ARKive

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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE RHINO ARK CHARITABLE TRUST

DEC 2025 - MAY 2026



PAGE 10
GUARDIANS ON PATROL
Defending The Highlands

PAGE 14
THE GHOST RETURNS
The Race to Restore the Mountain Bongo

PAGE 16
SWEET RETURNS
Conservation That Pays Off

RHINO ARK

Humans in harmony with habitat & wildlife

www.rhinoark.org

HELP SAVE OUR MOUNTAIN FORESTS AND THEIR ENDANGERED WILDLIFE





WHY IT MATTERS

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

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

Forest-adjacent communities are critical to the conservation of these forests. They are the frontline guardians, most directly dependent on the forests and among those most affected by human-wildlife conflict.



OUR IMPACT AT A GLANCE

- KES 3 billion invested in conservation.
- 853 kilometres of electric fences built and maintained to date.
- 220 fence attendants maintaining Rhino Ark's electric fences full-time.
- 21 vehicles supporting Rhino Ark's conservation work.
- 90,000 households protected from human-wildlife conflict.
- 184 schools providing conservation education.
- 652,000 hectares of protected areas and water catchments better conserved.
- 15 threatened species (mammals and birds) better protected.
- 293 hectares of forest rehabilitation projects underway.
- 2 wildlife corridors established.

DONATE!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

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

1. Fencing programme

Our comprehensive game-proof electrified fences help secure prime indigenous forests and resolve human-wildlife conflict, keeping forest-adjacent communities engaged in conservation. One kilometre of electrified fence costs KES 2.5 million (US$ 25,000). Once built, fences must be maintained continuously and we deploy 220 fence attendants to maintain our fences daily, supported by eight 4×4 vehicles. Fence maintenance costs KES 80,000 (US$ 800) per kilometre per year.

2. Endangered species and forest conservation

Support our community-based patrol programme:

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

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

Support forest rehabilitation:

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

3. Community conservation and livelihoods

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

HOW TO DONATE

1. **Mobile Money**
   Mpesa Paybill No.: 855995
   Account No.: Your name
2. **Bank Transfer** Please contact us at info@rhinoark.or.ke to obtain our bank account details.
3. **Cheques** Please make all cheques payable to:
   Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust
4. **Paypal** Visit the Rhino Ark website donations page
   https://rhinoark.org/donate/

RHINO ARK

ISSUE 68 | Dec 2025 - May 2026

What's Inside



Executive Director's View 5



Forest Ecosystems 6



Endangered Wildlife 14



Community Livelihoods 16



Charger's Corner 26



Thank You 31



Kenya's Water Towers 32

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S VIEW

CHRISTIAN LAMBRECHTS

The challenges facing forest conservation are not constant: they have been evolving over the past 30+ years.

In the late 1990s, early 2000s, a key challenge was forest excision, mostly the conversion of forests to settlements. All it took for forestland to be excised was the signing off by the Minister in charge of forestry. The excisions of 2001 hived off about 167,000 acres of montane forest in the Mau Forest Complex, Mt. Kenya and Marmanet. This led to major public outcries and eventually the establishment of a new forest regime in 2005.

The new Forest Conservation and Management Act of 2005 brought several fundamental changes in forest management, among which was the requirement for additional consultations and approvals for forest excisions, including from the Parliament. This substantially addressed the problem of forest excision for about 20 years. However, a recent amendment to the Forest Act, has opened a loophole for large scale infrastructure in our forests without the need to excise the affected forestland. Taken together with the matter of poorly regulated mechanisms for award of special use licenses, this presents an emerging risk to forest ecosystem integrity that requires careful consideration.

The second key challenge was the illegal commercial exploitation of forest resources, largely for timber, fencing posts and charcoal. The 2005 Forest Act enabled co-management with key stakeholders, in particular forest-adjacent communities under the umbrella of Community Forest Associations (CFAs). This led to improved forest governance and reduced illegal forest extractions: it provided a clear mechanism for CFAs and other key stakeholders to meaningfully engage with Kenya Forest Service (KFS), sensitize adjacent communities and protect forest resources.

The third key challenge has been overexploitation: the unsustainable subsistence use of forests, such as livestock grazing and firewood collection. The requirement introduced in 2005 for all forests to be managed by a Participatory Forest Management Plan provided a platform for CFAs and KFS to reach a common understanding of which activities can be permitted in the forest. However, the day-to-day enforcement of the agreed activities remains a challenge.

