

# ARKive

## A lifeline in Eburu forest

Corridor link with Lake Naivasha is critical for animal survival

## An education in biodiversity

Conservation lessons for pupils in schools near water towers

## Rhino Charge close-up

What makes Car 16 team members tick?

## Saving the mountain Elephant

To address the escalating human-wildlife conflict, Rhino Ark has constructed a 400-km electric fence around the Aberdares and is putting up another 450 kms around Mt Kenya.



HUMANS IN HARMONY WITH HABITAT & WILDLIFE



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# Team

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## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S VIEW

CHRISTIAN LAMBRÉCHTS

Rhino Ark's flagship conservation initiative in Western Kenya, the Kakamega Forest Conservation and Fencing Project, has commenced. The project was officially launched in February this year with the placement of the first fencing posts by the Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, Hon. Soipan Tuyo, accompanied by Kakamega County Governor, Hon. Fernandes Barasa, and Vihiga County Governor, Hon. Wilber Ottichilo. Following the launch, fencing work is progressing well with the first 15km long phase nearing completion.

As Rhino Ark's first conservation project in Western Kenya, the Kakamega project demonstrates our commitment to safeguard threatened forest habitats across the entire country. Following Rhino Ark's well-established blueprint, the project follows an integrated approach that will address the needs and concerns of the adjacent communities while protecting and restoring the forest and its incredible biodiversity. Among its key components are addressing human-wildlife conflicts through fencing, restoring degraded forest areas, developing eco-tourism, educating the youth in conservation, and promoting conservation-compatible livelihoods.

In Mt. Kenya, we are making good progress in the fence project, with 270 km of fence now completed. In Imenti forest, a hot spot for human/wildlife conflict, construction of elephant grids, one-way elephant gates and underpasses on major roads are innovations that will enhance the effectiveness of the fence in protecting humans while catering to wildlife welfare. Establishment of a trap camera observation system in Chehe Forest is providing a safe way to monitor wildlife, providing important data for planning under our mountain bongo conservation project. This monitoring is one component of Rhino Ark's efforts towards the recovery of the Mt. Kenya population of the critically endangered mountain bongo antelope, of which only one individual may still be left. With the support of the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo, public and private conservation partners have joined hands to re-introduce the mountain bongo in Ragati & Chehe Forests - their original habitat range.

In the Aberdares, Rhino Ark supported the Kenya Wildlife Service in the development of a comprehensive proposal for the establishment of a black rhino sanctuary in the Eastern Salient. This will help boost the small black rhino population that has survived thanks to the electric fence built and maintained by Rhino Ark for over 30 years.

These new developments underscore the effectiveness of our conservation approach and the need for them to be applied to other vulnerable forest ecosystems.

## MISSION, VISION AND KEY PRIORITY AREAS

Rhino Ark is a charitable trust established in Kenya in 1988 with the vision to restore and maintain harmony between humans, habitats and wildlife in Kenya.

To this end, Rhino Ark aims to be a trusted partner in advocating, developing and implementing high-impact forest, water catchments and endangered wildlife conservation initiatives that tangibly support adjacent local communities.

Rhino Ark's conservation programme is developed around six priority thematic areas:

### **1. Trusted Partner**

Rhino Ark is the partner of choice in the long-term conservation of forests and their wildlife in Kenya.

### **2. Advocacy**

Rhino Ark is a thought leader and senior advisor on forest and wildlife conservation in Kenya.

### **3. Innovation**

Rhino Ark is a leader in the development and implementation of high-impact dynamic conservation solutions.

### **4. Forest and water catchment conservation**

Rhino Ark develops and implements long-term management tools that protect and restore forest ecosystems and their water catchment values.

### **5. Endangered wildlife conservation**

Rhino Ark develops and implements conservation interventions that protect and recover endangered forest species, including black rhino, mountain bongo and forest elephant.

### **6. Tangible community support**

Rhino Ark develops and implements long-term solutions to human-wildlife conflicts, spearheads conservation education and champions conservation-based livelihoods within forest-adjacent communities.

# FOREST ECOSYSTEMS

## MAU EBURU



### Corridor offers Eburu wildlife a lifeline

Rhino Ark spearheaded the establishment of a platform for stakeholders to engage and agree on practical interventions to secure a corridor linking the forest with private farms whose land use is compatible with wildlife conservation, and with the formal consent of the landowners.

In January, Rhino Ark took part in the Eburu Wildlife Corridor Stakeholders meeting at Loldia Ecocamp within the wildlife corridor. The Eburu-Lake Naivasha wildlife corridor is critical to wildlife welfare. Socio-economic challenges amongst adjacent communities can lead to illegal activities. Logging, charcoal burning, wildlife snaring and poaching all negatively impact on wildlife and its habitat, and can cause insecurity.

An integrated approach to address these challenges is the way forward. Multi-stakeholder forums help in:

- Facilitating collaboration and cooperation
- Identifying and addressing challenges
- Enhancing understanding and awareness
- Developing and implementing conservation strategies
- Monitoring and evaluating conservation efforts
- Building a network of support for conservation



Eburu Forest - Lake Naivasha wildlife corridor map.



Eburu Forest - Lake Naivasha committee meeting at Loldia farm.

# KAKAMEGA FOREST

## *Fence project a boost for Kakamega's unique biodiversity*

The Kakamega Forest fence project was officially launched on February 24, 2023 by Ms Soipan Tuya, Cabinet Secretary for Environment, Climate Change and Forestry. The first phase of the fence will be 15 kilometres long, and will be funded by the Government of Japan through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This project is a collaboration between the Ministry of Environment, Rhino Ark Kenya, County Governments of Kakamega and Vihiga, NetFUND, UNDP, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, the Embassy of Japan and local communities. To be implemented in four phases, it aims to construct a 117-km-long electric fence around the Kakamega Forest to protect its unique and fragile biodiversity.

This will also help reduce human-wildlife conflict and promote ecotourism development for socio-economic growth. Rhino Ark is thrilled to be part of this initiative that will not only enhance conservation efforts but also build the capacity of forest-adjacent communities through conservation education and conservation-based livelihoods.

The overall objective of the Kakamega Forest Fence Project is to enhance conservation, protection and management of Kakamega Forest to meet the ecological, social, economic and cultural needs of the current generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.



A section of the Kakamega Forest electric fence.

The specific objectives of the project are to:

- Protect the forest and the communities through the construction of an electric fence to, enhance biodiversity conservation, improve control of access to the forest resources and help reduce human-wildlife conflicts;
- Promote ecotourism development for socio-economic growth and improved forest conservation; and
- Engage with and build the capacity of forest-adjacent communities through conservation education, conservation programmes that provide jobs; and conservation-based livelihoods.



Japanese Ambassador to Kenya Okaniwa Ken with Ms. Soipan Tuya, Environment Cabinet Secretary during the launch of the Kakamega Forest fence project.



A plaque commemorating the launch.



Ms Soipan Tuya, Cabinet Secretary, Environment, Climate Change & Forestry helps install a fence post.



Mr. Christian Lambrechts, Executive Director, Rhino Ark joined with other dignitaries to plant a tree to commemorate the fence launch.

## Forest restoration under Darwin Initiative

The Darwin Initiative is a UK Government grants scheme that helps to protect biodiversity and the natural environment through locally-

based projects worldwide. The Initiative has partnered with Rhino Ark by funding forest rehabilitation efforts in our ecosystems.

In Sophia, Geta Forest Station, Rhino Ark was joined by a team of 33 volunteers including the Kenya Forest Service and Community Forest Association members for the establishment of

micro-fencing at the 20-hectare Forest Station, in Nyandarua County. Activities included strip clearing, pegging and measurement of post interval distance, and pitting for the fencing posts.



