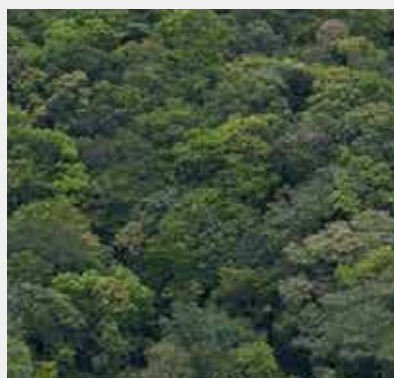


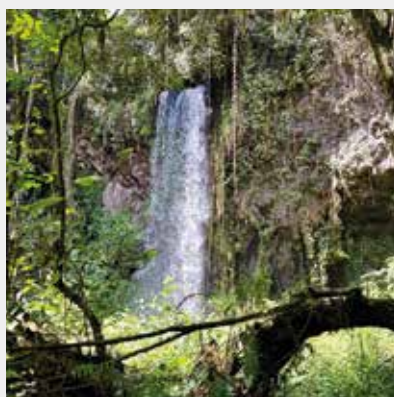


IMPACT REPORT

1988-2025



**37 YEARS
OF PROTECTING
KENYA'S WATER TOWERS**



www.rhinoark.org

VISION

To restore and maintain harmony between humans, habitats, and wildlife across Kenya's most critical forest and water catchment ecosystems.

MISSION

To continue to be the trusted partner in advocating, developing and implementing high-impact forest, water catchments and endangered wildlife conservation initiatives that tangibly support adjacent local communities.

Creative.

Decisive.

Sustainable.

Rhino Ark works where ecological protection and human safety meet. Since 1988, it has combined practical infrastructure, innovation, and long-term partnerships to secure Kenya's mountain forests — the nation's vital **"water towers."**



BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND DIRECTORS

Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust is a leading forest and wildlife conservation organization in Kenya, established in 1988. Our ten-member Board of Directors comprises highly regarded individuals drawn from some of the most respected companies in East Africa. The Board governs the organization under the core values of integrity, transparency, accountability, inclusiveness and respect that characterize the Rhino Ark brand.

The Directors are highly committed to the cause supported by the Trust. For example, many of the Directors are current or former participants in the Rhino Charge through which they raise substantial amounts towards the Trust's conservation work.

In light of their expertise in conservation and their integrity, several Board members have been appointed in the boards of government conservation agencies, such as Kenya Wildlife

Service and Kenya Forest Service, as well as in government task forces in various capacities including chairperson, secretary and member. Several of the directors are Honorary Wardens with the Kenya Wildlife Service. A number of Directors have received awards from the Government of Kenya, international organizations and/or leading conservation organizations.

To coordinate support from overseas, Rhino Ark has two sister charities in the USA and the UK: Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Foundation Inc. registered in the USA, with IRC 501 (c)3 status; and Rhino Ark UK is registered with the UK Charity Commission. The two charities are each governed by respective Boards of Trustees.

Patrons

Lord Aberdare DL
Dr. David Western
Dr. Sally Kosgei
Jonathan Scott

Kenya Directors

Peter Kinyua (Chair)
Adil Khawaja
Alan McKittrick
Michael Turner
Brian Haworth
Jonathan Somen
Crista Cullen
Patrick Avery
Lucy Chodota
Nick Wachira
Christian Lambrechts (ex officio)

UK Trustees

Sir Christopher Kaberry
Nicholas Kuhle
Ben Woodhams
John Bowden
Ian Purcell
Helen Feather
Kamal Shah
Toby Latta

US Trustees

Sheena Bliss
Mark Somen
Sarah Roberts

FROM THE BOARD'S CHAIRMAN

As we reflect on the 37 years of an impactful legacy, I am proud of what Rhino Ark and its partners continue to achieve in securing Kenya's critical forests and water towers. Our work across the Aberdares, Mount Kenya, the Mau complex, Kakamega Forest and other key ecosystems demonstrates what is possible when conservation is anchored in strong partnerships, community ownership and long-term commitment.

Over the past years, Rhino Ark has remained focused on its core mandate: protecting forests, reducing human-wildlife conflict, and strengthening livelihoods for the communities that depend on healthy ecosystems. Through sustained surveillance, fence maintenance, habitat restoration, conservation education and innovative initiatives such as carbon projects and ecotourism, we have safeguarded both biodiversity and the social systems intertwined with it.

Equally important has been the unwavering support of our partners — government agencies, corporates, international donors, community organisations and individual supporters — whose contributions continue to translate vision into impact. The Rhino Charge community remains a powerful symbol of what collective action can achieve, providing not only vital resources but also national visibility for conservation.

As we look ahead, the challenges posed by climate change, population pressure and land degradation remain real. Yet, so too does our resolve. Rhino Ark enters the coming years with renewed purpose: to deepen community partnerships, strengthen institutional collaboration, and ensure that conservation delivers lasting benefits for both people and nature.

On behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere gratitude to our partners, staff, volunteers and supporters. Your commitment continues to secure Kenya's forests for generations to come.



Peter Kinyua
Chairman, Board of Directors
Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust



Our work across the Aberdares, Mount Kenya, the Mau complex, Kakamega Forest and other key ecosystems demonstrates what is possible when conservation is anchored in strong partnerships, community ownership and long-term commitment.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

Rhino Ark's tremendous achievements over the past 37 years is the collective commitment of many, companies and individuals in Kenya and overseas, to safeguard the country's natural heritage and conserve vital ecosystems of national importance that sustain our economic development and underpins our well-being.

It started with a simple idea, albeit novel at that time, to build a 38-kilometre-long electric fence around the Salient of the Aberdare National Park to save the dwindling black rhino population from poaching and address human-wildlife conflicts around the park, especially caused by elephants.

The suitability of the electric fence in addressing these challenges, coupled with a model centered on partnership that includes government and communities from design to implementation and maintenance, made the fencing project very effective and long-lasting. It became a blueprint for conserving Kenyan montane forests, their diverse wildlife and vital catchment areas.

Today, Rhino Ark is the lead conservation NGO in the protection and restoration of Kenya's montane forests. Its 824 kilometres of conservation fences built to date protect over 90,000 households from human-wildlife conflicts and form the anchor of an integrated programme consisting of high-impact forest, water catchments and endangered wildlife conservation initiatives. These have wide ranging returns benefitting not only the forest-edge communities but also the people of Kenya at large.

Since its inception, Rhino Ark remains a uniquely Kenyan home-grown concept that brings together the Government, the fence edge communities, the business community and global conservation bodies with a strong vision of what can be done through public/private partnership in a national effort to secure the natural heritage and the water sources of a nation.

Like other success stories, the one of Rhino Ark is driven by a dedicated team focussed on delivering tangible outcomes that benefit nature and people. Sadly, such a result-oriented focus has often detracted the team from telling the story. As an exemplary public-private partnership model, Rhino Ark could inspire many in their aspiration to tackle sustainable development challenges in their region.

It is with that in mind that we decided to publish this Impact Report. This report highlights the achievements of the Rhino Ark since its establishment in 1988. It also underlines the contribution of the Trust in addressing three leading global challenges: reversing the decline in biodiversity, mitigating and adapting to climate change and securing water resources.



Christian Lambrechts
Executive Director
Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust



Today, Rhino Ark is the lead conservation NGO in the protection and restoration of Kenya's montane forests.

WHO WE ARE

Rhino Ark is Kenya's leading conservation organisation dedicated to the protection of mountain forest ecosystems. Founded in 1988 in response to the rapid decline of black rhino and escalating human-wildlife conflict around the Aberdares, the organisation began with a focused objective: secure the Aberdare Eastern Salient through conservation electric fencing.

That initial intervention proved transformative. By reducing conflict, curbing illegal forest extraction, and restoring safety for communities, the Aberdare project became a national model for integrated conservation.

Today, Rhino Ark works across five critical ecosystems: the Aberdares, Mount Kenya, Eburu, South Western Mau, and Kakamega. Its work combines infrastructure, innovation, species recovery, forest restoration, and community-based conservation.

The forests protected by Rhino Ark regulate river systems, sustain agriculture, generate hydropower, and buffer communities against climate shocks. By securing over 570,000 hectares of forest and water catchment areas, Rhino Ark safeguards ecological infrastructure essential to Kenya's economic resilience.



Conservation is not about saving trees for tomorrow; it is about securing life, livelihoods, and hope for generations yet unborn.

Christian Lambrechts
Executive Director
Rhino Ark Charitable Trust



KENYA'S WATER TOWERS

WHY THEY MATTER

Kenya's mountain forests — the Aberdares, Mount Kenya, the Mau Complex, and Kakamega — are nationally designated **"water towers."** They regulate rainfall patterns, recharge aquifers, feed major river basins, and underpin agriculture, energy production, and urban water supply.

Independent assessments estimate that these ecosystems provide annual services **valued at KES 348 billion.**

Protecting water towers is not solely a conservation issue; it is a **national development priority.**

Rhino Ark's mandate is rooted in this reality: safeguarding forest integrity protects biodiversity, secures livelihoods, and stabilises climate resilience across Kenya.

KEY RESULTS

570,000+ hectares of forest and catchment protected

Major river systems secured (Tana, Ewaso Nyiro, Athi, Malewa)

Ecosystem services valued at KES 348 billion annually



OUR HISTORY & KEY MILESTONES

Rhino Ark's early years were defined by innovation and urgency. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, widespread poaching, habitat degradation, and unregulated access had left the Aberdare ecosystem under severe pressure. Rhino Ark pioneered the use of conservation electric fencing as a practical tool to reduce human-wildlife conflict, curb illegal forest resource extraction, and allow ecosystems to recover.

What began as a single fence evolved into a national model.

Over time, Rhino Ark's work expanded beyond infrastructure to include technological innovation, species recovery, forest restoration, and community partnership. The milestones below illustrate how the organisation has grown and diversified across 37 years of conservation practice.



Every fence we build, every forest we protect, is a statement that Kenya believes in its future.

Christian Lambrechts
Executive Director
Rhino Ark Charitable Trust



37 YEARS IN FIGURES

0

ver 37 years, Rhino Ark has delivered conservation impact at scale, combining infrastructure, community engagement, and ecosystem restoration.

Independent studies have confirmed the effectiveness of Rhino Ark's approach. In the Upper Tana ecosystem, fencing led to a 97% reduction in human-wildlife conflict, restoring safety and stability for communities while allowing wildlife populations to recover.



90,000+

Households Safeguarded



824

Kms of Conservation Fencing Built & Maintained



570,000+

Hectares Protected



2

Wildlife Corridors Established



15

Threatened Species Protected



215

Full-Time Fence Attendants Employed



4

Joint Surveillance Units Operational



90-97%

Reduction in Human-Wildlife Conflict



318,000+

Indigenous Trees Planted



184

Schools Reached



KES 2.8bn

Total Funds Raised Through Rhino Charge

VOICES OF SUPPORT

Across nearly four decades, Rhino Ark's conservation approaches and achievements have been recognised by global and national leaders, including monarchs, presidents, prime ministers, ministers, heads of UN agencies, Nobel laureates, and prominent public figures, all of whom have highlighted the tangible benefits of Rhino Ark's interventions for critical ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.