The above changes in the management of our forests have helped curb illegal logging and charcoal production in many forests and led to improved forest cover in some of them. However, under the forest canopy, there is unseen and rarely reported threat that undermines the ecological integrity of our forest ecosystems: bush meat hunting. Data collected by Rhino Ark community ranger teams show that about 30% of the incidents recorded during forest patrols are related to bush meat hunting, well ahead of logging and charcoal production. Cognizant of this growing threat, Rhino Ark is further engaging with its government partners (KFS and Kenya Wildlife Service) and investing in additional community forest surveillance patrol teams. Every snare and trap removed, every poacher deterred is one or more forest animals saved. This includes the critically endangered mountain bongo antelope.

MISSION, VISION AND KEY PRIORITY AREAS

Rhino Ark is a charitable trust established in Kenya in 1988, with the vision of restoring and maintaining harmony between humans, habitats and wildlife in Kenya.

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

Rhino Ark's conservation programme is built around six priority thematic areas.

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

2. Advocacy
Rhino Ark is a thought leader and senior adviser on forest and wildlife conservation in Kenya.

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

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

5. Endangered Wildlife Conservation
Rhino Ark develops and implements conservation interventions that protect and help recover endangered forest species, including the black rhino, mountain bongo, and forest elephant.

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

FOREST ECOSYSTEMS



FIVE FENCES, ONE VISION

Protecting Kenya's Water Towers and Communities

From the mist-covered slopes of the Aberdares to the ancient Kakamega rainforest, Rhino Ark's electric fencing programme continues to demonstrate that conservation and community development can go hand in hand. What began as an innovative solution to human-wildlife conflict has evolved into one of Kenya's most successful conservation models, protecting critical ecosystems while improving the lives of thousands of people living alongside them.

Between November 2025 and May 2026, Rhino Ark continued to make significant progress across its five flagship fencing landscapes: Aberdare, Mt Kenya, Kakamega, South Western Mau and Mau Eburu. Together, these projects are safeguarding Kenya's most important water towers, protecting biodiversity, reducing human-wildlife conflict and creating opportunities for sustainable development.

Today, Rhino Ark has built and maintains an impressive 853 kilometres of electric fencing across these landscapes, comprising 412 kilometres in the Aberdares, 316 kilometres around Mt Kenya, 50 kilometres in Kakamega, 32 kilometres in South Western Mau and 43 kilometres in Mau Eburu. Collectively, these fences protect approximately 90,000 households and conserve more than 652,000 hectares of critical habitat and water catchments that sustain millions of people across the country.

Yet the true impact of these fences extends far beyond the numbers.

