the improved fence design with baboon-proof as part of rehabilitation of phase 1, Aberdare fence.

## RHINO ARK NYERI OFFICE OFFICIALLY OPENED



Eng. Benson Wamaya officially opens the office.

The new offices present many advantages, including:

a) Better visibility and accessibility. The KWS King'ong'o Station is located on the main road between Nyeri and Kiganjo;

b) Better security. Rhino Ark Nyeri office was broke into in early 2013. During the robbery, Rhino Ark lost equipment, including a GPS and a digital camera;

c) Better coordination with KWS. The Station provides services to both Aberdare and Mt. Kenya. It hosts several units with which Rhino Ark collaborates: Research (Bongo, wildlife corridors), Radio Communication (maintenance of the radios located around the fence), GIS (collection of spatial data);

d) No rent. This will enable Rhino Ark to save over KES 300,000 yearly that will be invested in conservation activities.

The Rhino Ark Nyeri Office was officially opened on February 28 2018 by Eng. Benson Wamaya, KWS Ag. Deputy Director in charge of Corporate Services. The ceremony was attended by many officials from KWS and KFS as well as many friends of Rhino Ark.

The new offices will also host the CEO of the Aberdare Trust and the Field Coordinator of the Bongo Surveillance Project.



## ABERDARES LANDSCAPES AND BIODIVERSITY



The majestic hills of the Aberdares



Buffalo coming down for a drink



The Moorland highlands ecosystem



Water storage, the natural way



A pair of buffalo enjoying the afternoon sunshine



Gura River



Majestic Moorlands of Aberdare with the highest peak OI Donyo Lesatima on the back ground



Moorland scenery

# RHINO ARK NEWS



## FAREWELL DR. DAME DAPHNE SHELDRICK

It is with great sadness that we learned the passing of our Patron Dr. Dame Daphne Sheldrick.

Daphne was a great inspiration to all of us, in the Rhino Ark family, our conservation partners, the Rhino Charge fraternity, and our many friends overseas.

As a Patron of Rhino Ark since its inception, her endorsement and support to Rhino Ark's conservation activities have always been a source of great encouragement.

We deeply mourn her passing. Our thoughts are with her family at this time of bereavement.

## REMEMBERING SUDAN

The Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust joins the global mourning of the loss of Sudan, the last male northern white rhino. Sudan died at the age of 45 on March 19th 2018 at the Ol Pejeta Conservancy. He leaves behind only two females of the subspecies who are now at the doorstep of extinction; his daughter Najin and her daughter Fatu, who remain at Ol Pejeta.

With our conservation projects, supported by the many generous donors including the Rhino Charge, we aim to secure a safe habitat to all sorts of endangered species and play our part in combating extinction of the world's beautiful natural heritage.

## NEW APPOINTMENTS: RHINO ARK STAFF

### ALFONSE KIPRONO

Alfonse Kiprono has joined the team as Fence/Community Manager, South Western Mau. He is a farmer and entrepreneur, and in a working life spanning over 30 years has worked in the dairy sector, extension services, provincial administration, and has been deeply involved in the community forest association, giving him a wealth of experience in community engagement.



Alfonse holds a Diploma in planning and management of development projects from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa. He is tasked with the overall management and implementation of projects in the South Western Mau Ecosystem.

### DONNA SHEPPARD

Donna Sheppard has officially joined Rhino Ark as an affiliated researcher. Donna Sheppard is seconded to Rhino Ark by the Calgary Zoo, Canada, as part of a long-term partnership we have established with the Zoo.



Donna has been with the Conservation and Science Department of the Calgary Zoo since 1999. She brings to us extensive experience in community conservation.

Donna holds a BSc and MA in Physical Anthropology from the University of Calgary. As an affiliated researcher, Donna will focus on wildlife conservation and community engagement in Eburu Forest where she will work with the Mau Landscape Team.

# CHARGERS' CORNER

## CAR 35 HOG CHARGE TEAM RAISES KES 3,764,781



KES 3,764,781 was raised at the 20th edition of the annual Hog Charge cycling event. The event is organized to raise funds to go towards Mark Tilbury's team (Car 35) entry pledge for the Rhino Charge, and ultimately towards Rhino Ark's conservation projects.

On Sunday 21st January 2018, various teams battled it out at the event held at Sukari Ranch (Peponi School) in Ruiru. Children from over 15 schools participated in this mountain bike challenge and hundreds of supportive parents and friends attended.

Each team is required to raise a minimum of KES 24,000 in sponsorship to qualify. Banda School's Team 194 (Hog of Zombies) was this year's highest cash sponsor raising KES 210,000. In second place was Team 128 (Mongoose Makoras) from Pembroke House with KES 144,400. Team 192 (The Four Musketeers) from Banda School emerged third, raising KES 135,396.