I am delighted that The Rhino Ark is holding this event to share the celebration in commemorating the Diamond Jubilee marking the 60th Anniversary of My Accession to the Throne. As a mark of sincere friendship and good will, I send you my warmest greetings and best wishes for the forthcoming year.

Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II
Message to the 2012 Aberdare Fence Relay Run



Our great mountain forests are the 'water towers' and the 'lungs' of our beloved Kenya. They and the precious flora and fauna within them must be sustainably managed and conserved for all Kenyans and as a global heritage for all time.

H.E. Hon. Mwai Kibaki, third President of the Republic of Kenya



The work done on the Aberdares has transformed it into a model for all other water towers. We should follow this model to conserve and protect the remaining water towers.

Rt. Hon. Raila Odinga, Prime Minister of the Republic of Kenya during the Commissioning of the Aberdare Fence



When communities protect forests, they are not choosing nature over people — they are choosing people through nature.

Prof. Wangari Maathai
2004 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and founder of the Green Belt Movement
Late Patron of Rhino Ark





The Aberdares conservation efforts underline the extraordinary and wide-ranging returns possible when a more creative, decisive and sustainable approach to managing nature is undertaken—they also offer a model for exemplary public-private partnerships.

Achim Steiner, former Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and United Nations Under-Secretary-General



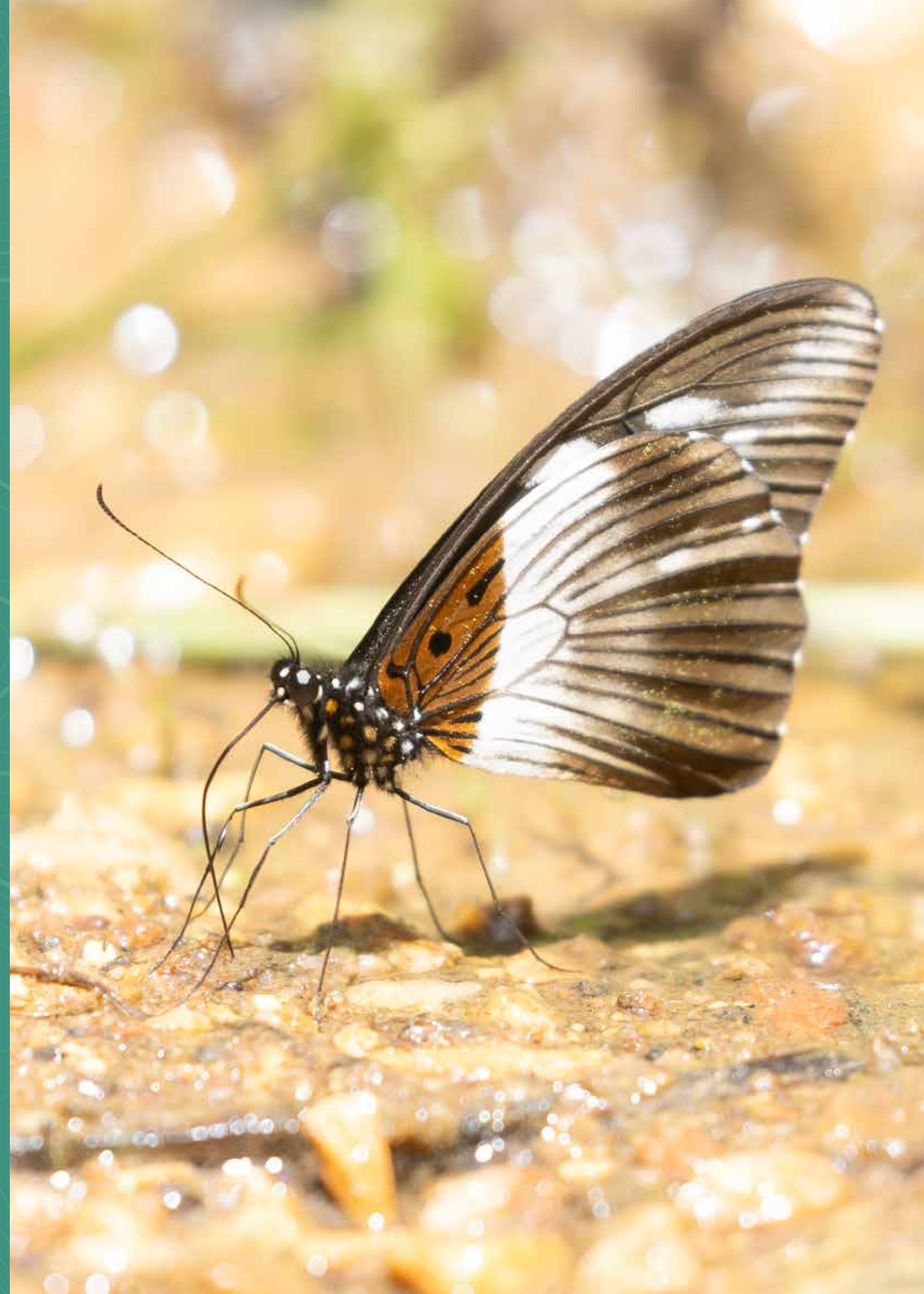
I have just read your most recent report and I wanted you to know of my deep appreciation to you all for the tremendous work of Rhino Ark. I recall the start and scepticism that many had but we were all wrong. Fantastic and I do know how grateful KWS is for your wonderful work. Keep it up!

Dr. Richard Leakey



The human imprint is almost invisible, yet it is thanks to the wise decision of humans that the unique and glorious environment of the Aberdares has been saved.

Dame Virginia McKenna
Founder & Director, Born Free Foundation



PROTECTING KENYA'S FOREST ECOSYSTEMS & BIODIVERSITY

Montane Forest Ecosystems

Kenya's montane forests form the ecological backbone of the country. They regulate rainfall, feed major river systems, sustain biodiversity, and support the livelihoods of millions of people downstream. Rhino Ark's work is concentrated in five of these critical "water towers": the Aberdares, Mount Kenya, Eburu, South Western Mau, and Kakamega.

Across these landscapes, Rhino Ark applies a consistent, long-term conservation model: secure the forest boundary, reduce human-wildlife conflict, restore degraded habitats, and build local stewardship through employment, education, and livelihoods.



ABERDARE ECOSYSTEM

The Aberdare Range is one of Kenya's most important montane forests and a cornerstone of Rhino Ark's history. It is the main source of water for Nairobi and supplies the Tana, Ewaso Nyiro, Malewa, and Athi river systems. The ecosystem supports exceptional biodiversity, including black rhino, African elephant, leopard, and the largest remaining population of the critically endangered mountain bongo antelope.

Rhino Ark's flagship intervention in the Aberdares was the construction and long-term maintenance of the 410 km Aberdare Conservation Electric Fence. Built in phases between 1991 and 2009 and officially commissioned in 2010 by H.E. President Mwai Kibaki and Rt. Hon. Prime Minister Raila Odinga, it remains the longest conservation fence in Africa and a national model for integrated forest protection.

In 2010, an independent environmental, social, and economic assessment confirmed the transformative impact of the fence. The study documented:

- **Over 90% reduction** in human–wildlife conflict
- **Over 300% increase** in land value in adjacent communities
- **20.6% increase** in forest cover between 2005 and 2010
- **Elimination of human fatalities** from wildlife along fenced boundaries

With conflict reduced, households regained confidence to cultivate land and rebuild livelihoods.

School attendance improved as children could travel safely. Cattle rustling routes through the forest were eliminated, and wildlife–livestock disease transmission declined.

The fence also strengthened trust between Rhino Ark and forest-adjacent communities, creating the foundation for expanded conservation programming. These include forest restoration, community patrols, conservation education, fire management, and the first Joint Surveillance Unit model, now replicated elsewhere.

Indigenous tree planting initiatives have restored degraded areas and revitalised springs, with community testimonies documenting the return of water sources in previously dry zones.

Together with Kenya Wildlife Service, Rhino Ark has nearly completed the establishment of a black rhino sanctuary in the Eastern Salient, a milestone that signals the ecological recovery and security of the Aberdare ecosystem.



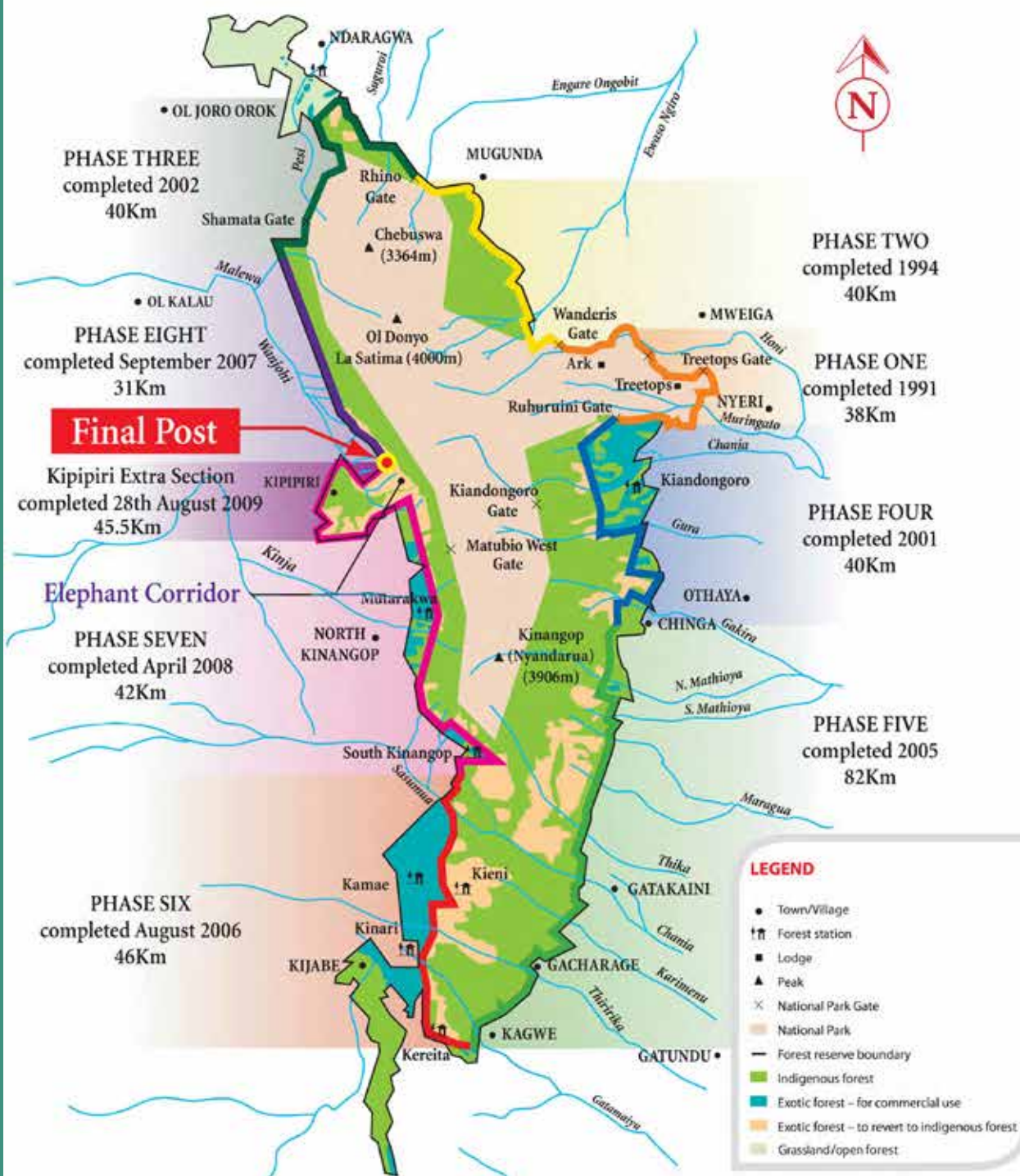
IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- **410 km** electric fence completed
- **45,000+** households protected
- **220,000 hectares** of forest and catchment secured
- **First Joint Surveillance Unit** piloted
- **Forest sanctuary** for black rhino nearing completion
- Introduction of conservation technologies, including **electric fencing** (1989), **elephant grids** (1995), **forest mulcher** (2023), and **hyena detection system** (2025)
- Significant reduction in **poaching and illegal** activities
- Active restoration and **coordinated fire management programmes**
- **Corridor** between **Aberdare and Mount Kipipiri** established



RHINO ARK ABERDARE FENCE

completed in 2009 (extended in 2024) - 410km long



In the Salient of Aberdares National Park's, Rhino Ark in collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), is establishing a black rhino sanctuary to support the recovery and long-term protection of this critically endangered species.