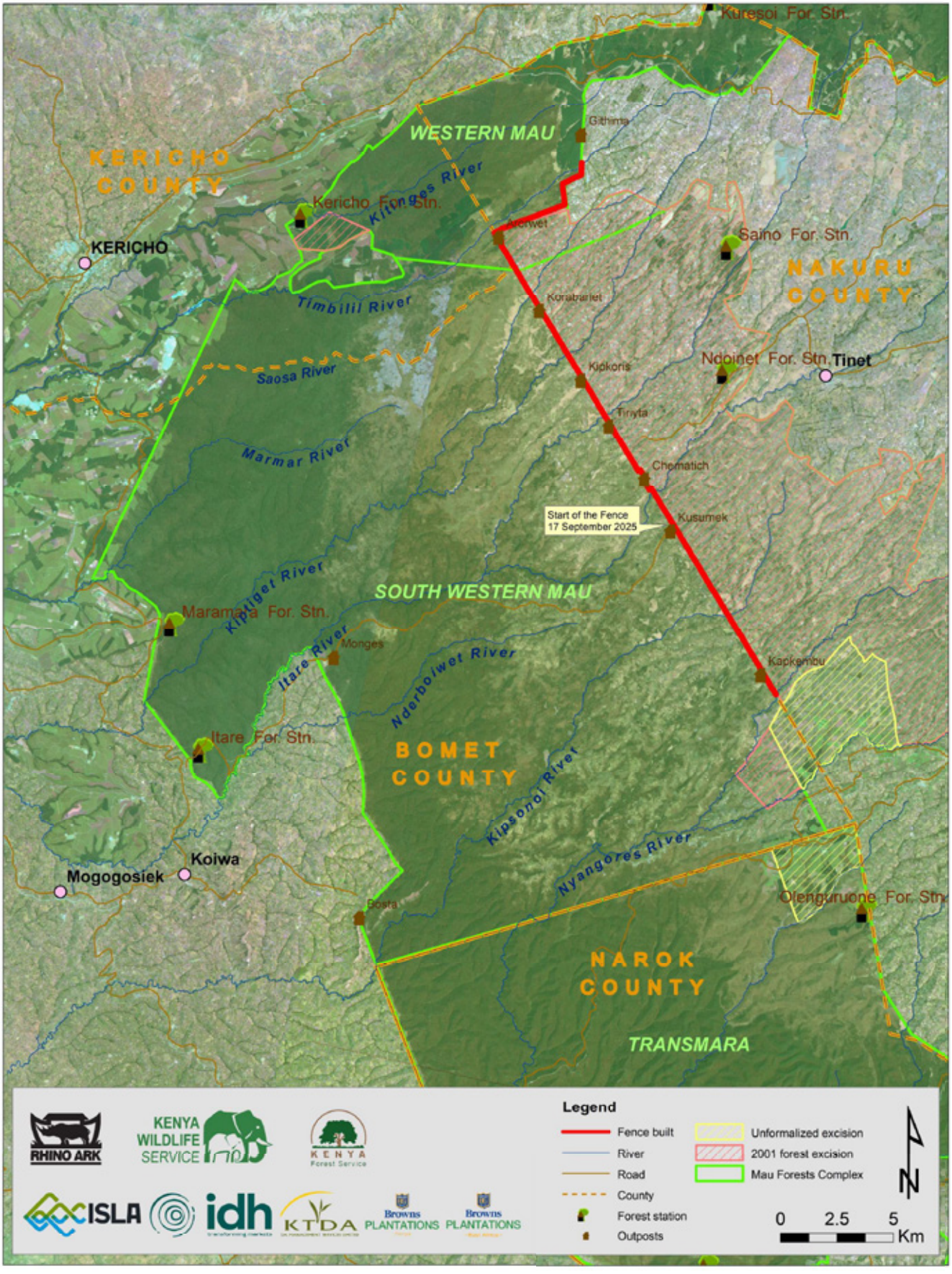
For decades, communities living adjacent to forests and protected areas faced a daily struggle with wildlife. Crop destruction, livestock predation, injuries and even loss of life were common occurrences as elephants, buffaloes and other wildlife ventured into farms and settlements. At the same time, Kenya's forests faced increasing pressure from encroachment, illegal logging, charcoal production and habitat degradation. Rhino Ark's fencing model was designed to address both challenges simultaneously by protecting wildlife within their natural habitats while safeguarding neighbouring communities and their livelihoods.

The results have been transformative. Studies conducted around the Aberdare and Mt Kenya ecosystems have recorded reductions in human-wildlife conflict of up to 97 per cent in fenced areas. Communities report fewer crop losses, improved safety and greater confidence to invest in farming and other livelihood activities. Equally important, the fences have strengthened the protection of critical water towers that provide water for households, agriculture, industry and hydropower generation across Kenya.

The Aberdare Electric Fence remains the blueprint for this success. Completed in 2009 after two decades of construction, the 412-kilometre fence secures one of Kenya's most important water towers and protects vital habitat for species such as elephants, leopards, black rhinos and the critically endangered mountain bongo. The benefits have extended well beyond conservation.

SOUTH WESTERN MAU FOREST RESERVE

FENCE PROGRESS MAP - 9 APRIL 2026



Approximately 80,000 households surrounding the ecosystem now enjoy greater security, improved agricultural productivity and enhanced food security. Land values in many forest-adjacent areas have risen significantly as communities gain confidence that their farms and livelihoods are protected. Today, the focus is on maintaining this critical infrastructure to ensure it continues to deliver long-term benefits for both people and wildlife.

On the slopes of Mt Kenya, Rhino Ark's largest ongoing fencing project continues to strengthen harmony between people and wildlife. By May 2026, 316 kilometres of fence had been completed around the ecosystem, protecting one of Africa's most important mountain landscapes and the water catchments that feed the Tana River system.

Research has shown a dramatic reduction in human-wildlife conflict in completed sections, while reports of human injuries and deaths have fallen to near zero. Livestock predation has also fallen significantly, enabling communities to coexist more peacefully with wildlife. Daily maintenance by dedicated fence attendants ensures that the fence remains fully operational and continues to deliver conservation and community benefits.

Further west, Kakamega Forest presents a unique conservation challenge. As Kenya's only tropical rainforest, it supports exceptional biodiversity and provides critical ecosystem services to surrounding communities. Progress on the Kakamega Forest Electric Fence continued steadily throughout the reporting period, with approximately 50 kilometres completed by late 2025. Once complete, the fence will help address long-standing challenges such as encroachment, habitat degradation and human-wildlife conflict, ensuring the long-term protection of one of East Africa's most important biodiversity hotspots.