Since its inception, the Hog Charge has raised over KES 45 million for Rhino Ark's conservation projects in Mt. Kenya, Aberdares and Mau Eburu.

## HOCKEY TOURNAMENT FOR CAR 49

This year was the 5th edition of the now much coveted annual Car 49 6-A-Side Hockey Tournament at Braeburn School's Floodlit AstroTurf. Last year's winners, Double Trouble, were in ominous form from the outset and managed to retain their trophy. Meanwhile, the Plate competition was finally won by perennial runners up Karen Kifarus. Loosing every game, Hockey Jockeys were the convincing winners of the dreaded Wooden Spoon. As ever, huge thanks to everyone who took part and helped raise KES 150,000 for the cause.



Members of the Karen Kifarus Team pose with the Plate Trophy.

## RHINO CHARGE PRE-EVENT BRIEFING HELD AT BRAEBURN SCHOOL



The 2018 Rhino Charge Pre-Event Briefing took place on 5th May at Braeburn School, on Gitanga Road, in Lavington.

Charge entrants, Guard Post officers, and sponsors attended the social as well as informational event. They were briefed on:

- Progress of Rhino Ark conservation efforts;
- Registration of all persons accessing the Rhino Charge; this is to be done through the online portal;
- Commencement point of route notes to venue; this will begin at Narok;
- General rules and regulations; this included:
  - i. collection of litter;
  - ii. speed limit of driving (40kph);
  - iii. noise pollution;
  - iv. use of steel bottles instead of plastic.

The Briefing also provided an opportunity to:

- Collect the Medical Kit from the Medical Desk;
- Submit any sponsorship collected to date, along with the mandatory minimum advance sponsorship required at this time, as per the RC 2018 Rules & Regulations;
- Collect the Rhino Charge competitor bag from the Sponsorship Desk;
- Submit used Raffle ticket stubs and return any books not required;
- Total Kenya was also present to hand over the cheque for their contribution towards fuel running costs in this year's Rhino Charge;
- Highlands Mineral Water Co. was well represented and took orders for bottled drinking water to be collected on arrival at the venue;
- The Iceman was also represented and took in advance orders.

Many thanks to Braeburn School for hosting the event consecutively for 10 years.



### RHINO CHARGE 2018 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.



## RAFFLE DONORS

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

### ADVENTURE & TRAVEL

AIRKENYA EXPRESS • ALPINE ADVENTURES LTD • DIVING THE CRAB • GLEN EDMUNDS PERFORMANCE DRIVING SCHOOL  
H2O EXTREME SURF AND KITE CENTRE • HELICOPTER CHARTER EA LTD  
SAFARILINK • SAVAGE WILDERNESS



### LODGES & HOMESTAYS

ANGAMA MARA • AZHARI' BEACH SUITE • BULLOCH HOUSE • COLIN & NICOLE CHURCH • COTTAR'S 1920'S SAFARI CAMP  
DIANI BLUE • DRIFTWOOD BEACH CLUB • ELEWANA COLLECTION • FAHARI PALACE • GAMEWATCHERS SAFARIS  
GREENHILL FARM BARN • GROGAN'S CASTLE HOTEL • HELEN FEATHER & ROSS FIELD • HERITAGE HOTEL  
KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE • KENYAWAYS BEACH HOTEL & RESTAURANT • KICHECHE LAIKIPIA CAMP • KULALU CAMP  
LANTANA GALU BEACH • LEISURE LODGE RESORT • LEOPARD BEACH RESORT & SPA • LIONS BLUFF LODGE  
MAJI MOTO ECO CAMP • MARA ENGAI LODGE • NAIBOR • NGOBIT RIVER LODGE • OL PEJETA BUSH CAMP • PHOENIX SAFARIS  
RAGATI CONSERVANCY • RAS KIKADINI BEACH HOUSE • RHINO ARK • SANCTUARY RETREATS • SAROVA HOTELS • SARUNI  
SATAO ELERAI CAMP • SERENA HOTELS • SILOLE SANCTUARY • SIMBA LODGES • THE SANDS AT CHALE ISLAND  
THE SANDS AT NOMAD • TONY & SUSIE CHURCH • TRADEMARK HOTEL • TREETOPS • WANGAI KIMERIA