A farmer beams with joy over a bumper cabbage harvest in Bondeni, near the Aberdares electric fence. Before Rhino Ark erected the fence, crop harvests were often lost to wildlife raids on farmland.

MOUNT KENYA ECOSYSTEM

Mount Kenya is both a UNESCO World Heritage Site and one of Kenya's most critical water towers, feeding the Tana and Ewaso Nyiro river systems that sustain agriculture, hydropower generation, industry, and major urban centres.

Rhino Ark's work on Mount Kenya focuses on securing forest boundaries, reducing human-wildlife conflict, restoring degraded areas, and supporting species recovery. These interventions are implemented in partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, local communities, and international and national partners including IFAD, UNEP, Wilder Institute / Calgary Zoo, Wildlife Conservation Society, Elephant Cooperation, Wyss Academy, Mount Kenya Trust, and KPC Foundation.

To date, 307 kilometres of conservation fencing have been completed. Once finished, the fence will extend approximately 450 kilometres, encircling nearly 280,000 hectares of prime forest and vital catchment areas. The remaining 150 kilometres are targeted for completion by 2031, based on an average construction rate of approximately 3 kilometres per month.

In 2019, an independent socio-economic and ecological impact study commissioned by IFAD confirmed substantial benefits resulting from the fencing programme. The study documented:

- **97% reduction** in human-wildlife conflict
- **100% reduction** in human fatalities related to conflict (from up to 1.5 deaths per 10 km of boundary to zero)

- Household incomes increasing from an average of **KES 45,000 to KES 125,604** per annum
- **62% decline** in grassland within the forest due to natural regeneration and enrichment planting
- **Dramatic reduction in illegal logging**, grazing, charcoal production, and encroachment
- **12% increase** in cropland area and diversification into higher-value crops such as onions, cabbage, tomatoes, kales, and French beans

Improved safety also contributed to better school attendance and educational outcomes, as children were able to travel and study without fear of wildlife encounters.

Mount Kenya is a stronghold for rare and endemic species. Rhino Ark, together with the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo, are key partners spearheading the recovery of the critically endangered mountain bongo. Rhino Ark's interventions also support habitat for African elephant, black-fronted duiker, and over 50 highland biome specialist bird species.

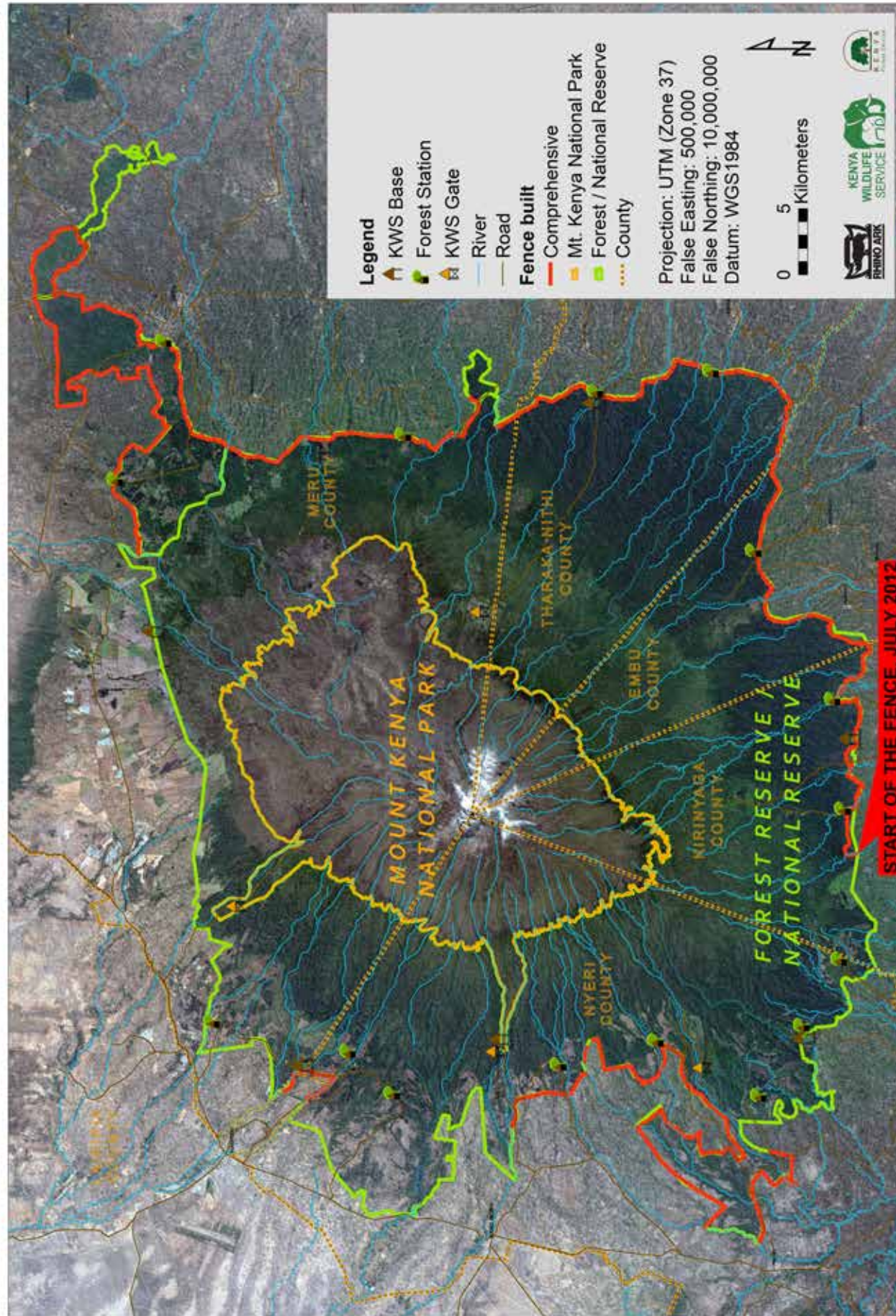
In parallel, Rhino Ark has strengthened forest fire management systems, invested in restoration of degraded areas, and supported community awareness and capacity building. These efforts enhance the resilience of both the forest ecosystem and adjacent communities in the face of increasing climate-related stress.



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- **307 km of fencing completed** (450 km planned)
- **Approximately 280,000 hectares secured**
- **97% reduction** in human-wildlife conflict
- **100% reduction** in human fatalities related to conflict
- Household incomes **increased nearly threefold**
- **Mountain bongo reintroduction** programme underway
- **Introduction of innovative technologies**, including one-way automatic elephant gate (2018) and virtual elephant grid (2025)
- Target completion of remaining **150 km by 2031**

MOUNT KENYA FENCE BUILD PROGRESS AS OF 1 NOVEMBER 2025



Sophia Karamuta, a fence attendant, inspects her assigned section of the Maili Kumi fence in Upper Imenti Forest. Each of the 215 fence attendants is responsible for progressively monitoring a 4-kilometre stretch of fence, identifying faults, and reporting them for repair.



Technicians erecting the electric fence on Mount Kenya to mitigate human-wildlife conflict and strengthen the protection of the forest ecosystem. When complete the fence will be 450 km long.

MOUNT EBURU ECOSYSTEM

Mount Eburu is a compact yet ecologically significant montane forest within the greater Mau Forest Complex, covering approximately 8,715 hectares of indigenous forest. Despite its relatively small size, Eburu is recognised as a biodiversity hotspot, supporting around 188 bird species and more than 40 mammal species, including buffalo, zebra, giraffe, leopard, hyena, and several primates. The forest is also critically important habitat for the endangered Mountain Bongo antelope.

Rhino Ark completed the 43.3 km conservation electric fence in 2014, securing the forest boundary and significantly reducing illegal activities, encroachment, and human-wildlife conflict. The fence has strengthened habitat protection and created conditions for improved forest regeneration and enhanced ecological stability.

Historically affected by logging, charcoal production, and grazing, Eburu represents both a conservation challenge and an opportunity for recovery. In addition to infrastructure protection, Rhino Ark has supported community surveillance and alternative livelihoods, particularly through structured beekeeping initiatives.

The Eburu Natural Forest Honey Cooperative is now fully registered and selling branded honey, demonstrating that conservation-compatible enterprise can provide tangible local benefits while reducing pressure on forest resources. These efforts enhance the resilience of both the forest ecosystem and adjacent communities in the face of increasing climate-related stress.