The South Western Mau ecosystem also recorded important milestones. In November 2025, Rhino Ark completed and energised an additional 7.8 kilometres of electric fence, bringing the total fenced length to 32 kilometres. Every kilometre completed strengthens protection for this vital water tower, helping to reduce illegal encroachment, safeguard water resources and minimise conflict between wildlife and neighbouring communities. The project has also fostered strong community participation, with local residents and Community Forest Associations playing an active role in conservation efforts.



Fence attendants repairing the Mau Eburu fence line.



Mt Kenya fence line in Imenti.

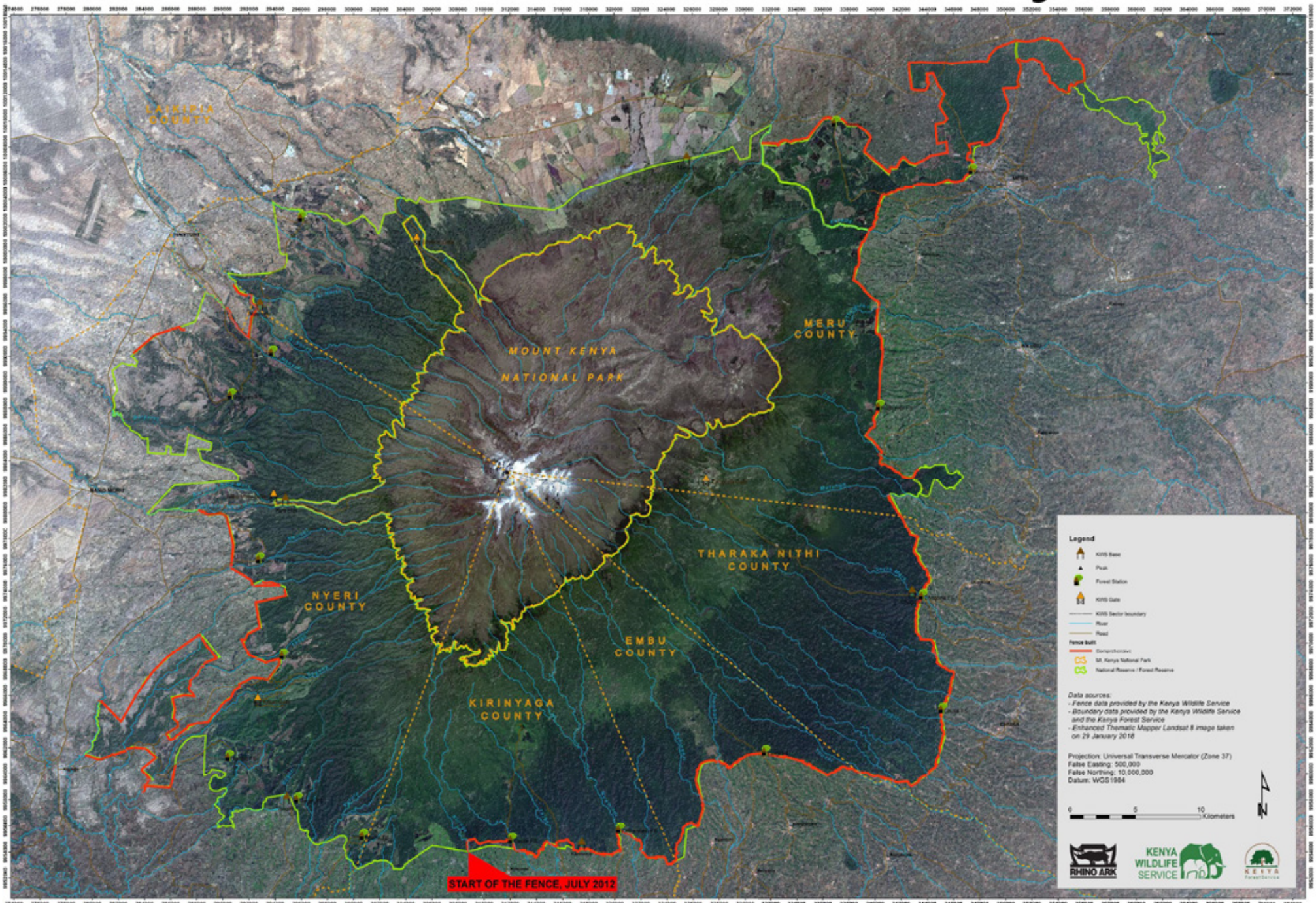
Meanwhile, the 43-kilometre Mau Eburu Electric Fence continues to stand as a testament to the long-term value of integrated conservation. Since its completion, the fence has transformed the relationship between communities and the forest. Farmers who once faced frequent wildlife incursions can now cultivate their land productively and with confidence. Property values have increased substantially, while communities have benefited from new opportunities in ecotourism, sustainable enterprises, livelihood programmes and water projects. At the same time, the fence continues to protect a unique ecosystem that serves as a refuge for endangered species, including the mountain bongo.