Geta/ Sophia micro-fence under construction.



Completed Geta/ Sophia micro-fence.

Rhino Ark and its partners intend to plant 22,000 indigenous trees in areas neighbouring the Aberdares. Some 10,950 trees have already been planted in collaboration with the Kenya Forest Service and Community Forest Association (CFA) members. Rhino Ark helped to establish an indigenous tree nursery at the Geta Forest Station.

All the seedlings will be purchased from local communities who are CFA members in different user groups. The indigenous tree seedlings planted were *Olea africana*, (African olive) *Juniperus procera*, (African pencil cedar) *Mexican green ash*, *Dombea torrida* (Forest dombeya), *Hagenia abyssinica* (African red wood) and *Prunus africana* (African cherry).



Geta Forest Station tree nursery.

## Nyandarua trees create jobs for local communities

Rhino Ark visited the Sophia tree planting site in Nyandarua to inspect and monitor the fence. During the inspection, droppers were installed on the fence. The fence was in good working

order, providing the necessary protection to the seedlings and ensuring their growth and development.

The local community has shown tremendous support for our efforts, and we are thrilled to see the positive impact that our work is having. Not only are we making a difference in conserving the environment, but we are also creating jobs and improving the lives of those in the surrounding areas.



## Forest fires menace

Wildfires in the moorlands of the Aberdares have destroyed 37,000 acres of vegetation this year. The Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, National Youth Service, and Rhino Ark, worked tirelessly to extinguish the flames, but the extreme drought and dense, high vegetation made it difficult. Crown fires emerged, reaching over 10 metres in height, and ground teams were unable to tackle them directly. A crop duster dropped two tonnes of water to try and put out the fires. Reconnaissance flights were conducted to guide the ground operations, and everyone worked together to extinguish the fires.

In South Western Mau, there was an outbreak of wildfires at Kipkoris affecting nearly five hectares. The Rhino Ark team on the ground helped contain the wildfires.

In Mau Eburu, the Kenya Forest Service, twenty Rhino Ark-sponsored community firefighters, six trackers and sixteen Community Conservation Champions worked together to combat the Eburru Forest wildfires.



Forest firefighting team.



A firefighter in action in the Aberdares.



Plumes of smoke rise above the Aberdares as wildfires rage.



First aiders receive their certificates from a Red Cross official.



Certified first aiders pose with their certificates.

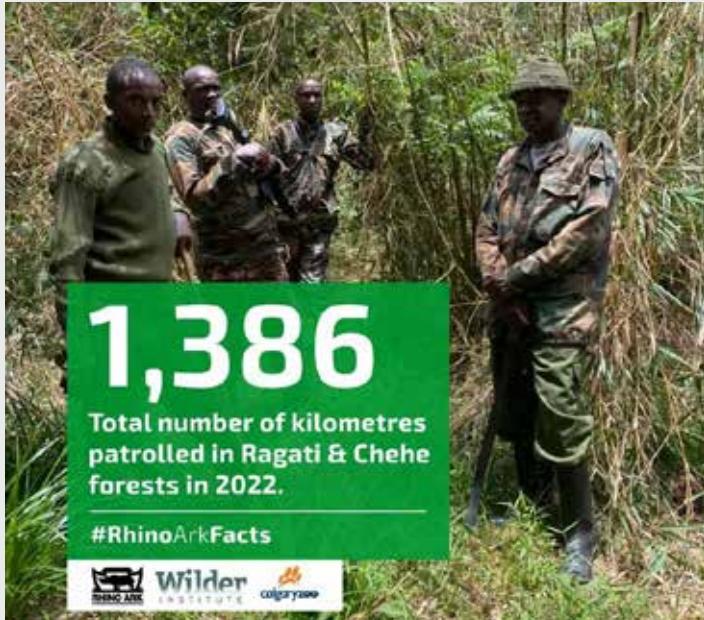
## First aid training conducted in Mt. Kenya

Our community trackers and ecotourism staff from our partners at Ragati River Management were trained in first aid and fire safety by the Kenya Red Cross Society. The course was aimed at equipping participants with the necessary skills to handle emergencies such as fires and accidents that may occur in the forest or during ecotourism activities.

The workshop was comprehensive and practical, and all participants were supplied with first aid and fire safety manuals. In addition, each team received a robust field first aid kit to help them respond quickly and efficiently to any emergencies. With these new skills and resources, we are confident that our community trackers and ecotourism staff are now better equipped to handle emergencies and ensure the safety of all visitors to Ragati/Chehe Forests, Mt. Kenya.

Staff trainees from Mt. Kenya also received their Kenya Red Cross Society First Aid and Fire Safety Certificates. Safety is Rhino Ark's top priority, and we remain committed to ensuring that our staff are well-equipped to handle any emergency situation. We are proud of our team's dedication to their training and their commitment to maintaining a safe working environment.

We thank all Kenyans and international partners of goodwill who supported us and joined us in putting out these fires. Your valuable contributions towards rations, transportation, and aerial support are crucial in our efforts to save our precious ecosystems. Together, we can protect our mountain ecosystems and protect wildlife.



Forest patrol rangers.

## Rangers on patrol in Mt. Kenya

Our dedicated rangers have put in exceptional efforts patrolling the Ragati and Chehe forests in the Mt. Kenya ecosystem, through the important Rhino Ark/Wilder Institute/The Calgary Zoo (WICZ) Mountain Forest Conservation Partnership.

In 2022, our rangers patrolled a total of 1,386 kilometres, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to the conservation of these critical ecosystems and the preservation of the unique wildlife inhabiting them. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our rangers for their diligent work in protecting these precious forests and their inhabitants.

## Mega tree nursery established at Nanyuki Forest Station

Rhino Ark has partnered with the Mt. Kenya Conservation Forum to rehabilitate the Mt.

Kenya Forest by establishing a tree nursery at the Nanyuki Forest Station.

Forest rehabilitation is a critical component of conservation efforts in the region as deforestation and degradation of natural habitats pose a significant threat to the survival of many species, including the critically endangered Mountain bongo antelope.

Through the partnership, we aim to restore degraded forest areas and establish sustainable tree plantations that can support biodiversity, provide ecosystem services, and benefit local communities.



Mr. Edward Mutitu, CEO, Mt. Kenya Conservation Forum inspects tree seedlings at the Nanyuki Forest Station.



Nanyuki forest station tree nursery.

## New donor signpost put up at Imenti Forest

A signpost has been constructed at Imenti Forest, Mt. Kenya along Meru-Nanyuki Highway. The signpost honours all our donors who contribute towards our conservation efforts.

With each donation Rhino Ark receives, we move closer to achieving our goal of protecting Kenya's mountain forest ecosystems. Thank you for making a difference.



## Elephant grids to prevent conflicts with humans

Two new elephant grids constructed in the Imenti Forest will help reduce conflicts between the jumbos and people. The grids will prevent elephants in the fenced, protected forest from exiting via the road while allowing free movement of people and vehicles. Human-elephant conflict arises from people and elephants coming into contact and can lead to killing of elephants in self-defence, or as pre-emptive or retaliatory killings, which can drive the species to extinction.

The Imenti Forest, part of the Mt. Kenya ecosystem, hosts the highest density of elephants out of the 2,600 elephants recorded in Mt. Kenya National Park and Forest Reserve. With two one-way automatic elephant gates, three elephant underpasses, six elephant grids and 54 kilometres of double fences, the Imenti Forest will have the largest concentration of technologies in Kenya aimed at enabling elephants' movement while safeguarding the wellbeing of the forest-adjacent communities.



An elephant grid under construction.



A completed elephant grid.



A one-way elephant gate in Imenti forest.

