

## RHINO ARK KENYA CHARITABLE TRUST STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

|                                       | Note | 2025<br>KES        | 2024<br>KES        |
|---------------------------------------|------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>INCOME</b>                         | 7    | 339,810,254        | 301,617,111        |
| <b>EXPENDITURE</b>                    |      |                    |                    |
| Aberdare expenses                     | 8    | 59,317,997         | 36,778,251         |
| Mau Eburu expenses                    | 9    | 20,276,728         | 15,546,310         |
| Mt Kenya expenses                     | 10   | 30,287,406         | 36,081,806         |
| South West Mau expenses               | 11   | 26,664,829         | 31,253,323         |
| Other project expenses                | 12   | 6,736,707          | 8,263,499          |
| Fund-raising expenses                 | 13   | 57,030,445         | 49,816,519         |
| Kakamega forest                       | 14   | 67,117,160         | 8,615,544          |
| Administrative and general expenses   | 15   | 78,426,621         | 61,996,283         |
|                                       |      | <u>345,857,893</u> | <u>248,351,535</u> |
| <b>(DEFICIT)/SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR</b> |      | <u>(6,047,639)</u> | <u>53,265,576</u>  |

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025232

|                            | Note | 2025<br>KES       | 2024<br>KES       |
|----------------------------|------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <b>ASSETS</b>              |      |                   |                   |
| <b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>  |      |                   |                   |
| Property and equipment     | 2    | 15,957,130        | 12,681,978        |
| <b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>      |      |                   |                   |
| Investments                | 3    | 3,119,206         | 2,775,642         |
| Receivables                | 4    | 7,430,950         | 4,440,545         |
| Cash and cash equivalents  | 16   | 67,561,113        | 77,047,548        |
|                            |      | <u>78,111,269</u> | <u>84,263,735</u> |
| <b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>        |      | <u>94,068,399</u> | <u>96,945,713</u> |
| <b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b> |      |                   |                   |
| Trade and other payables   | 5    | 13,176,542        | 10,006,217        |
| <b>NET ASSETS</b>          |      | <u>80,891,857</u> | <u>86,939,496</u> |
| <b>FINANCED BY:</b>        |      |                   |                   |
| General fund               |      | <u>80,891,857</u> | <u>86,939,496</u> |

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR  
ENDED 31 MARCH 2025

## 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The principal accounting policies adopted in the preparation of these financial statements are set out below:

## (a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements summarise the transactions of the Trust and deal with the net assets at the disposal of the Directors. The financial statements are presented in Kenya Shillings (KES), which is the Trust's functional and presentation currency.

The financial statements are prepared under the historical cost basis of accounting except where otherwise stated in the accounting policies below.

## (b) Income recognition

All income is recognised on receipt.

## (c) Expenditure recognition

Expenditure is accounted for on accrual basis. Project expenditure is allocated to individual projects on the basis of benefits received by those projects.

## (d) Property and equipment

Items of property and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation. Depreciation is charged on the straight line basis over the estimated useful lives of the assets.

The annual depreciation rates in use are:

|                        |       |
|------------------------|-------|
| Motor vehicles         | 25.0% |
| Furniture and fittings | 12.5% |
| Computers              | 33.3% |
| Office equipment       | 12.5% |

## (e) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions during the year are converted into Kenya Shillings at the rates ruling at the transaction dates. Assets and liabilities at the reporting date, which are expressed in foreign currencies, are translated at the rates ruling at that date. The resulting differences from conversion and translation are dealt with in the income and expenditure account.

## (f) Financial instruments

A financial instrument is a contract that gives rise to both a financial asset of one enterprise and a financial liability of another enterprise. The financial instruments held by the Trust are investments in the money market, trade and other receivables, bank balances and cash and trade and other payables.

All the financial instruments held by the Trust are accounted for on amortised cost basis.

## (g) Receivables

Receivables are stated at nominal value, less provision for any amounts

considered irrecoverable.

## (h) Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash at bank and in hand and short term deposits with an original maturity of three months or less.