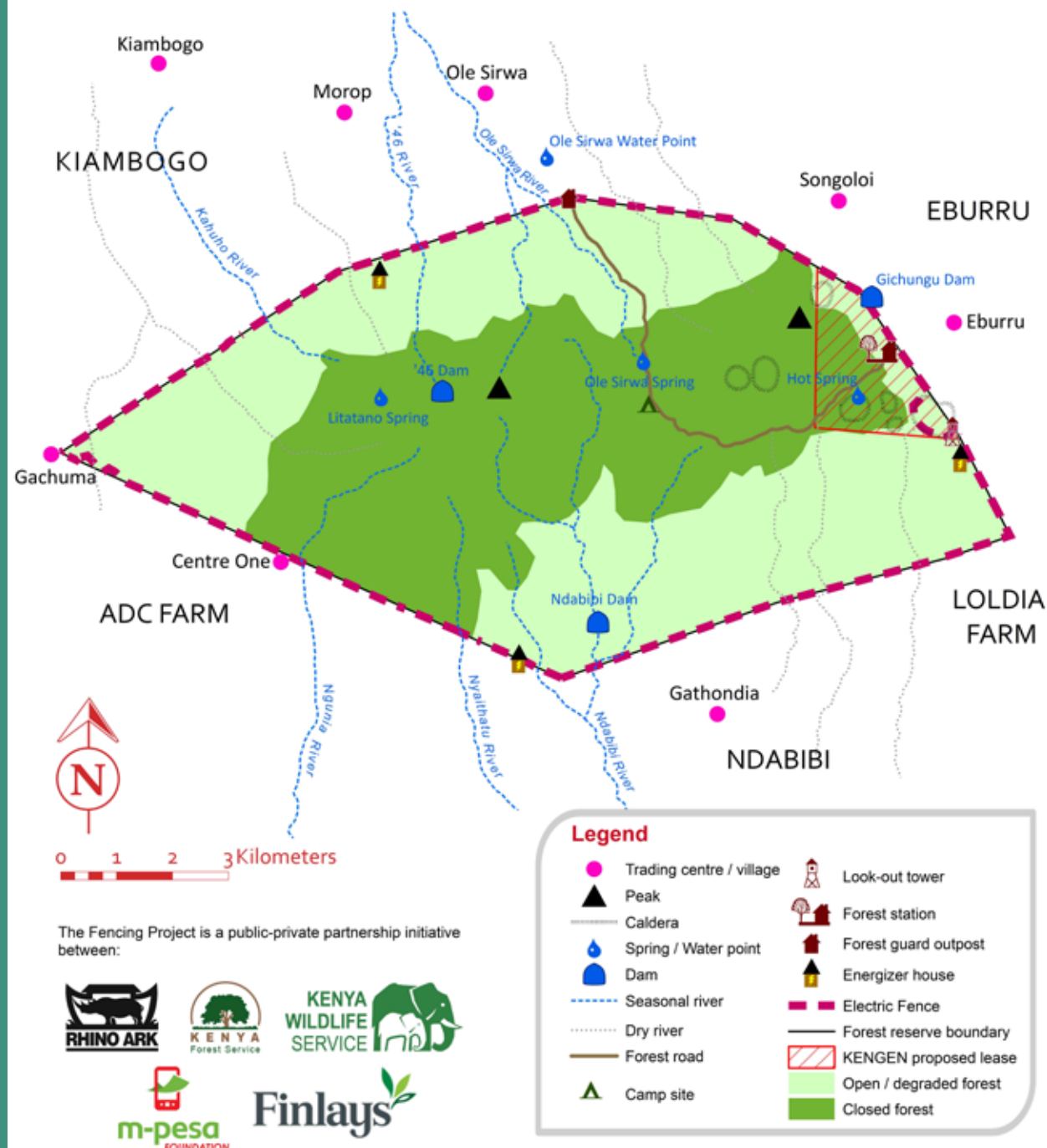
IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- **43.3 km** electric fence completed (2014)
- **8,715 hectares** of indigenous forest secured
- Large-scale **illegal charcoal** production operations **eliminated**
- **188 recorded bird species** and **40+ mammal species** protected
- **Visitors' guidebook, bird pocket guide, and medicinal plants reference** guide published
- Critical habitat secured for the **Mountain Bongo**
- **Community honey cooperative** established, benefiting **54** households directly
- **Corridor** between **Eburu Forest** and **Lake Naivasha** established



RHINO ARK MAU EBURU FENCE

Completed on 26th November 2014 - 43.3 km long



Field officers and scouts from the Joint Surveillance Units during a data collection training. Using SMART technology, data is collected across four landscapes to help monitor trends and inform conservation management decisions.



Teachers and students of Naningoi Secondary School in Kajiado pose in front of a dormitory constructed through vehicle entry donations raised during the 2022 Rhino Charge.

SOUTH WESTERN MAU ECOSYSTEM

The Sout Western Mau is one of Kenya's most threatened water towers and a critical test case for community-driven forest protection. As part of the greater Mau Forest Complex, it supports important montane biodiversity and plays a key role in regulating regional water systems.

In response to escalating illegal logging, charcoal production, and grazing, Rhino Ark supported the establishment of the South Western Mau Joint Surveillance Unit (JSU) in 2023. The initiative was developed in partnership with the Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, and the Ndoinet Ogiek Community Forest Association, with a team of eight community scouts working jointly with KFS and KWS rangers.

The JSU model integrates trained community rangers, joint patrols, structured reporting, and transparent governance, securing approximately 60,000 hectares of forest under active protection. It combines enforcement with community ownership, ensuring that forest protection is locally anchored and institutionally supported.

The results have been rapid and measurable. Between 2022 and 2025:

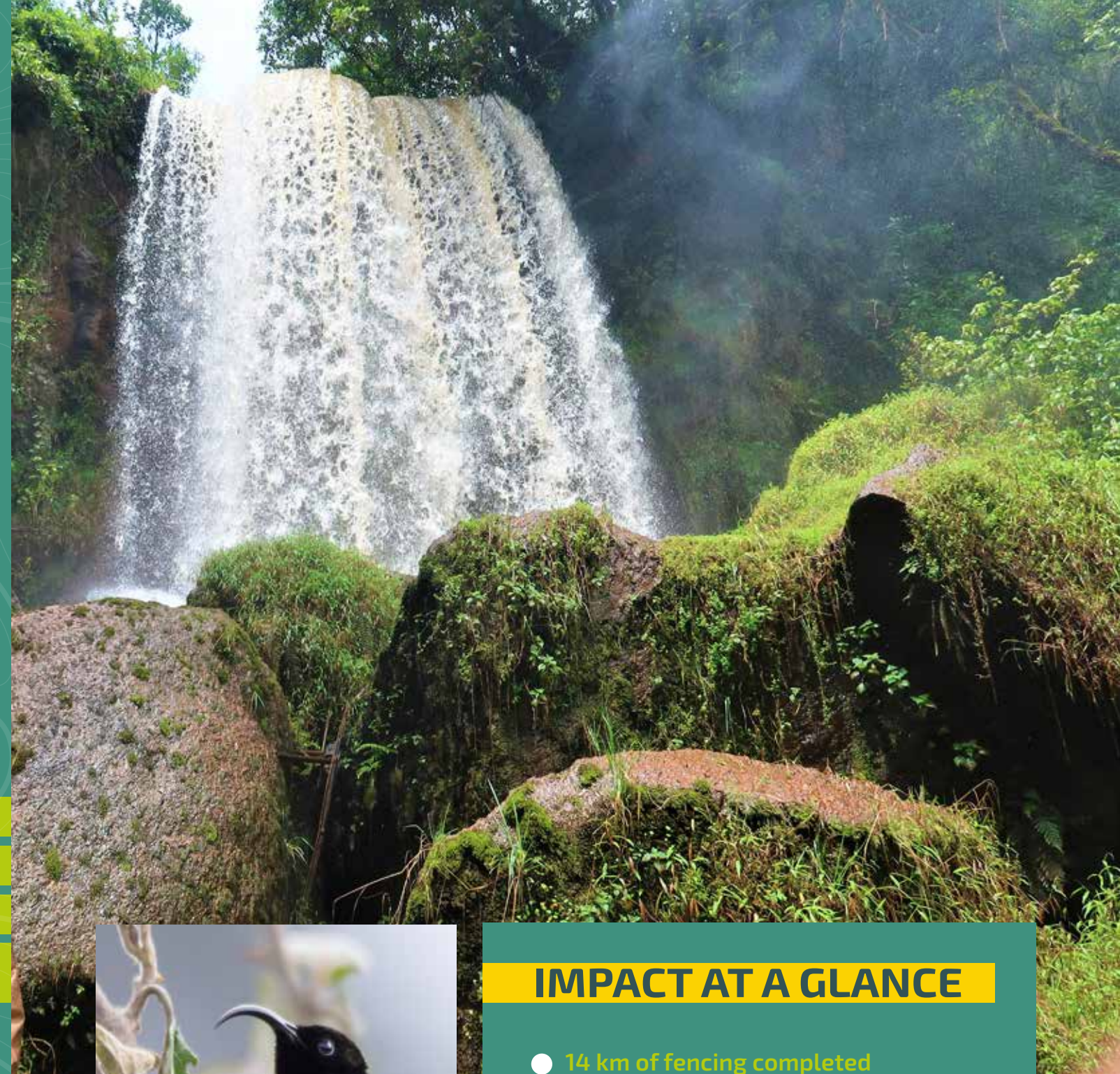
Illegal logging cases declined from 160 to 4

Charcoal kilns reduced from 22 to near zero

Grazing intrusions fell by over 85%

Forest fires were reduced to zero incidents in 2025

Alongside enforcement, Rhino Ark supports restoration activities, coordinated fire management, and conservation-compatible livelihood initiatives. The South-Western Mau demonstrates how community-led surveillance, when properly structured and supported, can deliver measurable conservation gains within a short timeframe.