Across all five landscapes, Rhino Ark's fencing programme demonstrates that conservation succeeds when people benefit alongside nature. The fences are doing far more than keeping wildlife within protected areas. They are reducing conflict, protecting water resources, supporting livelihoods, creating employment and strengthening community resilience. Most importantly, they are fostering a new relationship between people and nature, one based on coexistence rather than conflict.

As of May 2026, the figures tell a compelling story: 853 kilometres of electric fencing maintained, 90,000 households protected and more than 652,000 hectares of critical habitat conserved. However, the true measure of success lies in the communities that can farm without fear, the forests that continue to provide clean water, and the wildlife that can thrive within secure habitats.

Through partnership, innovation and long-term commitment, Rhino Ark's five fence projects are proving that conservation is not simply about protecting nature. It is about creating a future in which people, wildlife and ecosystems can flourish together, ensuring that Kenya's natural heritage remains protected for generations to come.

MOUNT KENYA FENCE BUILD PROGRESS AS OF 9 APRIL 2026





RANGERS ON PATROL

Guardians of Kenya's Mountain Forests

As dawn breaks over Kenya's mountain forests, a familiar routine begins. Boots hit the ground, radios crackle to life and ranger patrol teams venture into dense forests, rugged mountain slopes and remote wilderness areas. Their mission is simple yet vital: to protect Kenya's forests, wildlife, water towers and the communities that depend on them.

Across the Aberdares, Mt. Kenya, South Western Mau and Mau Eburu ecosystems, ranger patrols supported by Rhino Ark and its conservation partners continued to serve as the first line of defence against illegal activities, habitat degradation, human–wildlife conflict and emerging conservation threats between November 2025 and May 2026. While much of their work takes place far from public view, its impact extends well beyond forest boundaries.

The ecosystems where Rhino Ark operates are among Kenya's most important water towers. Together, they provide water for millions of people, support agriculture and industry, generate hydroelectric power and sustain an extraordinary diversity of wildlife. Protecting these landscapes requires far more than infrastructure alone; it demands a constant presence on the ground. Throughout the reporting period, ranger patrols traversed bamboo forests, mountain moorlands and remote valleys, working alongside the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Community Forest Associations (CFAs) and local communities to monitor forest health, deter illegal activities and gather critical information that informs conservation management.

In the Aberdare ecosystem, one of Rhino Ark's flagship conservation landscapes, ranger patrols played a critical role in safeguarding a biodiversity-rich environment that supports species such as the black rhino, mountain bongo, elephant and leopard. Patrol teams conducted regular surveillance across the forest and protected areas, helping to deter illegal grazing, charcoal production, poaching and forest encroachment. Their work also supported ongoing habitat protection efforts and the maintenance of wildlife corridors, ensuring that both wildlife and local communities continue to benefit from one of Kenya's most important water catchments.



Rangers on foot patrol in the Mt Kenya ecosystem

Rangers also monitored the extensive electric fence surrounding the ecosystem, helping to maintain harmony between wildlife and neighbouring communities.

On the slopes of Mt. Kenya, patrol teams worked across a vast and ecologically diverse landscape that supports both wildlife and human livelihoods. Rangers focused on preventing illegal resource extraction, monitoring forest health and helping to safeguard the integrity of the electric fence system, which has significantly reduced human–wildlife conflict in surrounding communities. They also supported rapid-response efforts whenever wildlife incidents occurred near settlements, helping to prevent conflicts from escalating. Through regular engagement with local residents, rangers strengthened relationships between conservation authorities and communities, reinforcing a shared commitment to protecting this globally significant ecosystem.