## (i) Use of estimates

The preparation of financial statements requires that management makes estimates and assumptions that affect amounts reported in the financial statements and accompanying notes. Actual results could differ from these estimates. The more significant estimation process is related to the determination of provision for doubtful debts. Although some variability is inherent in these estimates, management believes that the amounts provided are adequate.

## (j) Investments

Investments are held in the money market fund with Old Mutual and Britam asset managers. Interest is earned on a monthly basis from these placements and rolled over as principal.

## (k) Payables

Payables are stated at nominal value.

The Rhino Charge is held in a different location each year and is organised in very close cooperation with the respective host community. Rhino Charge organisers have implemented the Vehicle Pass, known as the Landowner Access Fee (LAF) to benefit the local host communities. The money raised through this fee goes directly to the community. The money is then used for community projects, such as the construction of school classrooms or the installation of boreholes.

## 2. PROPERTY AND EQUIPMENT

| 2025<br>COST     | Motor<br>Vehicles<br>KES | Furniture,<br>fittings and<br>Equipment<br>KES | Computers<br>KES | Total<br>KES       |
|------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| At 1 April 2024  | 53,153,493               | 48,642,029                                     | 5,912,356        | 107,707,878        |
| Additions        | 4,253,000                | 2,841,815                                      | 1,633,512        | 8,728,327          |
| Disposals        | (2,965,296)              | -                                              | -                | (2,965,296)        |
| At 31 March 2025 | <u>54,441,197</u>        | <u>51,483,844</u>                              | <u>7,545,868</u> | <u>113,470,909</u> |

## ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION

|                     |                   |                   |                  |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| At 1 April 2024     | 52,794,113        | 36,614,361        | 5,617,426        | 95,025,900        |
| Charge for the year | 1,293,855         | 3,360,223         | 799,097          | 5,453,175         |
| Disposal            | (2,965,296)       | -                 | -                | (2,965,296)       |
| At 31 March 2025    | <u>51,122,672</u> | <u>39,974,584</u> | <u>6,416,523</u> | <u>97,513,779</u> |

## NET CARRYING AMOUNT

|                  |                  |                   |                  |                   |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| At 31 March 2025 | <u>3,318,525</u> | <u>11,509,260</u> | <u>1,129,345</u> | <u>15,957,130</u> |
|------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|

## 2024

## COST

|                  |                   |                   |                  |                    |
|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| At 1 April 2023  | 53,153,493        | 40,871,975        | 5,794,764        | 99,820,232         |
| Additions        | -                 | 7,770,054         | 117,592          | 7,887,646          |
| At 31 March 2024 | <u>53,153,493</u> | <u>48,642,029</u> | <u>5,912,356</u> | <u>107,707,878</u> |

## ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION

|                     |                   |                   |                  |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| At 1 April 2023     | 52,563,508        | 34,059,519        | 5,362,836        | 91,985,863        |
| Charge for the year | 230,605           | 2,554,842         | 254,590          | 3,040,037         |
| At 31 March 2024    | <u>52,794,113</u> | <u>36,614,361</u> | <u>5,617,426</u> | <u>95,025,900</u> |

## NET CARRYING AMOUNT

|                  |                |                   |                |                   |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| At 31 March 2024 | <u>359,380</u> | <u>12,027,668</u> | <u>294,930</u> | <u>12,681,978</u> |
|------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|

## 3. INVESTMENTS

|                                    | 2025<br>KES      | 2024<br>KES      |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Old Mutual Money Market Fund       | 240,752          | 212,292          |
| British American Money Market Fund | <u>2,878,454</u> | <u>2,563,350</u> |
|                                    | <u>3,119,206</u> | <u>2,775,642</u> |

## Movement

|                                   |                  |                  |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
|                                   | 35,653,579       | 34,469,168       |
| At 1 April 2024                   | 2,775,642        | 2,527,617        |
| Add: Interest earned and invested | <u>343,564</u>   | <u>248,025</u>   |
| At 31 March 2025                  | <u>3,119,206</u> | <u>2,775,642</u> |

Interest of KES 343,564 was earned in the year (2024: KES 248,025). The interest was directly invested to the money market fund without any cash flow to the Trust. For purposes of the statement of cash flows, the interest earned and re-investment were therefore deemed as non cash transactions.