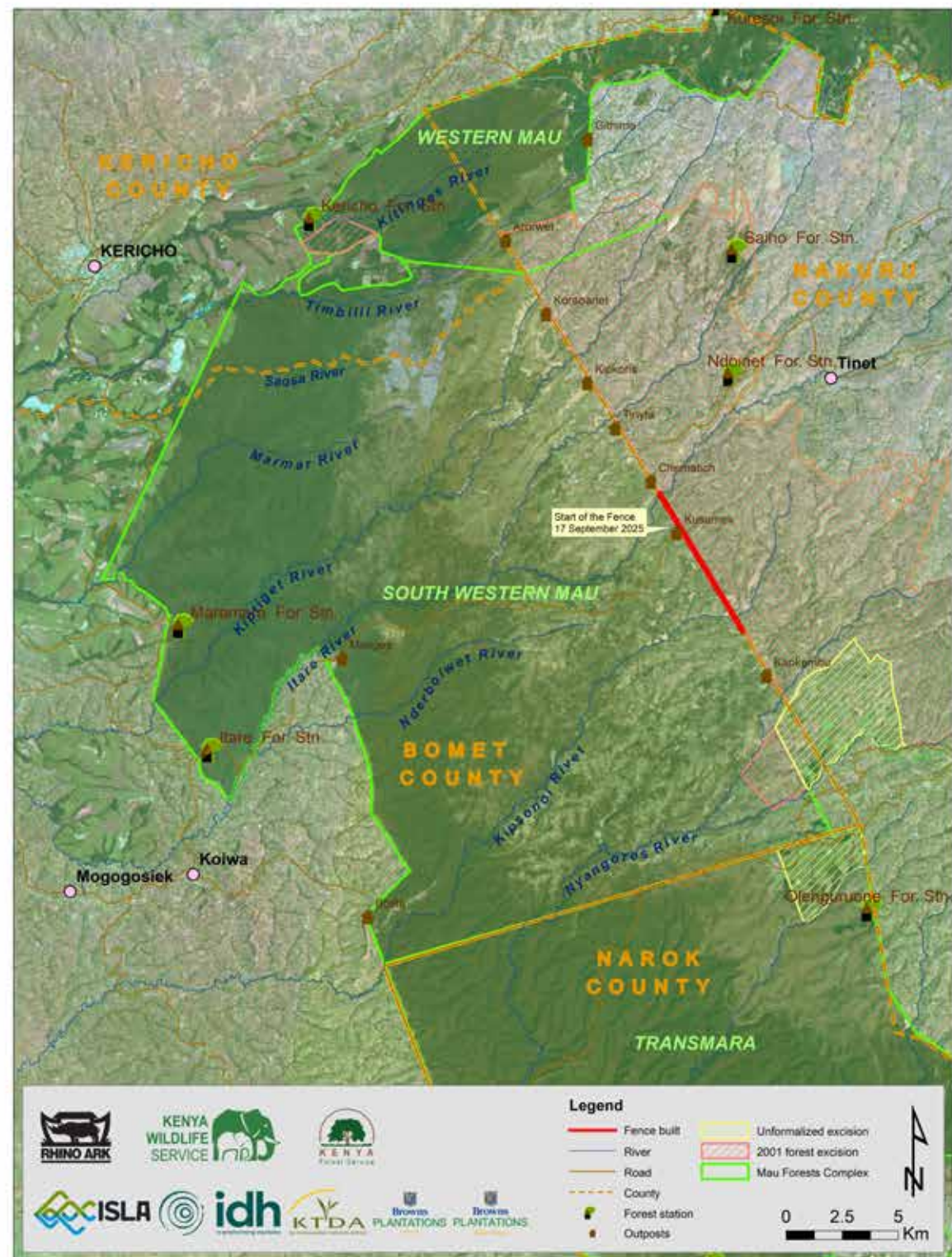


IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- **14 km of fencing completed** (300 km planned)
- **97% reduction** in illegal logging
- **Near elimination** of charcoal production
- **85%+ reduction** in illegal grazing
- **Zero forest fire** incidents recorded in 2025
- **Joint Surveillance Unit** operational since 2023 (8 community scouts working with KFS and KWS)

SOUTH WESTERN MAU FOREST RESERVE

FENCE PROGRESS MAP - 24 OCTOBER 2025



A lady at Kapkembu, SW Mau joins community members for a tree planting exercise in an effort to rehabilitate previously degraded areas. A total of 85 hectares are under restoration.



A group of beekeeping farmers in SW Mau undergo training conducted by National Beekeeping Institute on using bee suits during honey harvesting.

KAKAMEGA FOREST

Kakamega Forest is Kenya's only remaining tropical rainforest and one of its most ecologically significant landscapes. Located in western Kenya, it covers approximately 24,000 hectares and supports more than 380 plant species, 367 bird species, and rich mammal and butterfly diversity. Unlike Kenya's montane forests, Kakamega lies within a densely populated agricultural region, making it particularly vulnerable to encroachment, illegal resource extraction, and human-wildlife conflict.

Rhino Ark formally began its engagement in Kakamega in 2018, marking a strategic expansion beyond its traditional focus on montane water towers. Drawing on decades of experience in electric fencing and landscape-scale conservation, Rhino Ark identified Kakamega as a priority ecosystem where perimeter protection, community engagement, and institutional partnerships could stabilise forest boundaries and strengthen long-term stewardship.

The initiative was structured as a multi-stakeholder public-private partnership involving national and county governments, development partners, and local communities.

A 117 km conservation electric fence is planned around the forest perimeter. As of late 2025, 49.9 km had been completed. Early results from completed sections indicate reduced crop raiding and improved forest-edge security, contributing to stronger boundary integrity in a highly pressured landscape.

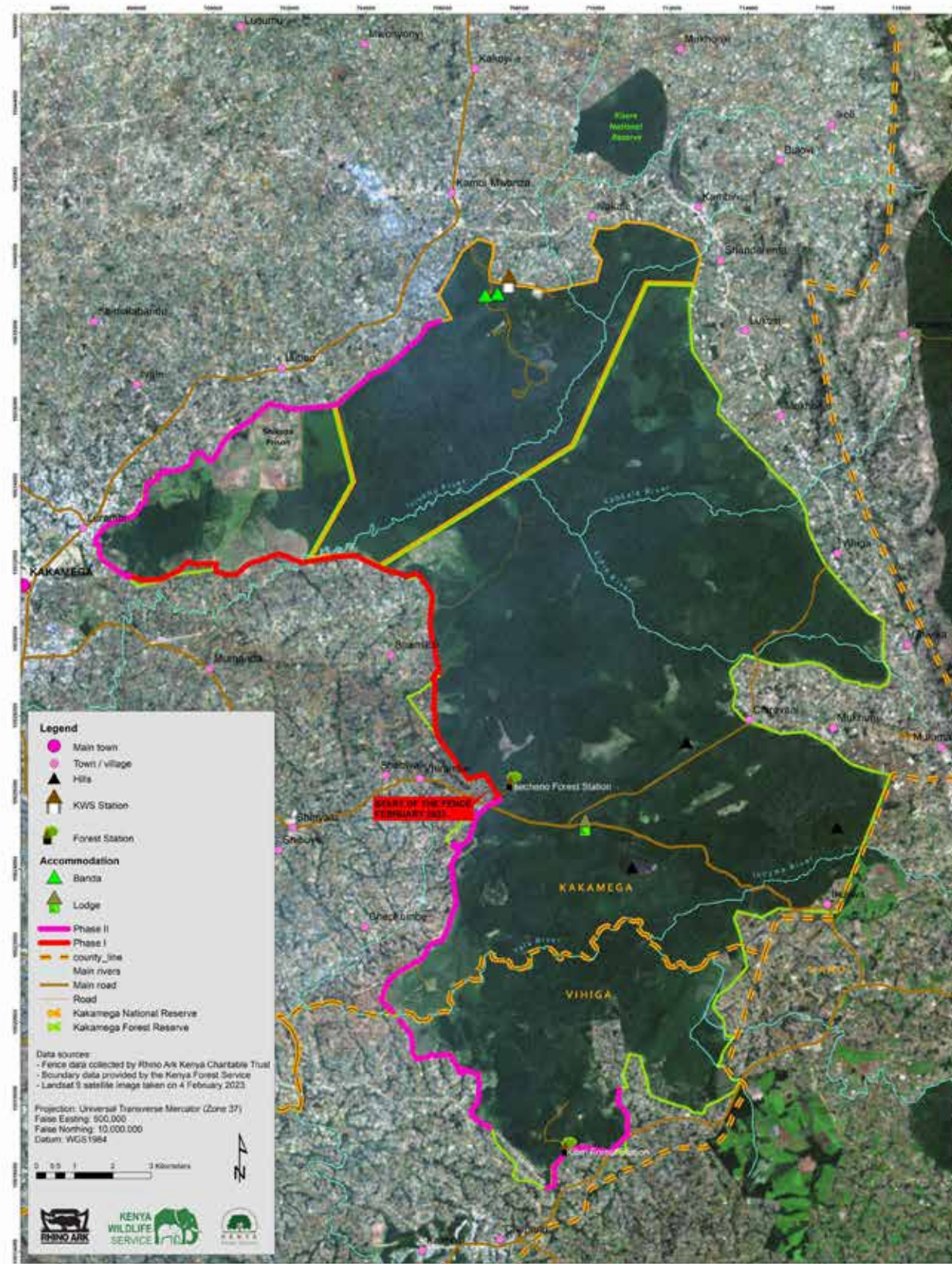
Conservation education programmes have engaged 55 schools in forest-adjacent communities, linking forest stewardship with practical initiatives such as tree nursery development and local employment opportunities.



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Engagement **formally initiated in 2018**
- **117 km** perimeter fence planned; **49.9 km completed** by late 2025
- **380+ plant species** and **367 bird species** recorded
- **55 schools engaged** in conservation education
- **Reduced crop raiding** and illegal access along completed fence sections

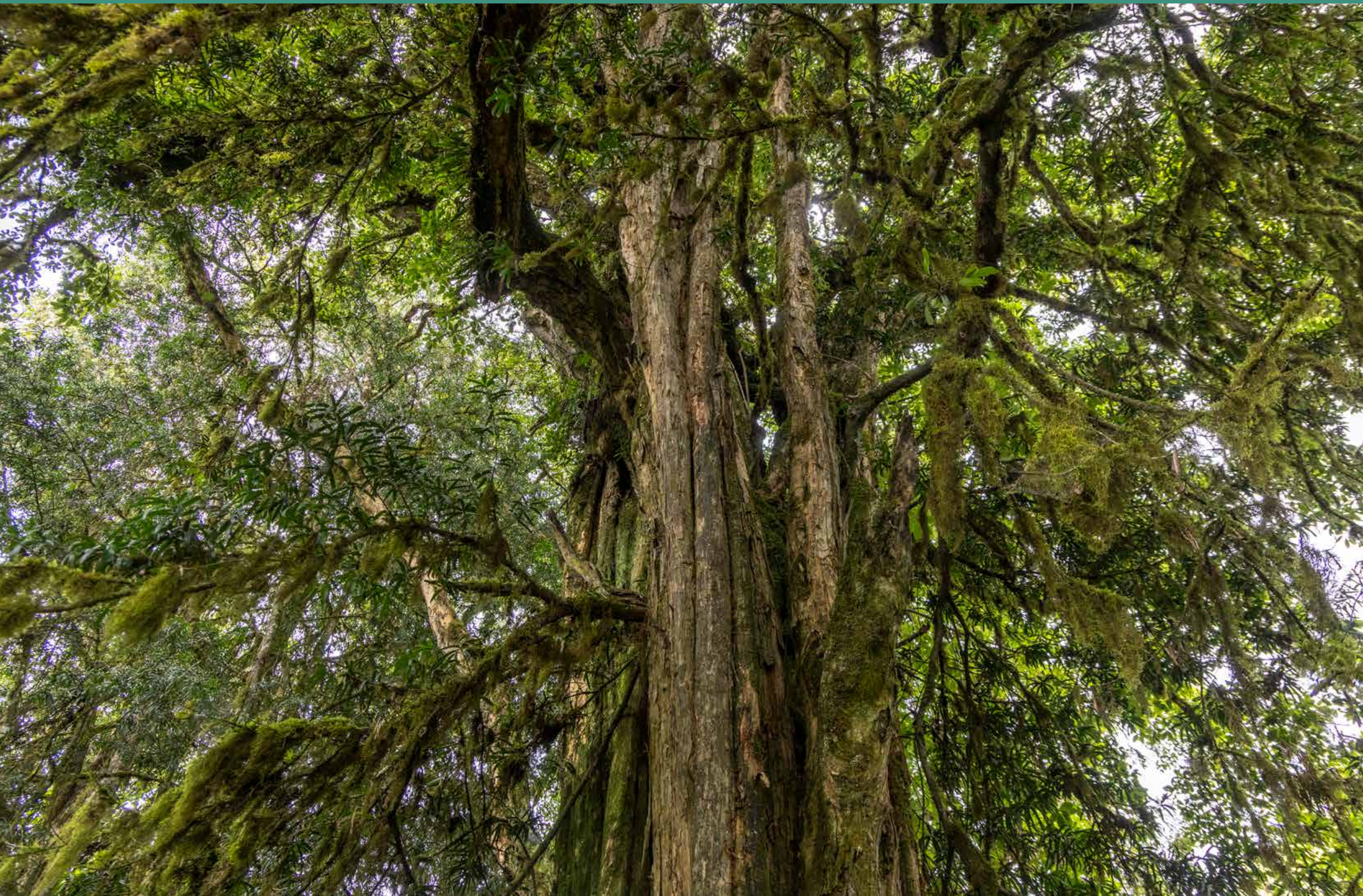
KAKAMEGA FOREST & NATIONAL RESERVES
FENCE PROGRESS MAP - 24 OCTOBER 2025



Neumann's Helmeted Terrapin, Kakamega Forest; one of over 380 species dependent on Kenya's last remaining tropical rainforest.