### RESTAURANTS & HAMPERS

ALI BARBOUR'S CAVE RESTAURANT • ASMARA • BROWNS CHEESE • CAPE CHESTNUT • CARNIVORE - THE TAMARIND GROUP  
DELIA'S ICECREAM • FARMERS CHOICE • FORTY THIEVES • GOURMET MEAT PRODUCTS LTD • KENCHIC LTD  
KENYA SWEETS LTD • LE DECANter • LIME CATERING • NEED GELATO • PIRI PIRIES • PURE MOUNTAIN FARM OIL  
RAKA MILK PROCESSORS LTD • SEVERIN SEA LODGE • SLATER & WHITTAKER • TAMAMBO - THE TAMARIND GROUP  
THE COFFEE SHACK • THE PAINTED DOG • THE RIVER CAFÉ • THE STRAW KITCHEN • WYKHAM ARMS



### LUXURY, LIFESTYLE & ACCESSORIES

ANGY'S ENTERPRISE • AUTOSEAL • BOOKSTOP LTD • CHLORIDE EXIDE • COPYPOINT LTD • DECK DISTRIBUTORS  
EA SECURITY OPTIONS (XPANDA) • ERIC KIHU • FAZAL THE LUXURY BOUTIQUE • FINESSE HEALTH & BEAUTY CLINIC • FUJI FILM  
HARDI KENYA • JOHARI GLASS • LITTLE RED • LOCATION AFRICA FILMS LTD • MATBRONZE WILDLIFE ART • MIA KORA  
MOUNT KENYA TRUST • PERFECTPICS • PETER BLACKWELL WILDLIFE ART • PETPAL • RHINO ARK • ROB'S MAGIC  
SAJJ AUTOMOBILES LTD • SANDSTORM KENYA • SERENITY SPA • SIMPLY SANDARA • SOKOMOTO IMAGES • TAMARIND DHOW  
TEAM 56 • TERESA SAPIEHA • THE COTSWOLD DISTILLERY • TOOLCRAFTS LTD • ULTRA FITNESS GYM  
VANGUARD POWERSOL LTD • VITU-ZOTE • WHITE ELEPHANT TRADING CO. LTD



### THANK YOU TO THE RAFFLE COMMITTEE FOR SECURING THESE PRIZES

Helen Feather, Valerie Gunputrav, Belinda Levitan, Leah Levitan, Devina Meinzingen,  
Kate Mwangi, Henrietta Remnant, Lulu Roy, & Tracey White

## AUTOXPRESS CONGRATULATES RHINO ARK ON THEIR 30 YEARS OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION



AutoXpress has admired the great work that the Rhino Ark Charitable Trust has been doing since its inception in 1988 to support environmental conservation in Kenya. As a proudly East Africa company, AutoXpress has been keen to support the activities of Rhino Ark including support of various teams participating in the Rhino Charge. In 2016, AutoXpress stepped in to play a far more significant and direct role where it contributed an equivalent of KES 2.5 million worth of tyres for use by Rhino Ark vehicles and signed up to support a further KES 2.5 million in 2018/19. Additionally, AutoXpress sponsors the gauntlet during the charge as well as all the stickers used on competitors and officials' cars.

Like the Rhino Ark Charitable Trust, AutoXpress is a leader in its field of work, with the largest network of 40 well-equipped fitment centres in Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Uganda, specializing in the auto parts business in East Africa. It represents some of the best-known global brands in the automotive sector ranging from Pirelli, Bridgestone and Goodyear in the tyre sector to Bosch, KYB, NGK and Ferodo in the auto parts and service sector.

AutoXpress carries the widest product range and the largest stocks in the region commanding a large share of the auto parts market in tyres, wheels, batteries, suspension parts, lubricants, service parts and car accessories. It sells its products and services to a wide selection of customers ranging from retail motorists to dealers, garages, corporates, transporters, government and non-government organizations.

AutoXpress commends the great work the Rhino Ark Charitable Trust is doing and looks forward to future partnership.



## MOVIE PREMIERE FOR CAR 8

Rhino Charge Team Good Times held their annual movie premiere at the Sarit centre this time securing 'Infinity Wars' which is part of the 'Avengers' series.

The annual movie premiere allows the team to bring nearly all their sponsors together for an entertaining night out whilst still working towards the common aim of conservation. Their Charge vehicle was parked within Sarit Centre for the day as an awareness campaign for the Rhino Charge and as a photo opportunity for their sponsors.

This year will be their third attempt at the Charge. Having secured the 'Piga Mingi' award in 2016 using an unmodified vehicle. They are now more in tune with the competitive aspects of the event. They look forward to the 2018 event and hope to do better but, their main aim and objective remains to have a good time (Team Good Times!! Get it?) with family, friends and likeminded individuals whilst doing something 'fun' to conserve the country and the environment they so love.



**PATRONS:**

LORD ABERDARE DL.