The investments are held at Britam and Old Mutual. The average rate of interest on the investments was 12%. (2024- 10%).

## 4. RECEIVABLES

|                   |                  |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Receivables       | 6,669,895        | 4,240,350        |
| Other receivables | <u>761,055</u>   | <u>200,195</u>   |
|                   | <u>7,430,950</u> | <u>4,440,545</u> |

**5. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES**

|                                         | 2025<br>KES       | 2024<br>KES       |
|-----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Accruals                                | 9,375,697         | 1,900,254         |
| Payroll liabilities                     | 1,590,949         | 2,736,977         |
| Rare Species Conservatory Foundation *  | 76,173            | 76,173            |
| Sundry creditors                        | 232,665           | 4,810,000         |
| Other liabilities                       | 1,901,058         | 482,813           |
|                                         | <u>13,176,542</u> | <u>10,006,217</u> |
| *Movement                               |                   |                   |
| Balance brought forward                 | 76,173            | 1,451,173         |
| Funds disbursed in support of the Bongo | -                 | 1,375,000         |
| Surveillance Project                    |                   |                   |
| Funds payable to RSCF                   | <u>76,173</u>     | <u>76,173</u>     |

**6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS**

|                              |                   |                   |
|------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Key management compensation: |                   |                   |
| Salaries                     | 38,842,580        | 23,506,348        |
| Pension                      | 2,982,314         | 240,000           |
|                              | <u>41,824,894</u> | <u>23,746,348</u> |

**7. INCOME**

|                                                              |                    |                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Rhino Charge collections (note 7 (a))                        | 238,150,033        | 214,945,796        |
| Other income (note 7 (b))                                    | 14,356,620         | 12,781,880         |
| Other donations (note 7 (c))                                 | 74,423,102         | 70,415,916         |
| Interest income – on current accounts and short term deposit | 12,536,935         | 3,225,494          |
| Interest income – on investments                             | 343,564            | 248,025            |
|                                                              | <u>339,810,254</u> | <u>301,617,111</u> |

**(a) RHINO CHARGE COLLECTIONS**

|                   |                    |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Rhino Charge 2022 | -                  | 13,948             |
| Rhino Charge 2023 | 690,000            | 136,351,261        |
| Rhino Charge 2024 | 204,486,960        | 78,580,587         |
| Rhino Charge 2025 | 32,973,073         | -                  |
|                   | <u>238,150,033</u> | <u>214,945,796</u> |

Donations for the Rhino Charge (RC) are recorded in the financial year that they were received. As the RC is held in the month of June each year; total 2024 RC donations will therefore be booked in two financial years, that is, the total 2024 RC donations are reflected in 2024 and 2025 financial years.

**(a) OTHER INCOME**

|                            |                   |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Operations base – Aberdare | 6,643,360         | 5,259,982         |
| Miscellaneous income       | 7,713,260         | 7,521,898         |
|                            | <u>14,356,620</u> | <u>12,781,880</u> |

**(c) OTHER DONATIONS**

|                                                |                   |                   |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Wyss Academy                                   | 17,298,783        | -                 |
| Black Rhino Sanctuary (Rhino Ark USA)          | 8,512,710         | -                 |
| Platinum Credit                                | 3,030,522         | 2,102,496         |
| International Union for Conservation – BIOPAMA | -                 | 5,323,649         |
| Calgary Zoo                                    | 24,385,437        | 11,267,174        |
| James Finlays Kenya                            | -                 | 6,235,163         |
| Total Kenya                                    | 1,085,238         | 989,770           |
| Eburu Rafiki                                   | 14,000            | 185,000           |
| The Sustainable Trade Initiative               | -                 | 3,610,796         |
| UNEP                                           | 2,469,290         | 1,893,261         |
| Horne Family Foundation                        | 648,963           | 2,659,335         |
| Guard Post Sponsorship                         | 2,900,000         | 3,150,000         |
| Darwin Initiative                              | 10,357,154        | 25,713,430        |
| The Nature Conservancy                         | 3,721,005         | 7,285,842         |
|                                                | <u>74,423,102</u> | <u>70,415,916</u> |