The electric fence on Kakamega Forest was started in 2023 in a four-phase approach. Currently phase 1 and 2 have 49.9km of 117 km completed.



PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY

An Ecosystem-Based Approach

Rhino Ark was founded to protect the black rhino in the Aberdare ecosystem, but its conservation approach has evolved in response to a broader reality: species recovery cannot be achieved in isolation. Long-term biodiversity conservation depends on intact, connected, and well-managed ecosystems that support multiple species simultaneously.

Today, Rhino Ark's work benefits at least 15 threatened species, including black rhino, mountain bongo, and African elephant. By securing forest boundaries, reducing fragmentation, and restoring degraded habitats, Rhino Ark creates the ecological conditions necessary for species persistence across entire landscapes.

A flagship focus is the critically endangered Mountain Bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci*), with fewer than 65 individuals estimated to remain in the wild. In partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service and conservation partners, Rhino Ark supports systematic camera-trap monitoring, GPS mapping, and community scout patrols across the Aberdares, Mount Kenya, and Mau ecosystems. These non-invasive tools confirm bongo presence, track movement patterns, and guide targeted habitat protection. Across Rhino Ark project landscapes, camera-trap networks and patrol-based monitoring have recorded more than 30 mammal species, including forest-dependent ungulates, primates, and apex predators such as leopard and hyena. Repeated detections in fenced and patrolled

areas demonstrate continued wildlife use of protected forests and reduced human pressure.

Community-led surveillance remains central to this model. Trained scouts conduct regular patrols, remove snares, dismantle illegal charcoal kilns, and service monitoring equipment. Patrol records show declining illegal activity and improved habitat security, creating more stable conditions for biodiversity recovery.

By addressing threats at landscape scale and combining infrastructure with monitoring and community stewardship, Rhino Ark contributes to measurable biodiversity persistence in Kenya's most important forest ecosystems.



In the early days, the motivation was to protect the black rhino, but then we all woke up to the fact that the farmers [who lived near the fence] were celebrating, and the reality is that this forested mountain area was the lifeblood for millions of people. We realised the whole ecosystem was at stake.

Colin Church, Chairman Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust referring to the Aberdare electric fence.

Recovering Threatened Species

Rhino Ark's conservation work is rooted in the understanding that threatened species cannot recover without secure, well-managed habitats and the support of neighbouring communities. While fencing and surveillance reduce immediate threats,

long-term recovery depends on restoring ecological integrity and addressing emerging pressures such as predation, climate change, and habitat fragmentation.



BLACK RHINO

Establishing a New Montane Stronghold

In partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Rhino Ark is supporting the establishment of Kenya's first mountain-forest Black Rhino Sanctuary in the Eastern Salient of the Aberdare ecosystem. The initiative responds to a national priority: expanding secure breeding space as existing sanctuaries approach carrying capacity.

The sanctuary spans approximately 40 km² within an Intensive Protection Zone designed to enhance breeding success and reduce calf mortality. Phase one is expected to support approximately 37 rhinos, with the area projected to expand to around 100 km² over time. To date, 19 km of solar-powered perimeter fencing has been completed, supported by enhanced surveillance and patrol infrastructure.

As of 2025, Kenya's rhino population stands at approximately 2,102 individuals, including 1,059 black rhinos and 1,041 white rhinos, reflecting sustained national recovery efforts led by KWS. The Aberdare ecosystem remains a critical montane stronghold within Kenya's black rhino meta-population.

A key innovation within the sanctuary is the piloting of an AI-based hyena detection and deterrent system aimed at reducing predation on vulnerable calves. If successful, the approach could be adapted for use in other high-risk areas.

Rhino Ark's role, including fence construction and maintenance, habitat management, and support to community patrols, complements KWS protection efforts and expands secure habitat for long-term population recovery.

Together with KWS, Rhino Ark is supporting the establishment of Kenya's first mountain-forest Black Rhino Sanctuary in the Eastern Salient of the Aberdare ecosystem.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Engagement formally initiated in **2018**
- **40 km²** Intensive Protection Zone established
- **19 km** perimeter fencing completed
- **AI-based predator deterrence** pilot underway
- **Estimated capacity:** ~37 rhinos
- Contribution to Kenya's **2,102-strong** national rhino population



MOUNTAIN BONGO

Safeguarding One of Africa's Rarest Antelopes

The Mountain Bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci*) is among Africa's most endangered large mammals, with fewer than 65 individuals estimated to remain in the wild in Kenya. Remaining populations persist in montane forests of the Aberdares, Mount Kenya, and parts of the Mau ecosystem.

Rhino Ark contributes to national recovery efforts by securing and restoring critical bongo habitat through electric fencing, forest protection, and

community-led surveillance. In Mount Kenya's Ragati and Chehe forests, interventions align with the National Mountain Bongo Recovery and Action Plan.

Monitoring is central to this effort. In partnership with KWS and conservation partners, Rhino Ark supports camera-trap networks, GPS mapping, and trained community scout patrols to confirm presence, track movements, and guide habitat management. These tools have confirmed bongo occupancy in previously under-documented forest blocks.

Rhino Ark also supports habitat readiness for the planned reintroduction of captive-bred individuals from domestic conservation programmes. Long-term viability depends on secure habitat, reduced poaching risk, and sustained community stewardship.



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- **Fewer than 65 individuals** remaining in the wild
- **Camera-trap and GPS monitoring** operational across montane forests
- **Habitat secured** in alignment with national recovery plan
- Support for **reintroduction readiness**

AFRICAN ELEPHANT

Reducing Conflict, Maintaining Connectivity

Across Kenya's montane forests, elephants function as keystone species, shaping forest structure and dispersing seeds. The Mount Kenya–Aberdare landscape supports an estimated 5,465 elephants (National Wildlife Census 2024–2025, Wildlife Research and Training Institute). An estimated 1,000 elephants roams in the Southern Mau forest blocks.

Historically, seasonal movements brought elephants into farmland, making human–elephant conflict one of the most persistent conservation challenges in forest-adjacent communities.

Rhino Ark's fencing programmes — including the 410 km Aberdare Electric Fence and ongoing fencing around Mount Kenya — have significantly reduced crop raiding, property damage, and retaliatory killings. In parts of the Aberdares, conflict has declined by up to 97% following fence completion. Across project landscapes, fencing now protects more than 570,000 hectares of forest and farmland.

Recognising that barriers alone cannot ensure long-term conservation, Rhino Ark supports the identification and protection of elephant corridors linking Mount Kenya, the Aberdares, and the Mau Complex. Corridor identification and establishment enables seasonal movement and genetic exchange while reducing pressure on surrounding communities.

Monitoring is multi-layered and data-driven. Community scouts, joint patrol teams, fence inspections, and aerial surveys document elephant movements and conflict incidents, enabling adaptive management. Emerging technologies — including one-way automatic elephant gates and virtual elephant grids — are being piloted in high-conflict zones.

Through integrated fencing, corridor protection, and monitoring, Rhino Ark supports coexistence between elephants and rural communities while maintaining ecological connectivity.

IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- **5,924 elephants** in Mount Kenya–Aberdare landscape and an estimated **1,000** elephants in the Southern Mau forest blocks
- **Corridor established** between **Aberdare and Mount Kipipiri**, and **corridor identified** and under initial establishment stage **between Mount Kenya and Aberdare**
- Up to **97% reduction in human–elephant conflict** in fenced areas
- **570,000+ hectares** secured across project ecosystems
- **Technology** introduced and fully implemented, including **electric fence and elephant grid**, and **novel technologies** piloted, including **one-way automatic elephant gate** and **virtual elephant grid**



CLIMATE & ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Protecting Nature's Infrastructure

Kenya's mountain forest ecosystems, protected by Rhino Ark's interventions, are among the country's most valuable natural assets. Collectively, they provide ecosystem services estimated at KES 348 billion annually, including water regulation, carbon storage, soil protection, and climate moderation.

Rhino Ark's conservation work safeguards these services by securing forest boundaries, reducing degradation, and restoring damaged landscapes.

Water Security

Forests protected by Rhino Ark feed major river systems, including the Tana, Ewaso Nyiro, Malewa, and Athi rivers. These basins supply water for domestic use, irrigation, hydropower generation, and industry across large parts of Kenya.

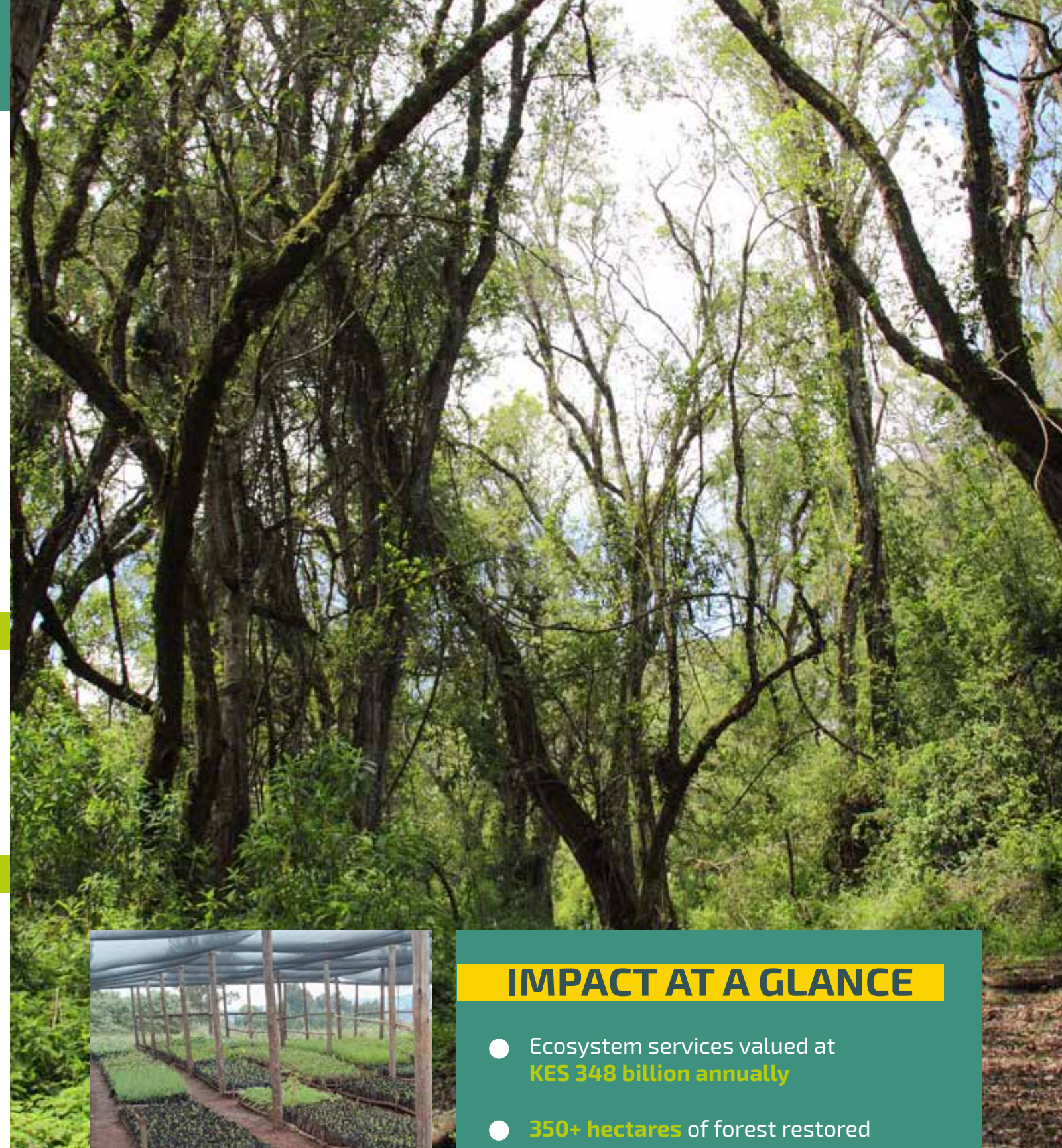
With Kenya already classified as water-scarce - and per capita water availability projected to decline further by 2030 - protecting forest catchments is central to national climate resilience and economic stability.