# Sights to behold: Birds in our ecosystems

## Bronze Sunbird

The Eastern double-collared sunbird (*Cinnyris mediocris*) is a small species. The adult male has a metallic green upper body, dark wings and tail, and a red breast band and olive belly. The beak is strongly curved and used to sip nectar from flowers. The adult female is olive green above, with brown on the wings and a yellowish-green lower body. The Eastern double-collared sunbird is native to mountainous regions of Kenya and Northern Tanzania.



## African Stonechat

The African stonechat or common stonechat (*Saxicola torquatus*) is a species of the Old World flycatcher family. The males have a black head, a white half-collar, a black back, a white rump, and a black tail. Females have brown rather than black above and on the head, with an indistinct paler eyebrow line, chestnut-buff rather than orange below, and less white on the wings.

## Malachite Sunbird

The Malachite sunbird (*Nectarinia famosa*) is a small nectarivorous bird. The adult male is metallic green when breeding, with blackish-green wings with small yellow pectoral patches. The female has brown upperparts and dull yellow underparts with some indistinct streaking on the breast. Her tail is square-ended.



## Black-chested Snake-eagle

The Black-chested snake eagle (*Circaetus pectoralis*) is a large African bird of prey. The main identifying character of this bird is its dark brown-black head and chest, to which it owes its name. The sexes are alike in plumage, although the female is appreciably larger.



## Golden-Winged Sunbird

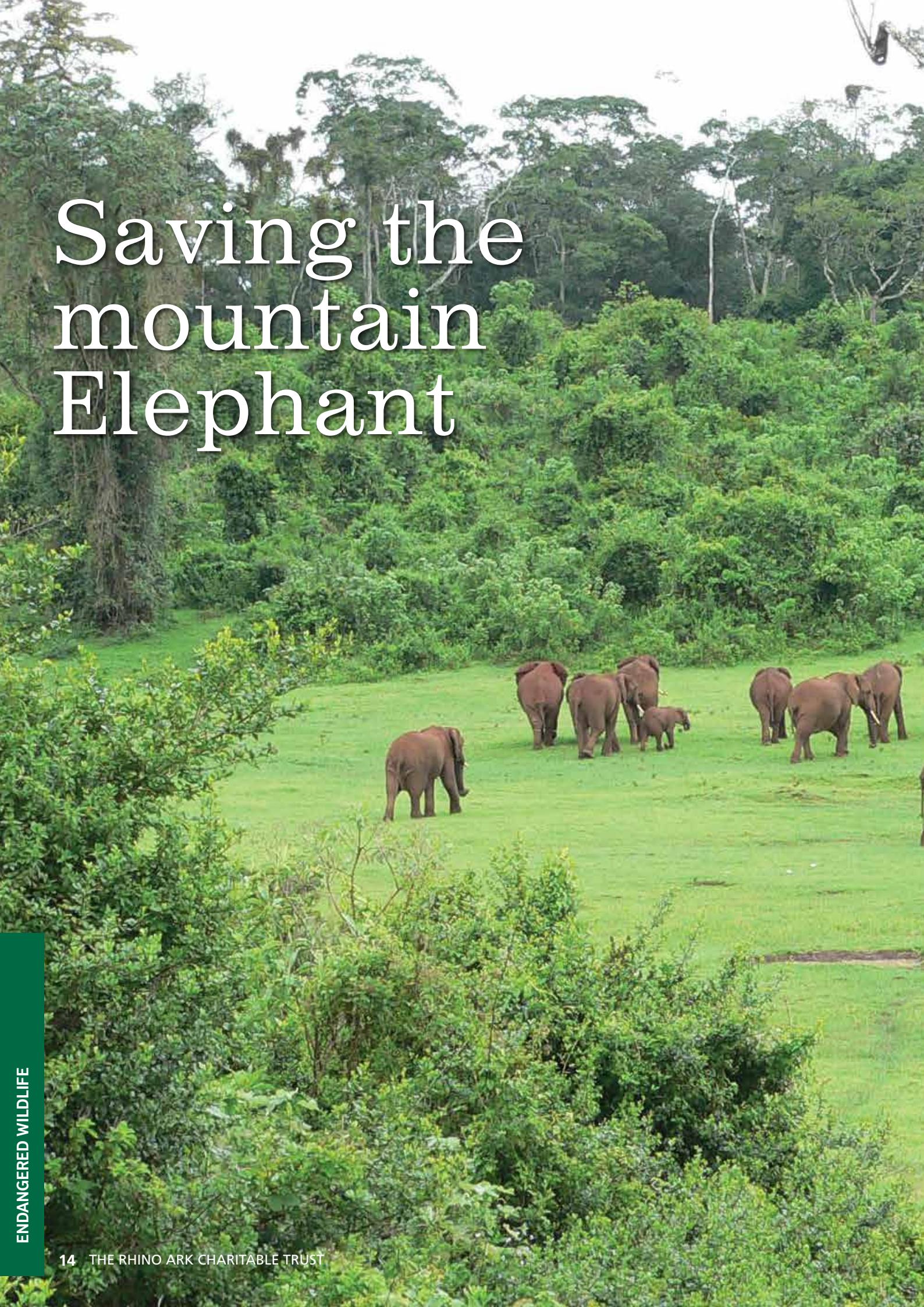
The golden-winged sunbird (*Drepanorhynchus reichenowi*) is a species of bird found in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda. Yellow-edged feathers in the wings and tail are key identification pointers in all plumages of both the male and female. Field studies in Kenya show that the sunbirds live in the highland areas and are active during the daytime.

## Speke's Weaver

The Speke's weaver (*Ploceus spekei*) is a familiar East African songbird. The adult male is yellow with black throat-edged rusty face, and bill, and variable black mottling on the back. The adult female's upperparts are dull olive-grey with dusky brown streaks; the underparts are pale yellow, whiter on the belly and greyer on the flanks.



# Saving the mountain Elephant





Elephants (*Loxodonta africana*), are the largest existing land animals and have distinctive enormous bodies, large ears, and long trunks. They use their trunks to pick up objects, trumpet warnings, greet other elephants, or suck up water for drinking or bathing, amongst other uses. Elephant tusks serve many purposes. These extended teeth can be used to protect the elephant's trunk, lift and move objects, gather food, and strip bark from trees. They can also be used for defence. During times of drought, elephants even use their tusks to dig holes to find water underground. These unique features of this magnificent endangered mammal call for action to conserve and protect it.

Elephants need extensive land areas to survive and meet their ecological needs, which include food, water, and space. Mt. Kenya and the Aberdare Range are adjacent mountain forests roughly 12 kilometres apart at their closest points. Between them, they host an estimated 5,465 elephants. Historically, elephants exit the forests frequently in both the Mt. Kenya and the Aberdare Range ecosystems, as they seasonally migrate between their traditional dispersal areas.

On average, an elephant can feed for up to 18 hours and consume hundreds of pounds of plant matter in a single day. As a result, as they lose habitat, they often come into conflict with people in competition for resources. During their migrations elephants often raid adjacent farms, threatening the lives and livelihoods of farmers. Loss of human life has sometimes led to retaliatory killings of elephants.

To address the escalating crisis of human-wildlife conflict arising from a burgeoning human population in traditional elephant dispersal areas; Rhino Ark continues to drive the development and implementation of a mix of innovative long-term solutions. We completed construction and now maintain a 400 kilometre game-proof electric fence around the Aberdare Range and we are currently building a similar 450 kilometre-long fence around Mt. Kenya. Other innovations include the design and construction of elephant grids at vulnerable points where our fences cross public roads.

Securing the safe movement of elephants from these mountain forests to other dispersal areas is also a key priority for Rhino Ark. Solutions implemented to date with partners include fenced elephant corridors, wildlife underpasses and one-way automatic elephant gates.