**8. ABERDARES EXPENSES**

|                            |                   |                   |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Staff costs                | 12,759,798        | 8,950,234         |
| Other costs                | 9,660,675         | 5,858,663         |
| Fuel                       | 1,960,096         | 1,455,952         |
| Motor vehicles costs       | 2,886,291         | 1,510,883         |
| Tools & materials          | 11,428,853        | 7,430,777         |
| Depreciation               | 42,925            | 42,925            |
| Enhanced security          | 7,647,031         | 1,112,257         |
| Community support          | 11,424,877        | 9,291,888         |
| Elephant grid              | 149,880           | -                 |
|                            | <u>57,960,426</u> | <u>35,653,579</u> |
| Bongo surveillance project | 1,357,571         | 1,124,672         |
|                            | <u>59,317,997</u> | <u>36,778,251</u> |

**9. MAU EBURU EXPENSES**

|                        |                   |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Staff costs            | 10,758,480        | 8,159,357         |
| Allowances             | 435,738           | 229,496           |
| Community conservation | 937,440           | 441,330           |
| Tree nurseries project | 712,654           | 194,693           |
| Eburu Rafiki           | 977,539           | 824,000           |
| Fence costs            | 3,462,141         | 2,393,412         |
| Other costs            | 1,735,049         | 2,781,873         |
| Depreciation           | 84,600            | 84,600            |
| Motor vehicle costs    | 1,173,087         | 437,549           |
|                        | <u>20,276,728</u> | <u>15,546,310</u> |

**10. MT. KENYA EXPENSES**

|                     | 2025<br>KES       | 2024<br>KES       |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Staff costs         | 15,148,620        | 10,212,886        |
| Allowances          | 6,507,862         | 16,469,058        |
| Fence costs         | 4,402,795         | 6,719,387         |
| Depreciation        | 142,155           | 60,155            |
| Motor vehicle costs | 467,150           | 888,534           |
| Other costs         | 3,618,824         | 1,731,786         |
|                     | <u>30,287,406</u> | <u>36,081,806</u> |

**11. SOUTH WESTERN MAU EXPENSES**

|                                             |                   |                   |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Allowances                                  | 520,142           | 540,749           |
| Depreciation                                | 42,925            | 42,925            |
| Staff costs                                 | 8,218,867         | 5,950,156         |
| Fence and other costs                       | 7,670,368         | 17,159,533        |
| Scouts Joint Surveillance Unit              | 5,128,784         | 4,910,071         |
| Guard post construction                     | 1,560,131         | 2,554,449         |
| Public relations                            | 21,400            | 95,440            |
| Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) fence | 3,502,212         | -                 |
|                                             | <u>26,664,829</u> | <u>31,253,323</u> |

**12. OTHER PROJECT EXPENSES**

|                                    |                  |                  |
|------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Carbon project for Mt Kenya        | 6,736,707        | 2,832,124        |
| Bodaboda Initiative with Jean Todt | -                | 5,431,375        |
|                                    | <u>6,736,707</u> | <u>8,263,499</u> |

**13. FUND RAISING EXPENSES**

|                      |            |            |
|----------------------|------------|------------|
| General fund raising | 57,030,445 | 49,816,519 |
|----------------------|------------|------------|

**14. KAKAMEGA FOREST**

|                                   |                   |                  |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Staff costs                       | 7,595,383         | 5,143,937        |
| Vehicle running                   | 731,675           | 497,278          |
| Fence construction                | 57,872,311        | 2,974,329        |
| Community education and out reach | 190,200           | -                |
| Public relations                  | 343,360           | -                |
| Guard posts                       | 384,231           | -                |
|                                   | <u>67,117,160</u> | <u>8,615,544</u> |

**15. ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL EXPENSES**

|                                        |                   |                   |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Depreciation on property and equipment | 5,140,570         | 2,809,432         |
| Bank charges                           | 731,675           | 497,278           |
| Exchange loss                          | 1,008,428         | 2,974,329         |
| 224,712                                | 775,878           | -                 |
| 77,692                                 | 343,360           | -                 |
| Office management and administration   | 61,265,531        | 48,907,240        |
| Auditor's remuneration                 | 1,478,909         | 1,305,200         |
| Public relations and press             | 7,460,305         | 5,631,166         |
| Vehicle running expenses               | 1,848,166         | 2,489,675         |
|                                        | <u>78,426,621</u> | <u>61,996,283</u> |