Forest Restoration and Carbon

Rhino Ark has supported restoration of more than 350 hectares of degraded forest and planted over 318,000 indigenous trees across the Aberdares, Mount Kenya, and South Western Mau. Restoration stabilises soils, improves water infiltration, enhances biodiversity, reduces fire risk, and strengthens long-term carbon storage.

Fire Management

Reduced cloudiness and prolonged dry seasons have increased fire risk in montane forests. Rhino Ark has invested in firebreak construction, equipment, training, and coordinated community fire response systems. In South Western Mau, reported fire incidents declined from ten in 2023 to zero in 2025, demonstrating the effectiveness of structured prevention and rapid response.



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- Ecosystem services valued at **KES 348 billion annually**
- **350+ hectares** of forest restored
- **318,000+** indigenous trees planted
- **Major river systems** protected
- Fire incidents mitigated in most ecosystems and even **reduced to zero** (South Western Mau, 2025)

COMMUNITIES & LIVELIHOODS

Conservation That Works for People

Rhino Ark's model is built on partnership with forest-adjacent communities. Protection is most effective when local people are directly involved in maintaining and benefiting from it.

Local Employment & Fence Stewardship

215 fence attendants, recruited from communities bordering protected forests, maintain the fence infrastructure built by Rhino Ark. Each attendant is responsible for approximately four kilometres of fence.

This model provides stable employment while significantly reducing poaching, charcoal burning, vandalism, and illegal entry. Fence attendants act as both maintenance teams and early-warning sentinels.

Restoration & Community Nurseries

Community-run nurseries supported by Rhino Ark have produced more than 350,000 indigenous seedlings, restoring degraded forest blocks while generating income.

In 2024 alone, approximately 1,800 men and women were engaged in nursery activities, tree planting, and tree maintenance across the Aberdares and Mount Kenya.

In Sofia village, in the Aberdares, forest restoration has contributed to the revival of previously dry springs, reducing the distance families travel to access water.

Beekeeping & Forest-Compatible Enterprise

In South-Western Mau and Eburu, Rhino Ark supports structured beekeeping initiatives through training, modern hives, processing equipment, and cooperative development.

Ndoinet Honey Cooperative produces approximately 200 kg of honey per month. Household incomes have increased by up to 60%. In Eburu, 4,100 kg of honey processed since 2023, with 2,200 kg sold commercially.

These enterprises reduce reliance on charcoal production and illegal logging.

Ecotourism & Alternative Livelihoods

With support from the Darwin Initiative, 29 community members in the Aberdares have been trained as guides, porters, and cooks. More than 56 km of mapped, established, and maintained walking trails now link key forest sites. Over half of participants were previously involved in illegal forest activities.

Community Surveillance & Governance

The Joint Surveillance Units in Aberdare, Ragati and Chehe (Mount Kenya), Eburu, and South-Western Mau integrate community scouts with the Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service. Community reporting of illegal activity has increased, and women are increasingly participating in forest protection.



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- **215 full-time fence attendants** employed
- **350,000** indigenous seedlings produced
- **1,800** community members engaged in nursery work and tree planting
- **2,400 kg** honey/year produced (South Western Mau)
- **4,100 kg** honey processed in Eburu since 2023
- **29 individuals** trained in ecotourism
- **56 km** of nature trails created

EDUCATION & OUTREACH

Building the Next Generation of Conservation Stewards

Rhino Ark recognises that long-term conservation depends not only on infrastructure, but on awareness and local ownership. Education programmes complement fencing and surveillance by strengthening understanding of why forests and wildlife matter.

Rhino Ark currently engages 184 schools across its project ecosystems, reaching more than 15,000 pupils through structured conservation education activities.

School Engagement

Programmes help students understand the link between forest protection, water security, biodiversity, and livelihoods. Activities include conservation essay competitions, environmental awareness initiatives, and collaboration with teachers to integrate conservation themes into school life.

16 Years of the Aberdare Relay Run

Since its inception in 2009, the Aberdare Fence Relay Run has become a flagship annual conservation awareness event celebrating the 400 km Aberdare Electric Fence, the world's longest conservation fence, protecting over 2,000 km² of critical forest and water catchment ecosystem. Organised by Rhino Ark in partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service, the Relay Run engages schools and communities living adjacent to the forest through environmental education, conservation-themed competitions, and a relay run across five counties with over 600 pupils participating.

The initiative has strengthened community ownership of the fence, promoted environmental stewardship among young people, and contributed to reducing human-wildlife conflict while safeguarding biodiversity in the Aberdare ecosystem.

Practical Support

In the Aberdare ecosystem, rainwater harvesting systems have been installed in 10 schools, benefiting approximately 2,500 pupils and 120 teachers. These systems provide safe drinking water, reduce absenteeism linked to waterborne disease, and improve overall school conditions.

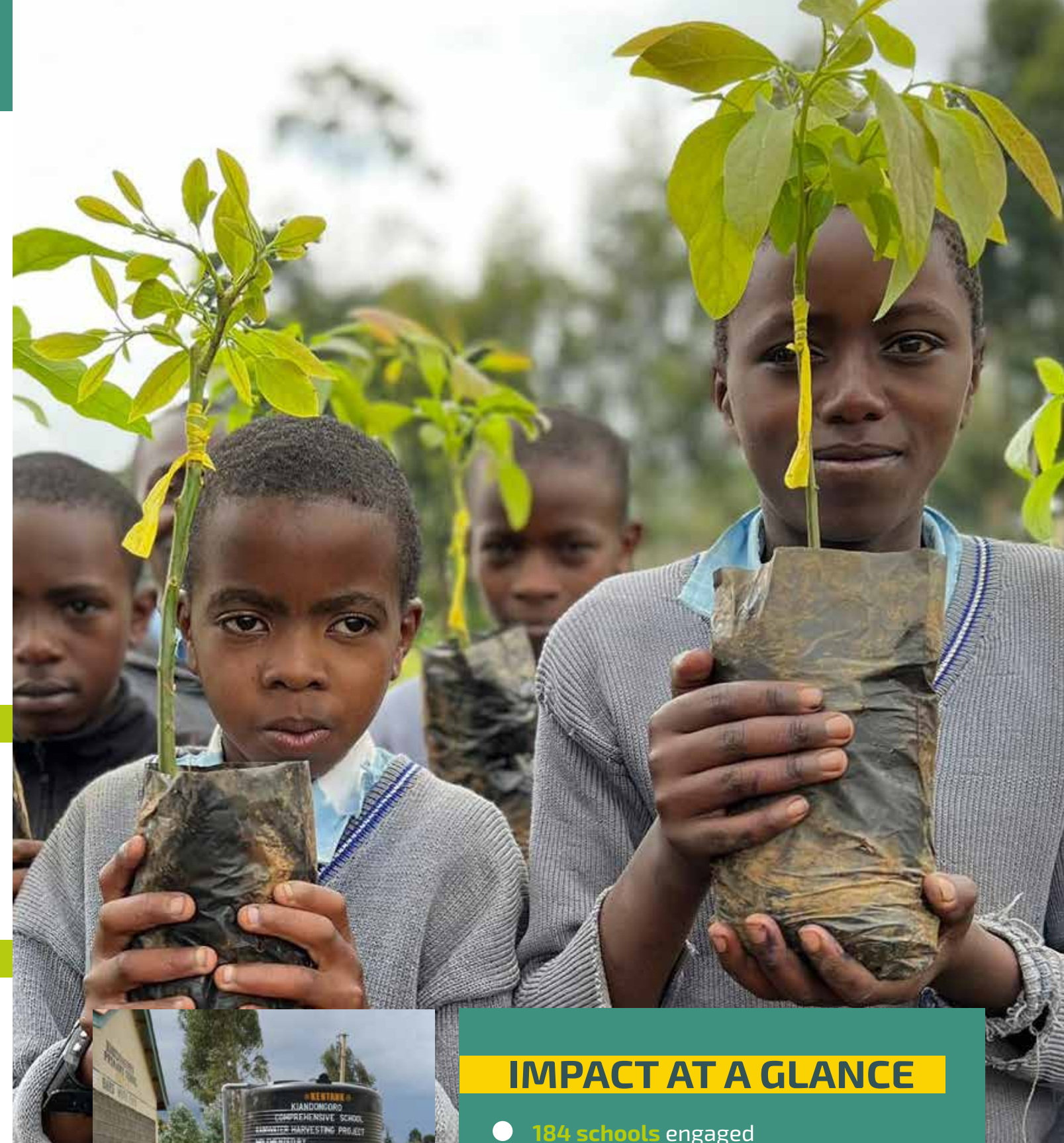
Long-Term Stewardship

By working directly with schools and teachers, Rhino Ark strengthens local support for conservation and reinforces the value of protected forests. Education outreach ensures that physical investments in fencing and restoration are supported by informed and engaged communities.



The students have taken the run quite positively. It has been effective in creating awareness not only to the students but the parents and community at large.

Anthony Nderitu
Teacher, Bondeni Primary School



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- 184 schools engaged
- 15,000+ pupils reached
- 10 rainwater harvesting systems installed
- 2,500 pupils and 120 teachers directly benefiting

RHINO CHARGE LEGACY

A Conservation Movement Powered by People

Founded in 1989, the Rhino Charge was established to raise funds for the construction of the Aberdare Electric Fence. What began as a bold fundraising initiative has evolved into one of Kenya's most distinctive conservation events and a central pillar of Rhino Ark's long-term financing model.

Each year, competitors raise sponsorship before participating in an off-road navigation challenge. This entrant-driven fundraising structure has generated more than KES 2.8 billion to date, providing sustained support for conservation programmes across Kenya's forest ecosystems.