## *Cameras to play big role in wildlife research*

Rhino Ark has installed 10 new cameras in Chehe Forest to monitor wildlife, with a special focus on the elusive Mountain bongo. Camera traps are an efficient and non-invasive way to study animals in their natural habitat,

especially in hard-to-reach areas. To effectively manage our fleet of cameras, we have assigned a unique number to each one, which corresponds to their SIM cards and cable locks. This system helps us keep track of the cameras and ensures that we can quickly identify any issues.

The camera trap has revolutionised wildlife research and conservation, enabling scientists to collect photographic evidence of rarely

seen and often globally endangered species, with relative ease, minimising costs, and with minimal disturbance to wildlife.

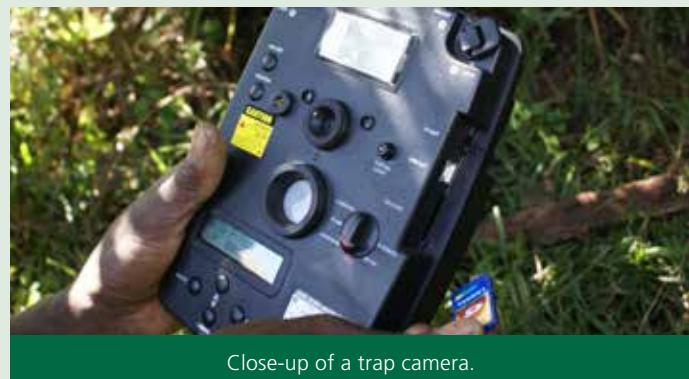
The Bongo Surveillance Project, Calgary Zoo and Rhino Ark use remote-sensing camera traps to non-invasively study a variety of wildlife behaviours, yielding key insights into behavioural repertoires.



The Eburu camera trap team.



A trap camera image of mountain bongos.



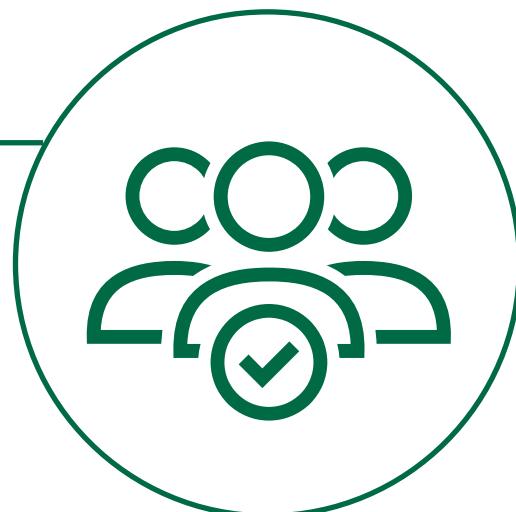
Close-up of a trap camera.

## *Wildlife clubs on the rise in our ecosystems*

Two new wildlife clubs have been established in forest-adjacent primary schools near Mt.Kenya Forest. With these new clubs, Rhino Ark is one step closer to achieving its goal of having 60 youth members in 14 clubs established by the end of the year.

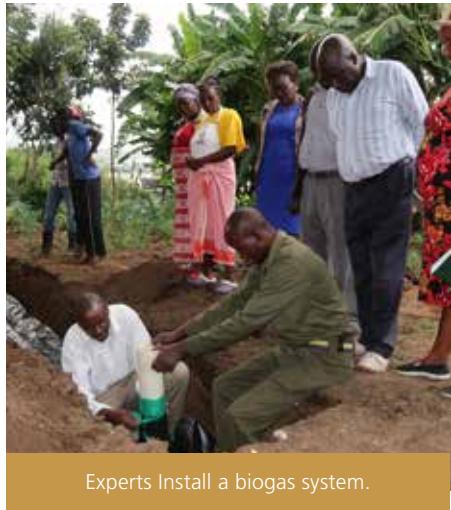
Rhino Ark is thrilled to see the enthusiasm and commitment of the community towards the wildlife clubs initiative, and we encourage everyone to get involved in any way they can.

Our mission is to empower young people to become conservation champions and protect endangered species.



# COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS

## MAU EBURU



Experts Install a biogas system.



Farmers attend a biogas training session.



A community member demonstrates how he uses biogas in his home.

### *Biogas energy use in households to conserve forests*

Rhino Ark is facilitating the adoption of biogas as an alternative domestic energy source by

local farmers in Mau Eburu Forest. The aim of the biogas programme is to reduce farmer reliance on forest resources such as fuelwood, which is a threat to forest conservation.

To support the adoption and expansion of the project, Rhino Ark organises training sessions

for the farmers to acquire relevant and accurate knowledge in carrying out their agricultural activities. The farmers are now self-financing the installation of the units in their homes.



A Honey press machine.



Mr Maseto Kusen demonstrates how to use the honey press.



Packed honey ready for sale.

### *Farmers earn sweet benefits from Eburu Forest honey*

Farmers adjacent to Eburu Forest have started earning income from honey and other bee products.

Organised under the Eburu Natural Forest Honey Cooperative, the farmers produce honey, beeswax, and other products from the hives. The Cooperative also plays a role in preserving honeybee populations, which have been declining in recent years due to a variety of factors such as habitat loss, pesticide use, and disease.

The Cooperative sold its first produce totaling 376.50 kgs of honey, earning KES188,250 (\$1,400). Experts from the National Beekeeping Institute trained members of the cooperative on how to inspect and process honey, starting from the point of its arrival in buckets.

They were also trained on how to handle both crystallised and fresh combed honey, as well as the effects of warming and sieving on the end product.



## *Major boost for Eburu beekeepers*

The Rhino Ark is pleased to announce that The Eburu Honey Cooperative, supported by Rhino Ark/ Calgary Zoo Mountain Forest Conservation Partnership, has received processing equipment ready to start processing honey.

The abundant indigenous plant life and climate of Eburu forest provides an ideal habitat for one of nature's hardest workers: the African honey bee.

This opportunity will help the community to appreciate the commercial value of beekeeping and encourage them to increase their production capacity through more hives and better methodology.



## *Community Conservation Champions end-year meeting*

Sixteen Community Conservation Champions from Eburu Forest held their year-end meeting to review progress with activities in 2022, and to

plan for a successful and productive 2023.

With support from Rhino Ark, Wilder Institute/The Calgary Zoo and Tusk Trust, the programme has grown in leaps and bounds over the last two years.

# SOUTH WESTERN MAU

## Mau dairy project helps to reduce forest degradation

Rhino Ark is promoting a dairy project in the South Western Mau aimed at reducing the number of livestock in the forest and illegal activities.

Livestock grazing has long been a cause of concern for environmentalists, as it contributes significantly to forest loss, soil degradation, and inadequate regeneration. At the same time, grazing is an important source of income and livelihood for surrounding communities.

Rhino Ark, alongside our partners under the Initiative for Sustainable Landscapes (ISLA) umbrella, are working to address this challenge through the South Western Mau Livestock Dairy Intensification Project.

More than 1,200 farmers have benefitted from the project since 2018. The farmers have learned high-value zero grazing practices for their dairy cows, which limit the number of livestock in the forest and help to reduce degradation.

We understand the challenges that come with livestock farming, which is why we provide regular training, workshops, and onsite visits to help farmers increase their milk production and income. Through our efforts, farmers are learning how to care for fodder crops, set up cow barns, monitor pests and diseases, and improve feeding practices.

Our goal is to help local farmers increase their income, which ultimately boosts community livelihoods while promoting sustainable farming practices. We are proud to be making a positive impact in Kenya's South Western Mau Forest through our innovative livestock production model.