**16. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**

Cash and cash equivalents included in the statement of cash flows comprise of the following statement of financial position amounts:

|                     |                   |                   |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| Bank balance        | 18,085,967        | 15,813,682        |
| M-PESA balance      | 447,325           | 1,059,000         |
| Short term deposits | 49,027,821        | 60,174,866        |
|                     | <u>67,561,113</u> | <u>77,047,548</u> |

For the purpose of the statement of cash flows, cash and cash equivalents comprise cash in hand, cash at bank and short-term deposits with a maturity period of less than three months and interest rate of 2.25% for the USD deposit and 9% for KES deposits.

**17. CONTINGENT LIABILITY**

No contingent liabilities have arisen from the activities of the Trust.

**18. LEGAL FORM**

Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust was established in 1991 under an irrevocable trust in accordance with the Laws of Kenya.

**19. TAXATION**

The Trust has been granted exemption from taxation under the First Schedule to the Kenyan Income Tax Act (Cap 470) under Certificate number KRAEXM0096130722 valid from 15 February 2022 for 5 years.

**20. CURRENCY**

The financial statements have been presented in Kenya Shillings (KES).

Audit by **Deloitte**



Peter Kinyua: Rhino Ark Board Chairman.

The year 2024–2025 was an exceptionally successful year for the Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust. For the first time in the Trust's history, the overall fundraising total (cash and in-kind) exceeded the KES 500 million mark.

The Trust continued to maintain its fences and other conservation projects in the five ecosystems where it operates, namely the Aberdare, Mt. Kenya, Mau Eburu, South Western Mau, and Kakamega. It also expanded its conservation portfolio with new initiatives, including a black rhino sanctuary in the Aberdare Salient, the fencing of South Western Mau, and an additional 12-kilometre fence section in the Aberdare.

#### Overall Funds 2024/25

The total funds raised during the financial year under review were KES 571.28 million. This included cash donations amounting to KES 339.81 million (2023/24: KES 301.62 million) from Rhino Charge, corporates, and individuals.

In-kind donations amounting to KES 231.48 million were received from international organisations, the Government, various corporates, individuals, and volunteers.

Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) covered the costs of personnel maintaining the 410-kilometre-long Aberdare Fence and the 300 kilometres of the Mt. Kenya Fence already built, whilst Kenya Forest Service (KFS) covered such costs for the 43.3 kilometres of the Eburu Fence. The County Governments of Kakamega and Vihiga covered the costs of personnel maintaining the Kakamega Fence. These contributions amounted to KES 42.81 million.

#### Corporate/Conservation Bodies Support

We received several contributions from the following corporate and private grant supporters:

- Platcorp Foundation - KES 3,030,522 in support towards reforestation in South Western Mau Forest Reserve;

- Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo - KES 24,385,437 in support of forest conservation and community livelihoods towards the recovery of the Mountain Bongo antelope and paying the salaries of the Ragati staff and Eburu trackers;
- Total Energies - KES 1,085,238 in fuel credit in support of the Rhino Charge 2024 event;
- Darwin Initiative - GBP 61,960 (KES 10,357,354) for support towards the conservation of the Aberdare and South Western Mau Forest Reserve;
- The Nature Conservancy - USD 28,845 (KES 3,721,005) to support the development of Mt Kenya and Aberdare's Landscape carbon project;
- Horne Family Foundation - USD 5,000 (KES 648,963) for enhancing black rhino monitoring to stabilize the population;
- Wyss Academy for Nature at the University of Bern - USD 133,485.37 (KES 17,298,783) for a wildlife proof electric fence and construction of one virtual elephant grid;
- Various donors provided sponsorship for guard posts at the Rhino Charge amounting to KES 2,900,000;
- USD 65,990 (KES 8,512,710) from Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Foundation INC (RAUSA) towards establishing a Black Rhino Sanctuary in the Eastern Salient of the Aberdare National Park;
- GBP 11,400 (KES 1,858,200) received from RAUK for the Rainwater Harvesting programme;
- GBP 98,600 (KES 16,091,800) received from RAUK for the donations collected in the UK for the Rhino Charge 2024

#### Mau Eburu Ecosystem

Maintenance of the 43.3 km fence continued. Forest patrols by our community surveillance team recovered 152 wildlife snares, destroyed 6 charcoal kilns, and led to 2 arrests of individuals engaged in illegal activities.