Perhaps one of the most inspiring conservation success stories emerged from the South Western Mau Forest, where community-led conservation continues to deliver remarkable results. In recent years, this critical water tower has faced intense pressure from illegal logging, charcoal burning, uncontrolled grazing and recurring forest fires. Today, thanks to the South Western Mau Joint Surveillance Unit (SWMJSU), a community-led ranger team established by Rhino Ark in partnership with the Kenya Forest Service and the Ndoinet Ogiek Community Forest Association, the forest is experiencing significant progress in its recovery.

The SWMJSU comprises eight locally recruited rangers, including two women, who received paramilitary training through the Kenya Wildlife Service. Since the unit's establishment, illegal logging has declined by an astonishing 97 per cent, falling from 160 cases in 2022 to just four in 2025. Charcoal production has also fallen sharply, while livestock incursions and forest fires have reduced dramatically. As a result, the forest is showing encouraging signs of recovery, including healthier habitats, cleaner water sources and increased wildlife activity. Just as importantly, local communities are increasingly reporting illegal activities and participating in forest protection efforts, demonstrating the power of community-led conservation in safeguarding one of Kenya's most important water towers.

In Mau Eburu, a smaller but equally significant ecosystem, ranger patrols continued to protect a unique forest refuge that supports exceptional biodiversity, including endangered wildlife such as the mountain bongo. Patrol teams focused on maintaining the security of the fenced ecosystem while monitoring threats such as illegal timber harvesting and charcoal production. Their consistent presence helped preserve important wildlife habitats and ensure that years of conservation investment continue to yield positive results for both biodiversity and local communities.

Yet modern ranger patrols are about far more than enforcement. Throughout the reporting period, rangers participated in wildlife monitoring, fence inspections, environmental education activities and collaboration with local communities. They collected valuable field observations that contribute to conservation planning and ecosystem management while serving as trusted links between conservation agencies and neighbouring communities.

The success of Rhino Ark's conservation programmes is often measured by the kilometres of electric fence maintained, forests protected, wildlife populations secured and human–wildlife conflict reduced. Behind these achievements, however, are the men and women who spend countless hours patrolling some of Kenya's most challenging terrain, often in difficult weather and under demanding conditions.

Their dedication helps ensure that forests remain standing, wildlife continues to thrive and Kenya's vital water towers provide life-sustaining resources for millions of people. From the mist-covered slopes of the Aberdares and Mt. Kenya to the recovering forests of South Western Mau and the biodiversity-rich refuge of Mau Eburu, ranger patrols remain the frontline guardians of Kenya's natural heritage.

Their work may rarely make headlines, but every patrol strengthens the future of these ecosystems and the communities that depend on them. By protecting Kenya's forests today, they are helping to secure a future in which people, wildlife and nature can continue to thrive together.



South Western Mau Joint Surveillance Unit destroying a charcoal kiln.

GROWING THE FUTURE

Restoring Kenya's Forests Through Tree Nurseries and Rehabilitation



Rhino Ark mega tree nursery in Ndoinet.

Across Kenya's mountain forests, a quiet transformation is taking place. In community nurseries, thousands of indigenous seedlings are being carefully nurtured. In degraded forest landscapes, young trees are taking root where forests once stood. Across Rhino Ark's conservation areas, communities, conservation partners and restoration teams are working together to rebuild the ecosystems that sustain Kenya's water resources, wildlife and livelihoods.

Between November 2025 and May 2026, forest rehabilitation remained a cornerstone of Rhino Ark's conservation programme. From the Aberdares and Mt Kenya to South Western Mau, Mau Eburu and Kakamega Forest, restoration efforts focused on expanding tree nurseries, rehabilitating degraded habitats and strengthening community participation in conservation.

The work reflects a simple but powerful belief: protecting forests is only half the solution; restoring what has already been lost is equally important.

Every restoration journey begins with a seed. Across Rhino Ark's project landscapes, tree nurseries continue to serve as the foundation of forest recovery efforts. Managed through partnerships with Community Forest Associations, local community groups, schools and government agencies, these nurseries produce indigenous tree species specifically selected to restore natural forest ecosystems. Beyond supplying seedlings, the nurseries provide employment opportunities, conservation skills and alternative livelihoods for forest-adjacent communities. Community members are actively involved in seed collection, propagation and nursery management, ensuring that restoration delivers both ecological and socio-economic benefits.

In the Aberdare ecosystem, restoration efforts continued to build on years of successful conservation interventions. As one of Kenya's most important water towers, the Aberdares play a critical role in supplying water to the Tana, Athi and Ewaso Nyiro river systems. Rhino Ark and its partners continued to support indigenous tree nurseries and restoration sites across the landscape, building on previous programmes that expanded nursery capacity to more than 80,000 indigenous seedlings while supporting bamboo propagation and the rehabilitation of degraded forest areas. In November 2025 alone, more than 40,000 additional seedlings were planted in sections of the Aberdare Forest as part of broader restoration initiatives. These efforts are helping to restore forest cover, protect water catchments and strengthen the long-term resilience of this vital ecosystem.