## ABERDARES



### *Ecotourism training delivered in Geta Forest Station*

Community Forest Association (CFA) members receive ecotourism training in Geta Forest Station, Nyandarua County before engaging in a forest rehabilitation project funded by the Darwin Initiative.



Members of the Geta Community Forest Association.

### *Rhino Ark supports Community Forest Associations*

Rhino Ark met with community members from Manunga, Kanyua, Kamirangi, Mikaro, and

Kitiri areas in the Aberdares to discuss the latest Rhino Ark projects being established in the area. Together with the Forester, Geta Forest Station, and the Community Forest Association (CFA) Executive Committee, we encouraged the members to register for Geta Forest CFA membership.

This project, supported by the Darwin Initiative, aims to promote sustainable forest

management and conservation of the precious natural resources in the area. By becoming a member of the Geta Forest CFA, community members can play an active role in protecting and preserving the environment for generations to come.

## Biodiversity education for schools near water towers

Pupils in 178 schools bordering Kenya's major water towers will learn about conservation in a programme supported by Rhino Ark. The Trust is working with the Ministry of Education to implement a curriculum complementing CBC (Competency-Based Curriculum) in schools bordering the Aberdares, Mau Eburu, South Western Mau Forest, and Mt.Kenya ecosystems.

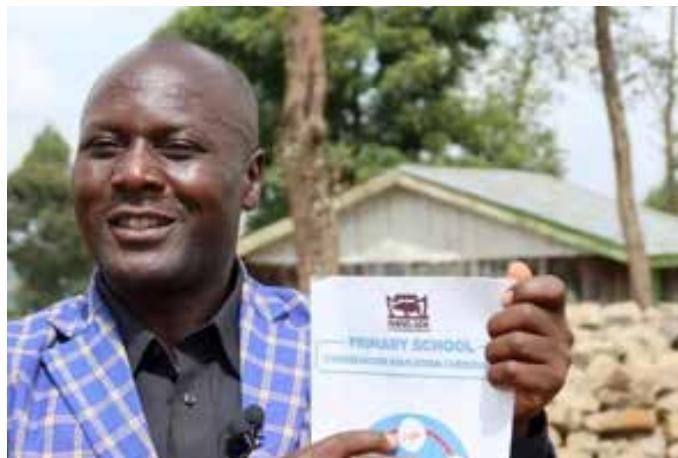
The education initiative promotes a holistic approach towards the protection and conservation of the environment. Appreciation of the environment among people and society

can create positive environmental behavioral change. Drought, air pollution, poaching, illegal timber harvesting, charcoal burning, poor management of waste materials, water pollution, deforestation, loss of biodiversity, and degradation of land and soil are a few of the critical and key environmental issues Kenya faces.

Environmental education is an essential factor because it helps people build the required skills, foster commitment to take collective steps and on an individual basis, to balance, maintain, and enhance the natural

environment.

The curriculum plays a key role in conserving and protecting the natural environment and generating awareness among students about the significance of caring for the environment. It also plays a crucial role in building an environmentally aware and conscious society which can address environmental issues and challenges. Rhino Ark believes that the programme will help in generating a new set of conservation champions who will push the conservation agenda farther ahead.



A teacher shows the conservation education curriculum booklet.



Conservation education practicals conducted in schools.



Ogiek community conservation champions.

## Celebrating women in conservation

We celebrate the amazing women who play a crucial role in biodiversity conservation. At Rhino Ark, we are proud to work with women at the forefront of our tree planting campaigns, braving the cold and heat to help restore Kenya's mountain forest ecosystems.

As we mark Mother's Day this May, we would like to acknowledge these women as true heroes who dedicate their time and energy to protect our environment for future generations. They plant trees, restore degraded landscapes, and work tirelessly to ensure that our precious ecosystems thrive.

Thank you for your commitment to conservation, and for being an inspiration to us all.



Tree planting by a youth member.



Ms Lydia Nyota in her pyrethrum farm.



Biogas installation by community members.



## TESTIMONIALS



### *Ms. Dorris Chaaku, Kimbo Village, Kibirichia Sub-County, Meru County*

"I am a member of Wildlife Clubs of Kenya (WCK) which I joined in 1978 when I was a student at Egoji Girls High School. I know the value of wildlife and I enjoy touring national parks. Some time ago, elephants raided my farm and uprooted all my carrots; and despite all of this I still love wildlife. We are happy because God has remembered us through Rhino Ark which has built the electric fence. We now co-exist with elephants and other wildlife."



### *Mr. Charles Gichuhi, Mt. Kenya resident, Sagana Village*

"When I saw the elephant on my farm, I attempted to make a run for it, but unfortunately the animal caught up with me. It drove its tusk into the lower part of my right leg tossing me up into the air, and then used its trunk to throw me metres away from where it was. The impact shattered two of my ribs and broke other bones in my body. I lost a lot of blood in the process. We are so grateful to Rhino Ark for building the electric fence around the Mt. Kenya ecosystem. With this fence in place, we will avoid such human-wildlife conflict."



### *Mr. Joseph Dadacha, Kenya Wildlife Service Assistant Director, Aberdare National Park*

"On behalf of KWS, I wish to thank Rhino Ark and BIOPAMA for supplying our fence maintenance teams with uniforms; including 114 raincoats, overalls, sweaters and wellington boots. This will boost the morale of our Aberdare Fence Maintenance teams. These teams work in some extremely remote areas characterised by cold and chilly weather conditions. The work gear will enable our teams to continue working in such circumstances. We will witness a significant improvement in the maintenance of Aberdare Fence."

# ABOUT THE RHINO CHARGE

[www.rhinocharge.or.ke](http://www.rhinocharge.or.ke)

The Rhino Charge is an annual off-road 4x4 competition held in Kenya in which competitors are required to visit 13 points (guard posts) scattered over approximately 100 km<sup>2</sup> of rough terrain within a 10-hour period. Entrants are supplied with a 1:50,000 scale map of the venue, co-ordinates of the 13 guard posts and their start position the night before the event. Each competitor team must plot the guard posts on the map and figure out their own route. The winning car is the team which visits the most guard posts in the shortest distance (GPS measured).

The event is organised in order to raise important funds to support the activities of the Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust, which works towards the conservation and protection of Kenya's mountain range ecosystems, the so-called "Water Towers".

## How Can You Support the Rhino Charge

### Attend as a Spectator

Attending the Rhino Charge as a Spectator is an amazing way that you can support the event and be part of all the action!

### Sponsor a Car or The Rhino Charge Event

The Rhino Charge offers some fantastic branding and PR opportunities and is a unique way to support Rhino Ark's conservation efforts.

### Help Out at The Event

If you are interested in volunteering at the Rhino Charge, please get in touch with us on [info@rhinocharge.or.ke](mailto:info@rhinocharge.or.ke)

### ENTER A TEAM OR JOIN AN EXISTING TEAM

Spaces are limited and competition is fierce but once a Charger, always a Charger!  
If you are interested in getting involved please contact us on [info@rhinocharge.or.ke](mailto:info@rhinocharge.or.ke)

### FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For lots of news and information about the Rhino Charge follow us:

- ⌚ @Rhino.Charge
- ⌚ @Rhino\_Charge
- ⌚ @RhinoChargeKenya
- ⌚ @Rhino.Charge
- ⌚ @rhinocharge4x4

## HOW TO SPONSOR A TEAM

### MPESA

MPESA payments must be made in the following way:

- Lipa na M-PESA
- Pay Bill
- Enter business no. 855995
- Account No. (Car no. being sponsored e.g. CAR01)
- Enter amount

### BANK TRANSFER

If you wish to make a donation by direct transfer to Rhino Ark's bank account, kindly contact us on: Email: [info@rhinoark.or.ke](mailto:info@rhinoark.or.ke),

Please include the relevant car number you are making payment for in the description for the transfer.