Wildlife monitoring continued through 15 camera traps placed in the forest. Forest rehabilitation work, supported by Eburu Rafiki, enabled the planting of 1,500 new seedlings.

Ongoing capacity building for 15 community conservation champions included 13 training sessions. Sustainable livelihoods capacity building for the wider community was carried out, benefiting a total of 233 community members through 3 on-farm training modules.

Through the trainings and engagements, community members purchased 75 energy-saving jikos and 12 dam liners. The on-farm initiative for sustainable domestic energy continued to grow, with 92 units installed on community farms.

Under the community honey cooperative initiative, a major milestone was achieved with the cooperative attaining Kenya Bureau of Standards certification. This will enable the cooperative to access wider markets for honey sales. During the period, a total of 3.4 tonnes of honey were produced.

With support from Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo, a seminal 81-page guidebook titled "Common Medicinal Plants of Eburu Forest – An Educational Guidebook for Forest Visitors" has been published. The guidebook has been produced through collaboration with knowledgeable community conservation champions, the CFA, and Kenya Forest Service.

#### South Western Mau Ecosystem

With support from IDH/ISLA, Rhino Ark completed an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study for an initial 30-kilometre-long fence along the north-eastern boundary of the forest. In parallel, Rhino Ark and IDH/ISLA secured commitments of approximately EUR 401,000 towards the project.

Forest security support continued with the establishment of a new security outpost at Githima, completed in June 2024, providing a much-needed base for KFS rangers. Rhino Ark's Joint Surveillance Unit (JSU) continued to play a crucial role in forest protection, with the team's efforts resulting in the detection of 197 logging incidents, the destruction of 46 illegal charcoal kilns, the destruction of 14 illegal dwellings, and the removal of 555 head of livestock. The team recovered 70 wildlife snares and facilitated 30 arrests. In addition, the JSU team detected and contained two forest fires.

Active maintenance of the 150 hectares of Rhino Ark-rehabilitated forest land across four sites continued.

Under the community livelihoods programme, the Darwin Project-funded Ndoinet Community Tree Nursery sold a total of 3,010 seedlings during the period.

Under the nascent herbal products trade development initiative, 42 community members were engaged, with the first cohort of 22 members undergoing training in July 2024.

#### Mount Kenya Ecosystem

Maintenance of the 300 kilometres of completed fence continued. In January 2025, the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, Hon. Rebecca Miano, launched Phase VI (60 km) of the Mt. Kenya Electric Fence, which will run from Naro Moru Forest Station to Nanyuki Forest Station.

The bongo re-introduction programme at Ragati/Chehe forests made significant progress. The partnership (Rhino Ark, Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo, Mt. Kenya Trust, Ragati River Management Ltd, and Bongo Surveillance Project) received an EIA licence from NEMA for the entire re-introduction programme and approval from KFS to build the veterinary block, management block, and paddocks facilities.

To formalise the partnership, the Ragati & Chehe Mountain Bongo Conservation Trust was formed. As part of the preparation for the re-introduction of the bongo, a study on tick-borne pathogens in livestock adjacent to the forest was undertaken.

In addition, to address gaps in knowledge about the bongo (ranges, numbers, and preferred plants), a Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) study was conducted based on interviews with eight experienced bongo hunters.

Complementing these efforts, engagement with the Ragati and Chehe communities and their CFAs continued, including through Wildlife Nature Conservation Clubs.

Forest rehabilitation in Gathiuru Forest Station continued, with an additional 6,430 tree seedlings planted.

### Aberdare Ecosystem

A main focus in the Aberdare has been the day-to-day maintenance and management of the fence infrastructure and the rehabilitation of the oldest sections of the fence.