Rhino Charge funding has directly supported approximately 650 km of conservation electric fencing, protecting more than 90,000 forest-adjacent households and safeguarding over 570,000 hectares of forest and critical water

catchment areas. Independent assessments confirm that fencing programmes have reduced human-wildlife conflict by up to 97% in some landscapes.

In addition to conservation infrastructure, the Rhino Charge operates a structured Community Support Programme. Each year, funds are allocated to development projects in host areas, supporting schools, water systems, and community facilities. Recent projects have included classroom construction, dormitories, teacher housing, and science laboratories across Isiolo, Baringo, Narok, Kajiado, and other counties.

Over more than three decades, the Rhino Charge has provided consistent, locally generated financing for large-scale conservation infrastructure.



IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- **KES 2.8 billion** raised since 1989
- **1,000-fold growth** in annual fundraising since inception
- **650 km** of fencing directly supported
- **570,000+** hectares safeguarded
- **90,000+** households protected
- **24 host community projects** funded since 2001
- **KES 93.9 million** allocated directly to host communities

FINANCING 37 YEARS OF CONSERVATION

The following pages illustrate how long-term support from Rhino Charge participants, donors, institutional partners, philanthropists, and the wider public has sustained conservation action across Kenya's critical ecosystems.

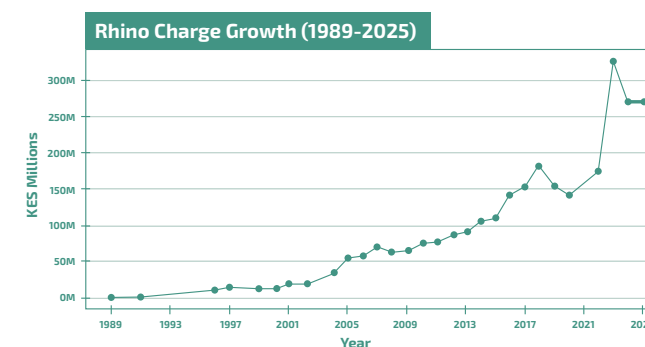
Over nearly four decades, Rhino Ark has mobilised funding for conservation infrastructure, ecosystem protection, species recovery, and community-based conservation initiatives across Kenya's major water towers.



From a Single Event to a Funding Legacy

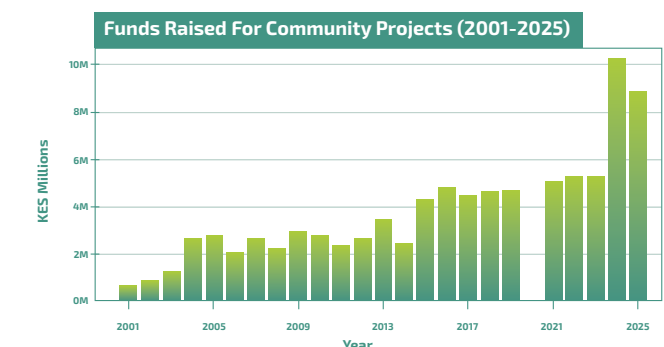
Since its inception in 1989, Rhino Charge has grown into one of Kenya's most significant conservation fundraising initiatives, mobilising corporate sponsors, competitors, volunteers, and supporters in support of long-term conservation.

What began as a small effort to support the Aberdare Fence has evolved into a national platform that has raised over KES 2.8 billions for conservation and community-led environmental protection across Kenya.



Community Impact

Each year, Rhino Charge is hosted in a different landscape across Kenya. In addition to supporting conservation, the event raises direct funding for local community projects, including schools, water systems, dormitories, laboratories, and other community infrastructure. Community projects supported through Rhino Charge have included initiatives in Laikipia, Samburu, Narok, Kajiado, Baringo, Isiolo, Marsabit, and other counties across Kenya.



Investing across Kenya's water

Since its inception in 1989, Rhino Charge has grown into one of Kenya's most significant conservation fundraising initiatives, mobilising corporate sponsors, competitors, volunteers, and supporters in support of long-term conservation.

What began as a small effort to support the Aberdare Fence has evolved into a national platform that has raised over KES 2.8 billions for conservation and community-led environmental protection across Kenya.



LOOKING AHEAD

Priorities for the Next Five Years

Kenya's mountain forests and water catchments face intensifying pressure from climate change, land-use change, population growth, and illegal resource extraction. Over

the next five years, Rhino Ark will focus on consolidating gains while strengthening long-term ecological resilience across priority landscapes.

1 PROTECT AND RESTORE CRITICAL HABITATS

Complete and maintain priority electric fencing projects, reduce illegal exploitation, expand protected zones where necessary, and rehabilitate degraded forest areas to secure biodiversity hotspots and vital water catchments.

2 STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND LIVELIHOODS

Deepen partnerships with forest-adjacent communities through conservation education, support for community-led patrols and surveillance units, and expansion of sustainable livelihood initiatives that reduce pressure on forest resources.

3 SECURE ECOLOGICAL CONNECTIVITY AND WILDLIFE CORRIDORS

Identify, protect, and formalise key wildlife corridors linking fragmented forest landscapes, enabling safe movement of elephants, rhinos, bongos, and other species while reducing human-wildlife conflict.

4 ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE FINANCING AND RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Strengthen long-term financial sustainability through diversified fundraising, expanded public-private partnerships, and development of durable financing mechanisms to support ongoing conservation operations.

5 EXPAND SCIENCE-LED MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Institutionalise robust biodiversity monitoring, conflict trend analysis, and patrol data systems to assess conservation effectiveness and inform adaptive management across ecosystems.

6 STRENGTHEN ADVOCACY AND STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Enhance national and international collaboration to advance policies and partnerships that support water tower conservation, human-wildlife coexistence, and ecosystem resilience.

Through these priorities, Rhino Ark aims to reinforce its role as a long-term conservation partner safeguarding Kenya's critical forest ecosystems for future generations.



GOVERNANCE & SUPPORTERS

Accountability, Partnerships, and Support

Strong governance and trusted partnerships underpin Rhino Ark's conservation impact. The organisation works through transparent public-private partnerships, collaborating closely with national and county governments, conservation agencies, donors, and community institutions.

Rhino Ark's governance structure provides oversight across its Kenya, UK, and US entities, ensuring accountability, compliance, and effective stewardship of donor resources. Financial resources are directed primarily toward programme delivery, including fencing, forest restoration, species protection, and community initiatives.

Rhino Ark's work is supported by a broad network of partners, including government agencies, international conservation organisations, foundations, corporate supporters, and community forest associations. These partnerships enable Rhino Ark to operate at scale, leverage technical expertise, and deliver long-term conservation outcomes.

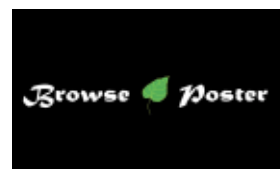
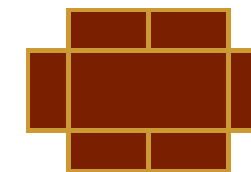


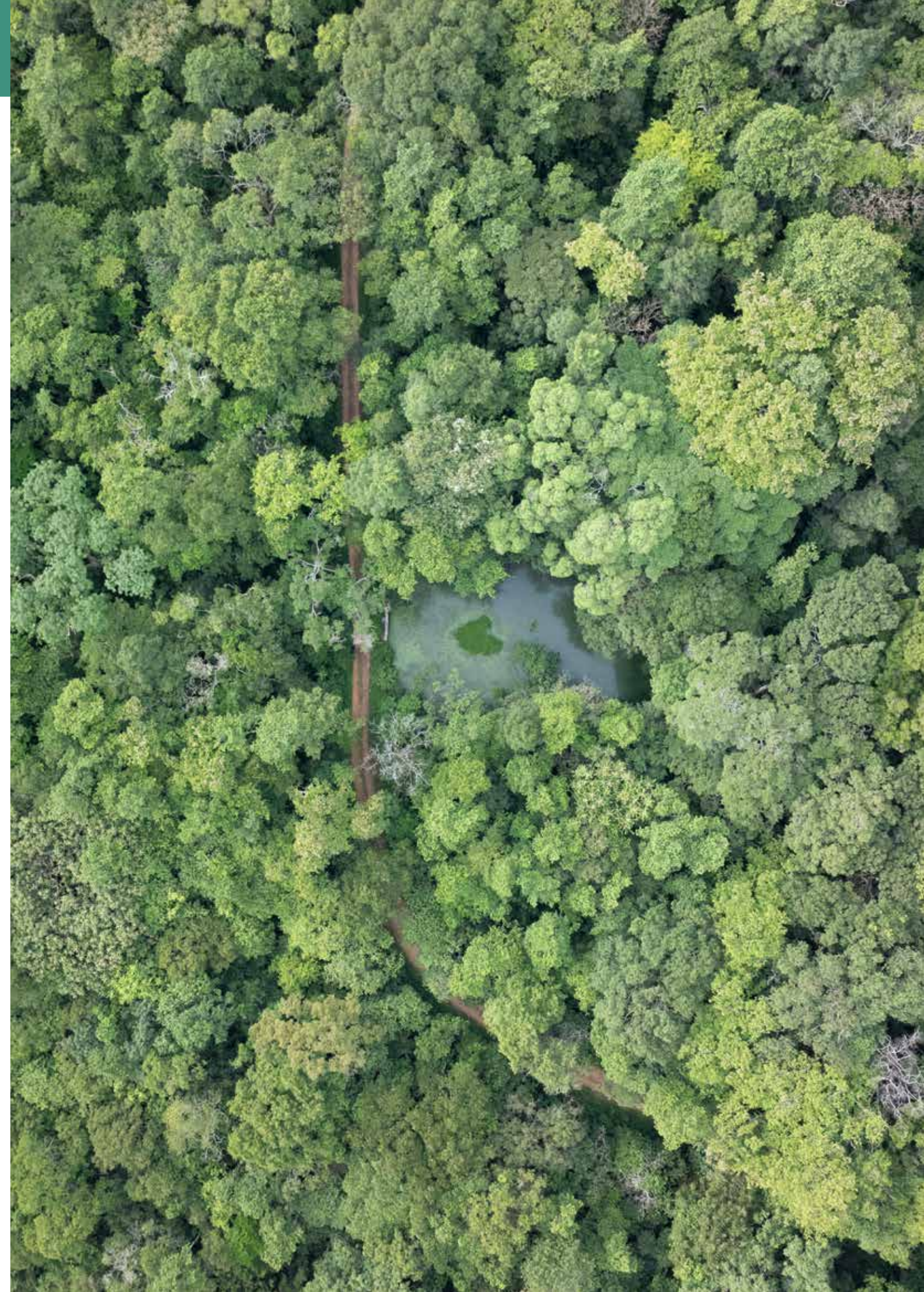
OUR PARTNERS

None of this would exist without the people and organisations who believed in this work long before the results were visible.

Over 37 years, our partners have funded kilometres of fencing, restored hundreds of thousands of hectares, and helped communities live alongside wildlife in safety. To every sponsor, donor, government agency, and community institution that has stood with us, this impact is yours too.

DL HUDSON







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