### CHEQUE

Please ensure that all Cheques are made out to:

RHINO ARK KENYA CHARITABLE TRUST  
When delivering a Cheque to Rhino Ark (Located at KWS Headquarters, Langata) please ensure that the relevant car number is clearly stated on the envelope.

### ONLINE GIVING

Many of the teams have set themselves up with online giving pages please go to our website to see the teams' details. <https://rhinocharge.co.ke/rhino-charge-2023/competitors/>

# 2023 RHINO CHARGE ENTRANTS



# TOP 10 RHINO CHARGE FUNDRAISERS



**Over KES 172 million**  
McKittrick/Ray/Jessop/Bovard/Knight/Smith  
(1989-2022) Car 5



**Over KES 169 million**  
Peter Kinyua/John Macharia  
(2000-2022) Car 23



**Over KES 102 million**  
Adil Khawaja's AK44 Team  
(2005-2022) Car 44



**Over KES 81 million**  
Stanley Kinyanjui's Magnate Chargers Team  
(2007-2022) Car 62



**Over KES 72 million**  
Mark Tilbury's Hog Charge Team  
(1999-2022) Car 35



**Over KES 45 million**  
The Avery's Bundufundis Team  
(1996-2022) Car 38



**Over KES 39 million**  
Mike & Sarah Higgins  
(1990-2008) Car 22



**Over KES 38 million**  
Tim Carstens' Aussie Rules Team  
(2013-2022) Car 63



**Over KES 35 million**  
Mark Glen's Team 48  
(2005-2022) Car 48



**Over KES 35 million**  
Eddy Verbeek's Rhino Charge Car No 1  
(2000-2022) Car 1



# CAR 16: MEET THE TEAM

This dynamic team has competed in the Rhino Charge for more than 15 years, and its drive and consistency is thanks to members who leave creating space for new members to add to the vibrancy and enthusiasm which characterises the Phoenix Rising crew.

## Where does our motivation come from?

For John, Braeburn Group Head of Secondary Education, his motivation is rooted in the exhilarating adventure with friends and family which the Rhino Charge brings. He enjoys experiencing the vast, unexplored and wild landscapes of Kenya; rich in flora, fauna and avifauna rarely seen in the developed urban areas where he lives. John does not fail to highlight the important role the event plays in raising money and awareness for conservation.

His teammate Olivier relishes the challenge of constructing Car 16 and revels in the courage and high level of skill required to put it to the test on the Charge course itself. How far will Sally (a Car 16 nickname) go, before she decides she has reached her limit, each time? Their teammate, Joshua's heart beats to the same drum. When questioned about his motivation for the event, Joshua replied with certainty; "Because I really enjoy seeing all the cars entered which are so fun and interesting to watch compete!"

## The heart of the Charge

Regardless of each unique member's diverse interests and passions, young or old, we all have some common threads which bind us and bring the Car 16 community together each year.

*Building a positive relationship with our natural environment*

According to conservationists from the World Wildlife Fund and the Zoological Society of London, humanity has wiped out almost 70 percent of monitored wildlife populations in the last half-century. This discovery comes at a time when we are also realising that biodiversity is a vital necessity for all life on Earth including human beings.

We are in awe of conservationist Ken Kuhle's incredible vision when he founded the Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust in 1988. The seed he planted 35 years ago, has taken root over time to become a well-established fundraising and conservation body whose relevance is more important than ever. The call to protect and conserve our natural habitats, and build a thriving present and future for all life forms is no longer a luxury reserved to a few philanthropic individuals and organisations. No one can tackle the global biodiversity crisis on their own. A million species are threatened with extinction, and it will need all our combined efforts to reverse this decline in biodiversity. Therefore, environmental awareness education must extend beyond the forest-adjacent communities, who while remaining front-line guardians, will require the support of everyone else to access and nurture their own positive relationships with nature.

Rhino Ark has established a valuable and secure space in the conservation landscape, in particular for the next generation, to come together, and to learn how we can conserve and regenerate these natural ecosystems and the crucial ecological services they provide. Through Rhino Ark's website and publications, we have all gained a



better understanding of the importance of Kenya's water towers and saving the critically endangered Mountain bongo from extinction. Rhino Ark team members are always ready and willing to share their time and resources and have played a key role in deepening our knowledge of the Rhino Charge to get to the heart of this great event.

This May 22nd, as we celebrate International Day for Biodiversity, let us all respond to the call to action and play our own part, however big or small, to *Build Back Biodiversity*.

## *Rediscovering peace - Ending the war on nature*

The Rhino Charge centres on an off-road motorsport event which raises critical funds to help support fencing projects helping reduce conflict between Kenya's mountain range ecosystems diverse wildlife and the fence-adjacent farmers around them. This annual fundraising initiative is proof that we humans do not have to live in conflict with the natural world, and indeed there is a place in the world for cars (and our other innovations), as well as all flora and fauna. One species' existence should not cancel out the other; and the Rhino Charge has shown us that we can apply our interests and passions, to create innovative and sustainable solutions that take into account all life on Earth, not just our own. The regenerative power of nature, along with the careful design of the event, ensures that for every bush that might be damaged during the Charge, 500 more will have a chance to grow somewhere safe and protected.



*Patience is a slow growing tree whose roots are deep and which bears the best fruit*

What began as a 38-kilometre fence along the Aberdares, over 21 years ago, became the world's longest conservation fence - nearly 400 km in length, paving the way for the creation of an even longer fence around Mt. Kenya's forests. The Aberdares fence, completed over nine phases, speaks volumes about the resilience, persistence and determination to achieve a set goal.

As the Car 16 team gears up again in preparation for this year's Charge, the crew is faced with fresh challenges. However, we use these as opportunities to strengthen our team's roots and grow through them to emerge an even stronger team. Car 16 raises funds both through corporate sponsors and through public fundraising events in a variety of locations. One of our primary aims is also to raise awareness, especially among local communities, of the importance of wildlife and environmental conservation, and highlight the important work of Rhino Ark, and ways in which local people might engage and play their part.