On the slopes of Mt Kenya, restoration efforts focused on supporting natural regeneration and recovering degraded forest sections. Working closely with Community Forest Associations and conservation partners, restoration programmes promoted indigenous tree planting while protecting recovering habitats from grazing, illegal harvesting and other threats. By combining habitat restoration with effective ecosystem protection, Mt Kenya continues to demonstrate how conservation interventions can strengthen biodiversity, enhance climate resilience and secure water resources for communities across central Kenya. The restoration of forest cover in this landscape not only benefits wildlife but also helps to safeguard one of the country's most important sources of freshwater.

Further west, the South Western Mau ecosystem continued its remarkable recovery journey. Once heavily impacted by illegal logging, charcoal burning and unsustainable land-use practices, the forest is increasingly showing signs of renewal. Alongside



Ndoinet community tree nursery.



Conservation education in action.



A farmer in Mau Eburu tends to a seedling.

strengthened protection efforts, tree nursery development and forest rehabilitation have become central components of conservation work in the region. Rhino Ark's model nursery in Ndoinet continues to supply high-quality indigenous seedlings for restoration activities while creating alternative livelihood opportunities for local communities. As pressures on the forest continue to decline, areas that were once degraded are experiencing natural regeneration, healthier vegetation cover and improved water sources. The combination of active restoration and community-led protection is helping to secure the future of one of Kenya's most important water towers.

In Mau Eburu, restoration efforts focused on strengthening ecosystem resilience and recovering indigenous vegetation within this unique forest landscape. Home to exceptional biodiversity, including habitat for the critically endangered mountain bongo, the ecosystem requires careful management and sustained restoration. Through community participation and ongoing nursery development, indigenous tree species are being propagated to support habitat recovery and improve forest connectivity. Local communities remain at the heart of these efforts, helping to ensure that restoration activities are sustained over the long term while fostering a culture of environmental stewardship.

Meanwhile, in western Kenya, rehabilitation efforts continued alongside the protection of Kakamega Forest, the country's only tropical rainforest. As the fencing project progresses, restoration initiatives are helping to recover degraded forest edges, strengthen habitat connectivity and support natural regeneration. Indigenous tree planting is contributing to the recovery of critical habitats that support Kakamega's extraordinary biodiversity, including numerous bird species, butterflies, primates and rare plant life. These efforts complement broader conservation interventions aimed at securing the future of one of East Africa's most important rainforest ecosystems.

At the heart of Rhino Ark's restoration programme is the active participation of local communities. Across all five ecosystems, community members are increasingly taking ownership of conservation activities through nursery management, tree-planting campaigns, site maintenance and environmental education initiatives. Community nursery attendants, restoration workers and tree caretakers are playing an increasingly important role in ensuring the success of rehabilitation efforts. Their involvement not only accelerates forest recovery but also creates employment opportunities and strengthens local support for conservation.

Ultimately, forest rehabilitation is about much more than planting trees. It is about restoring water catchments that support millions of people, securing habitats for wildlife, strengthening resilience to climate change and creating sustainable opportunities for communities that depend on healthy ecosystems. Every seed collected, every seedling raised and every hectare restored represents an investment in Kenya's environmental future.

As young forests begin to take shape across the Aberdares, Mt Kenya, South Western Mau, Mau Eburu and Kakamega, they stand as living evidence that conservation is not only about protecting what remains. It is also about rebuilding what has been lost. Through long-term commitment, strong partnerships and community-led action, Rhino Ark's restoration programme is helping to ensure that future generations inherit healthier forests, stronger ecosystems and a more sustainable future.

ENDANGERED WILDLIFE



BRINGING BACK THE GHOST OF THE FOREST

Advancing Mountain Bongo Conservation Across Kenya's Mountain Ecosystems

Deep within Kenya's mountain forests lives one of Africa's rarest and most elusive antelopes. Known as the 'Ghost of the Forest' for its ability to move silently through dense vegetation and disappear almost without a trace, the mountain bongo is a symbol of both the fragility of Kenya's natural heritage and the power of conservation to reverse decline.