DR. DAVID WESTERN

DR. SALLY KOSGEI

JONATHAN SCOTT, CHARLES NJONJO

**US TRUSTEES:**

SHEENA BLISS, GEORGE GRIFFIN,

ANDREW FRITZ

**UK TRUSTEES:**

GUY TRITTON, SIR KIT KABERRY,

JOHN BOWDEN, NICHOLAS KUHLE,

JOHN EDWARDS, PATRICK ORR

**KENYA DIRECTORS:**

ISAAC AWUONDO, ROSE KIMOTHO,

DR. PEREZ OLINDO, ALAN MCKITTRICK,

BRIAN HAWORTH, MICHAEL TURNER,

ISABELLA OCHOLA-WILSON

PETER KINYUA

# 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.

- **Challenge Aid**  
Support to the Schools of Hope (Aberdares)
- **Calgary Zoological Society**  
Support to the conservation of the bongos
- **KWS**  
Rhino Ark Offices
- **Rare Species Conservatory Foundation**  
Support to the conservation of the bongos
- **Mpesa Foundation**  
Schools tree nurseries (Eburu)
- **Kenya Rural Roads Authority**  
Support to fencing and construction of animal grids on Mt. Kenya
- **IDH-ISLA**  
Support to the surveillance flights and conservation of the bongos (South Western Mau)
- **AutoXpress**  
Provision of tyres for Rhino Ark
- **Flamingo Horticulture Kenya Ltd**  
Supply of plastic posts
- **Safaricom Foundation**  
Support for the conservation of South Western Mau

## Order your copy of:

- Environmental, social and economic assessment of the fencing of the Aberdare Conservation Area. Available for KES 3,000 only.
- Rhino Ark Profile.
- 2017 Spirit of the Charge film in DVD. Available at KES 1,000 only.
- 2018 Rhino Charge Calendar for KES 1,000 only.
- Mau Eburu Visitors' Guidebook for KES 1,500 only.

Act now!

help us to continue our work

**Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust**

KWS Headquarters, Langata Road  
P.O. Box 181 Uhuru Gardens, 00517 Nairobi, Kenya  
Tel: +254 (0)20 2136010, +254 (0)20 2136011  
Mobiles: +254 (0)733-632460, +254 (0)724 604233  
Email: info@rhinoark.or.ke  
Website: www.rhinoark.org / www.rhinocharge.co.ke

**Rhino Ark (UK) Charity No. 1047083**

Mr. Guy Tritton, Chairman  
c/o Hogarth Chambers,  
5 New Square, London WC2A 3RJ  
Tel: +44 (207) 421 2833, Fax: +44 (207) 404 0505  
Email: guytriton@hogarthchambers.com, guy.triton@virgin.net  
Website: www.rhinoark.org

Website Donations: justgiving.com/charity/rhinoark

**Rhino Ark (US)**

A registered US Charity with IRC 501 (c) 3 Status  
Ms. Sheena Bliss  
P.O. Box 46250 Madison, WI 53744-6250  
Tel: +1 608 4423 536, Fax: +1 608 4425 264  
Email: sheena@wildlifedefenseusa.org  
www.wildlifedefenseusa.org

Website Donations:

Firstgiving.com/Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust Inc.  
Banking Details: US Bank, Gamon Place, Madison WI 53719

Please make cheques payable to:

 THE RHINO ARK KENYA CHARITABLE TRUST  
KWS Headquarters,  
P.O. Box 181 – 00517, Uhuru Gardens, Nairobi, Kenya  
Landlines: +254 (0) 20 213 6010 / 213 6011,  
Mobiles: +254 (0) 733 632 460, +254 (0) 724 604 233  
Email: info@rhinoark.or.ke  
websites: www.rhinoark.org / www.rhinocharge.co.ke

Your donations of **USD 200 or KES 20,000**  
will maintain **200 meters** of fence

## FRIENDS OF RHINO ARK

**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 2018 (KES/US\$).
- We wish to complete a Standing Order / Deed of Covenant - please send an application form.



# The aggressive, off-road specialist.

## Goodyear Wrangler MT/R<sup>®</sup>

“When the Rhino Charge team  
requires reliability and durability,  
**Goodyear MT/R<sup>®</sup> with Kevlar<sup>®</sup>** delivers.”  
David Lowe



**GOODYEAR**  
MADE TO FEEL GOOD.

# LOVED CARS LOVE US



## WHERE YOUR CAR WOULD CHOOSE

AutoXpress congratulates the Rhino Ark Charitable Trust  
on their 30<sup>th</sup> year of environmental conservation.  
We are proud to continuously support Rhino Ark initiative