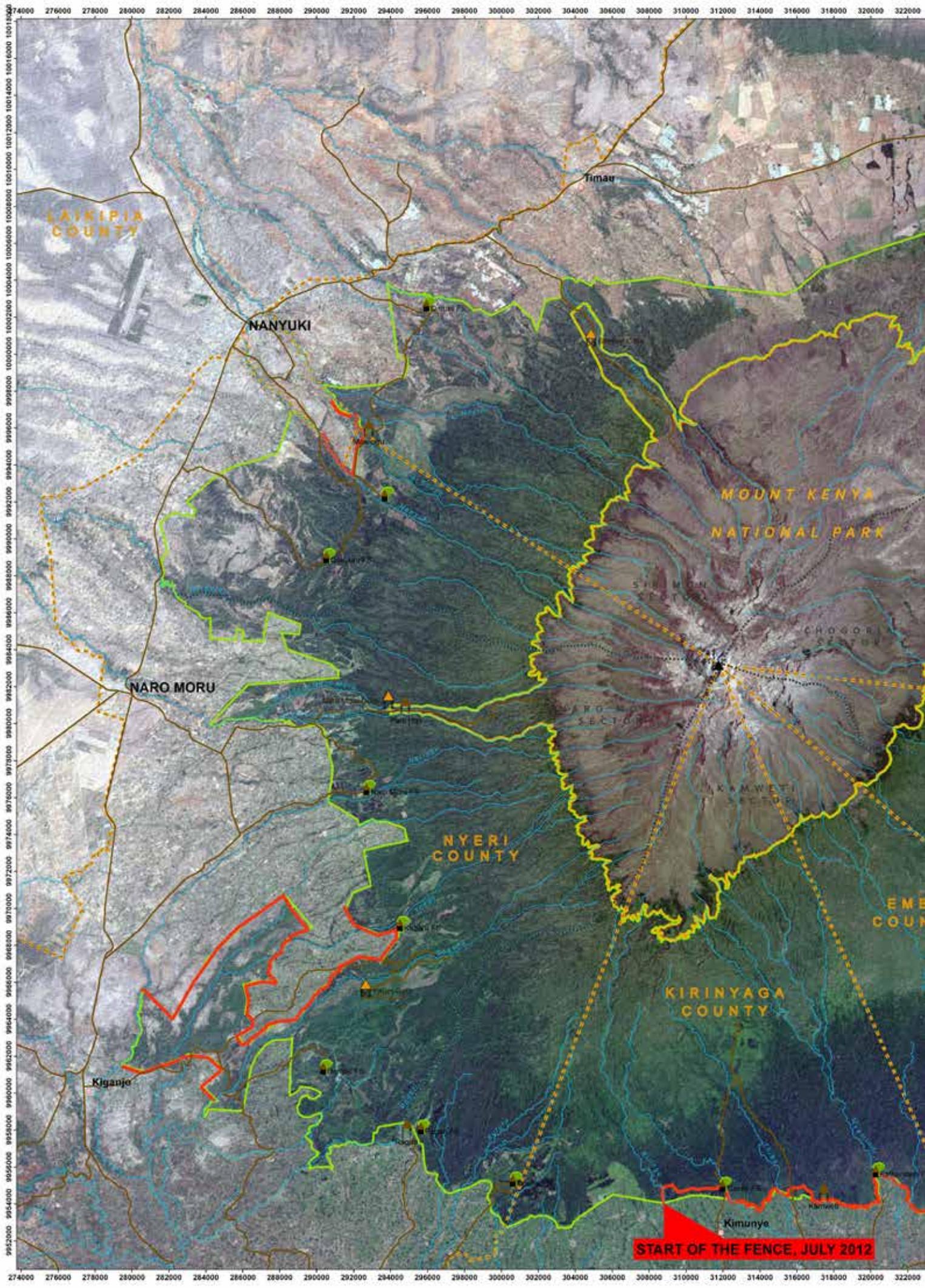
All of us on the Car 16 team continue to strategise and identify more sustainable ways to increase our longer-term impact in fundraising and awareness-raising in conservation.

*Live life, and live it abundantly*

Camping experiences at the Rhino Charge are always great fun, and we all enjoy being immersed in the remote and wild areas of Kenya we would otherwise not have access to, without the effort, dedication and organisation of the Rhino Charge team and its committee of volunteering professionals. We thoroughly enjoy and value our interactions with the local communities and connections that we make.

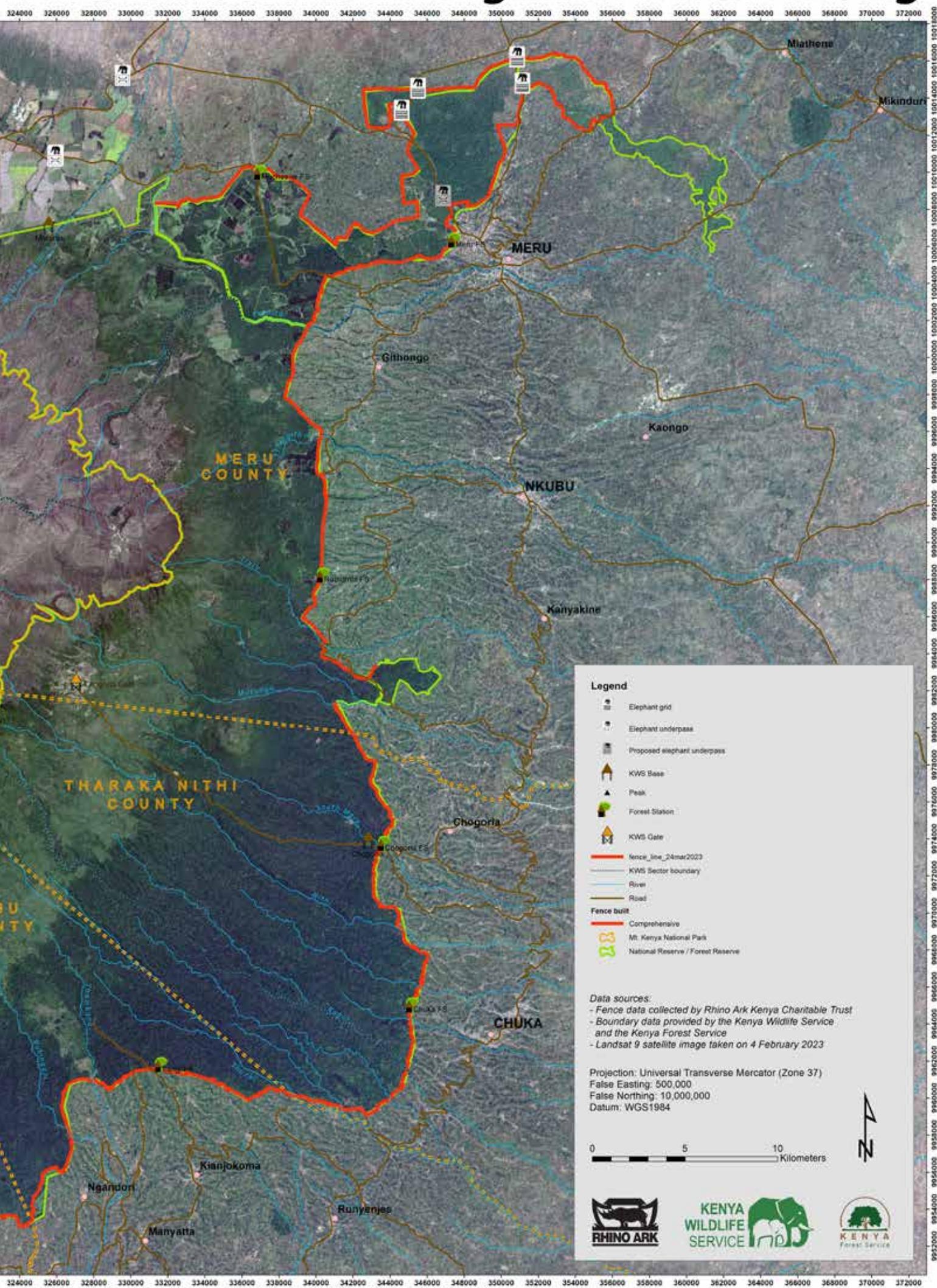
The Car 16 team extends its gratitude to the whole Rhino Charge family; the committed Chargers, the organisers, the volunteers, and the supporters - and looks forward to another challenging and successful Charge later this month; raising more important funds for Rhino Ark's vital conservation efforts.