In addition, with support from the Darwin Initiative, Rhino Ark completed 12 kilometres of electric fence to close the gap left at the bottom of the escarpment between Wanjohi and Shamata.

The Aberdare Joint Surveillance Unit, our community-based patrol team, remained very active and conducted 15 week-long forest foot patrols to tackle illegal activities.

Rhino Ark expanded the tree nursery at Geta Forest Station to a capacity of 100,000 seedlings. The Trust also adopted and replanted 65 hectares of degraded forest near Sophia, thanks to the Darwin Initiative.

To support community-based eco-tourism, Rhino Ark established and maintained 56.5 kilometres of trails in Northern Aberdare and Mt. Kipipiri. Signposts have also been installed on the summits and along the trails.

The strengthening of the Geta Community Forest Association (CFA) progressed steadily through the continuation of a membership

drive. A total of 3,900 individual members were registered, and 3,200 membership cards issued.

Mitigating the impact of wildfires remained a key concern. Using the forest mulcher procured by Rhino Ark, 6 km of critical firebreaks were established in Central Moorland.

In addition, 19 kilometres of park roads in the Salient were broadened or reopened, enhancing security access and the visitor experience.

KWS and Rhino Ark collaborated on the establishment of the Black Rhino Sanctuary, with Rhino Ark building 6 km of rhino fence and two elephant grids.

To prevent hyenas from entering the sanctuary, a prototype hyena detection and deterrence system was developed and installed through a partnership with an Austria-based company, IT-Revolutions. It is the first such system to be developed globally.

### Kakamega Forest Ecosystem

As the only true equatorial rainforest found in Kenya, Kakamega Forest holds a unique assemblage of fauna and flora species, particularly primates, birds, butterflies, and plant species.

Efforts to conserve this uniquely biodiverse forest are multifaceted, involving a combination of habitat protection, community engagement, law enforcement, and education initiatives.

The 117-kilometre-long fence project, which is implemented in four phases, aims to protect the unique and fragile biodiversity of Kakamega Forest. A total of 30.8 kilometres have been completed so far.

Project partners collaborating in the project include the Ministry of Environment, Rhino Ark, MPESA Foundation, the County Governments of Kakamega and Vihiga, NetFUND, UNDP, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, the Embassy of Japan, and local communities around the forest.

MPESA Foundation's commitment to match support provided by other partners has been vital in ensuring the continuity of the project. The Foundation's support also enabled the commencement of complementary community-based activities, including the conservation education programme.

Towards implementing a baseline survey of schools adjacent to Kakamega Forest, Rhino Ark, together with the county education offices for Kakamega and Vihiga, identified 127 schools across the two counties as potential participants in programme implementation, and a pre-survey

of five schools was conducted to refine the survey model.

### Rhino Ark UK and Rhino Ark USA

Over the past year, we have been working towards strengthening our presence in the USA and the UK. We are very pleased that Ms. Sarah Roberts joined the Rhino Ark USA Board, bringing over 30 years of experience across diverse industries, including travel, hospitality, sport, and conservation.

A number of grants have been secured by our sister charities in the USA and UK from several foundations.

As of 31 March 2025, Rhino Ark USA and Rhino Ark UK were holding USD 70,037.4 and GBP 28,153.90 respectively, from Rhino Chargers' online sponsorships as well as from grants.

### Thousands to Thank

There are many individuals and organisations, both local and international, who have contributed to our conservation achievements over the past year. While it may not be possible to mention each one here, we at Rhino Ark deeply appreciate and value their support.

We do not take this support for granted, and it is the collective sacrifices, support, and contributions that have ensured Kenya's critical forests and water towers remain protected for another year through our fences, conservation programmes, and advocacy.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the Rhino Charge community—officials and volunteers. Their energetic efforts, skill, and innovation in running this exceptional annual event continue to set new benchmarks and enable competitors to participate and raise funds that support Rhino Ark's transformative work.

I would also like to appreciate the staff of Rhino Ark and the Board members who continue to provide day-to-day operational support to keep our organisations moving forward.

**Peter Kinyua**  
Chairman, Board of Directors