# MOUNT KENYA FENCE BUILD P



START OF THE FENCE, JULY 2012

# PROGRESS AS OF 31 MARCH 2023





# **SUPPORT RHINO ARK'S CONSERVATION WORK BY ADVERTISING WITH US**

## **ADVERTISEMENT RATES:**

	<b>MAY EDITION</b>	<b>NOVEMBER EDITION</b>
Back Cover page A4	KES 60,000/-	KES 65,000/-
Front Inner Cover page A4	KES 55,000/-	KES 60,000/-
Inner pages A4	KES 50,000/-	KES 55,000/-
Half page A5	KES 35,000/-	KES 45,000/-

## **CONTACT:**

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Wireless: +254 (0)20 2136010/11  
Email: [kate@rhinoark.or.ke](mailto:kate@rhinoark.or.ke)



# THANK YOU!

- **ChallengeAid** - Support to the Schools of Hope (Aberdares)
- **KWS** - Rhino Ark Offices
- **DH-ISLA & Finlays** - Support to the surveillance flights (South Western Mau)
- **Wilder Institute / Calgary Zoo** - Support to forest conservation / community livelihoods in Eburu Forest
- **Wilder Institute / Calgary Zoo** - Support to forest conservation / community livelihoods / bongo recovery in Ragati Forest, Mt.Kenya
- **Rare Species Conservatory Foundation** - Support to the conservation of the mountain bongo
- 
- **Elephant Cooperation** - Construction of one wildlife underpass in Imenti Forest
- **Wildlife Conservation Society** - Construction of one wildlife underpass in Imenti Forest
- **Eburru Rafiki** - Support towards community work at Eburu Forest
- **AutoXpress** - Provision of tyres for all Rhino Ark vehicles
- **MPESA Foundation** - Support for the maintenance of Eburu Electric Fence
- **MPESA Foundation** - Support for the construction of the Kakamega Electric Fence
- **Platinum Credit & Platcorp Foundation** - support towards reforestation in South Western Mau
- **Upper Tana Natural Resources Management Project (IFAD-GoK)** - support towards the fencing of Mt. Kenya
- **BIOPAMA** - support towards the maintenance of the Aberdare fence
- **Darwin Initiative** - support towards the conservation of the Aberdare and South Western Mau
- **Kenya Pipeline Company** - support towards the fencing of Mt. Kenya
- **UNDP/Government of Japan** - support towards the fencing of Kakamega Forest
- **Horne Family Foundation** - support towards the conservation of the black rhino

## Our Contacts

### **Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust**

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P.O. Box 181 Uhuru Gardens, 00517 Nairobi, Kenya  
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Email: info@rhinoark.or.ke  
Website: [www.rhinoark.org](http://www.rhinoark.org)/[www.rhinocharge.co.ke](http://www.rhinocharge.co.ke)

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

Acorn Wood, Swan Lane,  
Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6AH  
Tel: +44 (780) 224 5865  
Email: kit@rhinoark.org  
Website: [www.rhinoark.org](http://www.rhinoark.org)  
Website Donations: [justgiving.com/charity/rhinoark](http://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: +1 608-576-0571, Fax: +1 608 4425 264  
Email: [sheenab230@gmail.com](mailto:sheenab230@gmail.com)  
Website: [www.wildlifedefenseusa.org](http://www.wildlifedefenseusa.org)

### **Website Donations:**

[Firstgiving.com/Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust Inc.](http://Firstgiving.com/Rhino%20Ark%20Kenya%20Charitable%20Trust%20Inc)  
Banking Details: US Bank, Gamon Place, Madison WI 53719

### **Please make cheques payable to:**



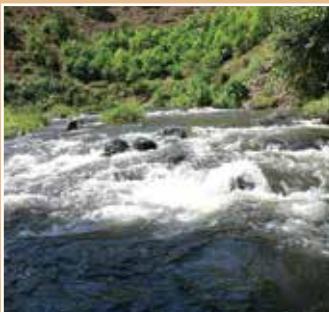
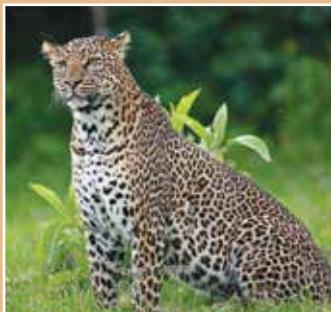
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websites: [www.rhinoark.org](http://www.rhinoark.org)/[www.rhinocharge.co.ke](http://www.rhinocharge.co.ke)

## **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.
- 2022 Spirit of the Charge film in DVD. Available at KES 1,000 only.
- Rhino Charge 2023 calendar. Available at KES 1,100 only.
- Mau Eburu Guidebook. Available at KES 1,500 only.



## HELP TO SAVE OUR MOUNTAIN FORESTS AND THEIR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE



### WHY IT MATTERS

The Aberdares, Mt. Kenya and the Mau mountain forests are key 'water towers' of Kenya. They are the sources of major rivers that provide much-needed water to the city of Nairobi, which is the main contributor to the country's GDP. These rivers support the livelihoods of millions of households in rural areas and are the lifeline of key conservation and tourism areas downstream. Together these three mountain ecosystems provide yearly ecological services to Kenya worth KES 412 billion (US\$ 4.12 billion).

These important forests include World Heritage Sites, Important Bird Areas and National Parks. The critically endangered Black rhino and Mountain bongo antelope, the African elephant and the vulnerable leopard are among the iconic wildlife species that inhabit them.

Forest-adjacent communities are critical to the conservation of these forests; they are their front-line guardians who are the most directly dependent on the forests and also the most impacted by human-wildlife conflict.



### WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

- 1.6 BILLION KENYA SHILLINGS (US\$ 16 MILLION) invested in conservation
- 710 KILOMETRES of electric fences built and maintained to date
- 172 FENCE ATTENDANTS maintaining Rhino Ark electric fences full time
- 21 VEHICLES supporting Rhino Ark conservation work
- 85,000 HOUSEHOLDS protected from human-wildlife conflicts
- 178 SCHOOLS providing conservation education
- 570,000 HECTARES of protected areas and water catchments better conserved
- 15 THREATENED SPECIES (mammals and birds) better protected
- 6 FOREST REHABILITATION projects on going
- 2 CORRIDORS for wildlife established

# DONATE!

## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We always welcome your kind donations to support our work. Your important contributions help us achieve the following:

### 1. Fencing programme

Our comprehensive game-proof electrified fences help secure prime indigenous forests and resolve human-wildlife conflict, keeping forest-adjacent communities engaged in conservation. One kilometre of electrified fence costs KES 2.5 million (US\$ 25,000). Once built, fences must be maintained continuously and we deploy 174 fence attendants maintaining our fences on a daily basis, supported by eight 4x4 vehicles. Fence maintenance costs KES 80,000 (US\$ 800) per kilometre per year.

### 2. Endangered species and forest conservation

#### *Support our community-based patrol programme:*

The Aberdare Joint Surveillance Unit (AJSU) is an elite, seven-man team of community scouts that patrols the Aberdare ecosystem. AJSU targets illegal activities such as logging, charcoal kilns, snaring and wildlife trapping. The team also monitors wildlife abundance and distribution, gathers intelligence information, and participates in forest fire fighting. KES 73,500 (US\$ 735) can cover a two-week field mission.

In Eburu, a five-man Foot Patrol Team responds to local intelligence reports to carry out highly-skilled operations to catch would-be wildlife or forestry criminals. Their main targets are wildlife snares, illegal logging and charcoal kilns. KES 24,000 (US\$ 240) can cover a two-day field operation.

#### *Support forest rehabilitation:*

Large areas of prime mountain forest habitats degraded by illegal human activities and forest fires, need to be rehabilitated. Donate to help restore our mountain forests. KES 100 (US\$ 1) will enable planting and caring for a tree seedling.

### 3. Community conservation and livelihoods

Our community programmes are geared towards reducing forest-adjacent communities' reliance on forest resources, improving their livelihoods, and raising their environmental awareness. These interventions result in their engagement in forest conservation, adoption of on-farm best practices and improvement of incomes.

## HOW TO DONATE

1. Mobile money
2. Bank Transfer
3. PayPal

If you wish to make a donation kindly contact us on:  
Email: sheenab230@gmail.com  
Telephone: +1 608 576 0571  
Or Visit our website donations page

<https://rhinoark.org/donate/>