With fewer than 100 individuals estimated to remain in the wild, the mountain bongo is one of the world's most endangered large mammals. Found only in Kenya, its survival depends entirely on the health and security of the country's mountain forests—ecosystems that Rhino Ark has worked tirelessly to protect for more than three decades. Between November 2025 and May 2026, significant progress was made in securing a future for this iconic species through habitat protection, scientific research, forest restoration, community engagement and enhanced surveillance across the Aberdares, Mt Kenya, Mau Eburu and other forest landscapes that support mountain bongo conservation.

The mountain bongo depends on dense, healthy montane forests rich in undergrowth, water sources and natural cover. Yet decades of habitat degradation, poaching, disease outbreaks and human encroachment pushed the species to the brink of extinction. Rhino Ark's conservation model recognises that saving the mountain bongo begins with protecting the forests it calls home. Through investments in electric fencing, ranger patrols, forest rehabilitation and community-led conservation, Rhino Ark and its partners are helping to create safer and more resilient habitats across Kenya's mountain ecosystems.

Today, Rhino Ark's conservation footprint protects more than 652,000 hectares of critical habitat and water catchments, including some of the last remaining strongholds for wild mountain bongos. These forests not only provide refuge for the species but also sustain biodiversity, safeguard water resources and support the livelihoods of millions of Kenyans.

The Aberdare ecosystem remains one of the most important sanctuaries for the mountain bongo. As part of the species' historic range, the Aberdares continue to provide vital breeding and foraging habitat for some of the remaining wild populations.



Georgina Goodwin (L) and Donna Sheppard at the Mountain Bongo release site.

Throughout the reporting period, conservation efforts focused on maintaining habitat integrity through ranger patrols, fence maintenance and forest restoration. The continued work of the Aberdare Joint Surveillance Unit helped deter illegal activities such as poaching, encroachment and habitat destruction, ensuring that one of the species' most important natural strongholds remains secure. The protection of the Aberdares is critical not only for the mountain bongo but also for the long-term health of one of Kenya's most important water towers.

Further east, Mt Kenya continued to play a central role in the national mountain bongo recovery effort. During the reporting period, a significant milestone was achieved through ongoing habitat suitability assessments in the Ragati–Chehe Forest landscape, one of the proposed release sites for mountain bongos. As part of the second bongo browse study conducted in the area, researchers identified an impressive 42 species of herbs, shrubs, grasses and sedges preferred by mountain bongos. The study surveyed one kilometre in each of the four cardinal directions from the centre of the proposed release site, providing valuable insights into the abundance and diversity of forage resources available within the landscape.

The findings confirmed what conservationists had hoped: the Ragati–Chehe Forest possesses many of the characteristics required to support a healthy mountain bongo population, including abundant food resources, suitable habitat conditions and strong potential for long-term survival. More than just a scientific achievement, the study represents an important step towards successful reintroduction and population recovery. It also highlights the importance of evidence-based conservation in guiding future management decisions. The research was made possible through the dedication of field teams working on the ground and the continued support of the Rhino Ark–Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo Mountain Forest Conservation Partnership, whose collaboration is helping to build the scientific foundation for mountain bongo recovery in Kenya.

Although smaller than the Aberdares and Mt Kenya, Mau Eburu plays an equally important role in mountain bongo conservation. The forest is one of the last remaining places where wild mountain bongos have historically persisted and is a critical refuge for the species. Rhino Ark's investments in electric fencing, habitat protection and community engagement have significantly strengthened the security of this unique ecosystem, reducing threats from illegal activities and habitat degradation. By maintaining the ecological integrity of Mau Eburu, conservation efforts are helping to preserve an important sanctuary for one of Kenya's rarest mammals while supporting broader biodiversity conservation goals.

A key lesson emerging from mountain bongo conservation is that species recovery cannot succeed without the active participation of local communities. Across Rhino Ark's landscapes, community members are playing an increasingly important role in protecting forests, reporting illegal activities, supporting restoration programmes and participating in conservation education initiatives. Community-led surveillance units, forest associations and local conservation champions are helping to create the conditions necessary for long-term recovery while strengthening the relationship between conservation and livelihoods. This collaborative approach is transforming former threats into conservation allies and ensuring that forest-adjacent communities become active partners in protecting the species and its habitat.

The story of the mountain bongo is one of both loss and hope. Once widespread across Kenya's mountain forests, the species suffered a dramatic decline over the past century. Today, however, coordinated conservation efforts are beginning to reverse that trend. Improved habitat protection, stronger forest security, scientific research, successful breeding programmes and ongoing preparations for future reintroductions are laying the foundation for recovery.

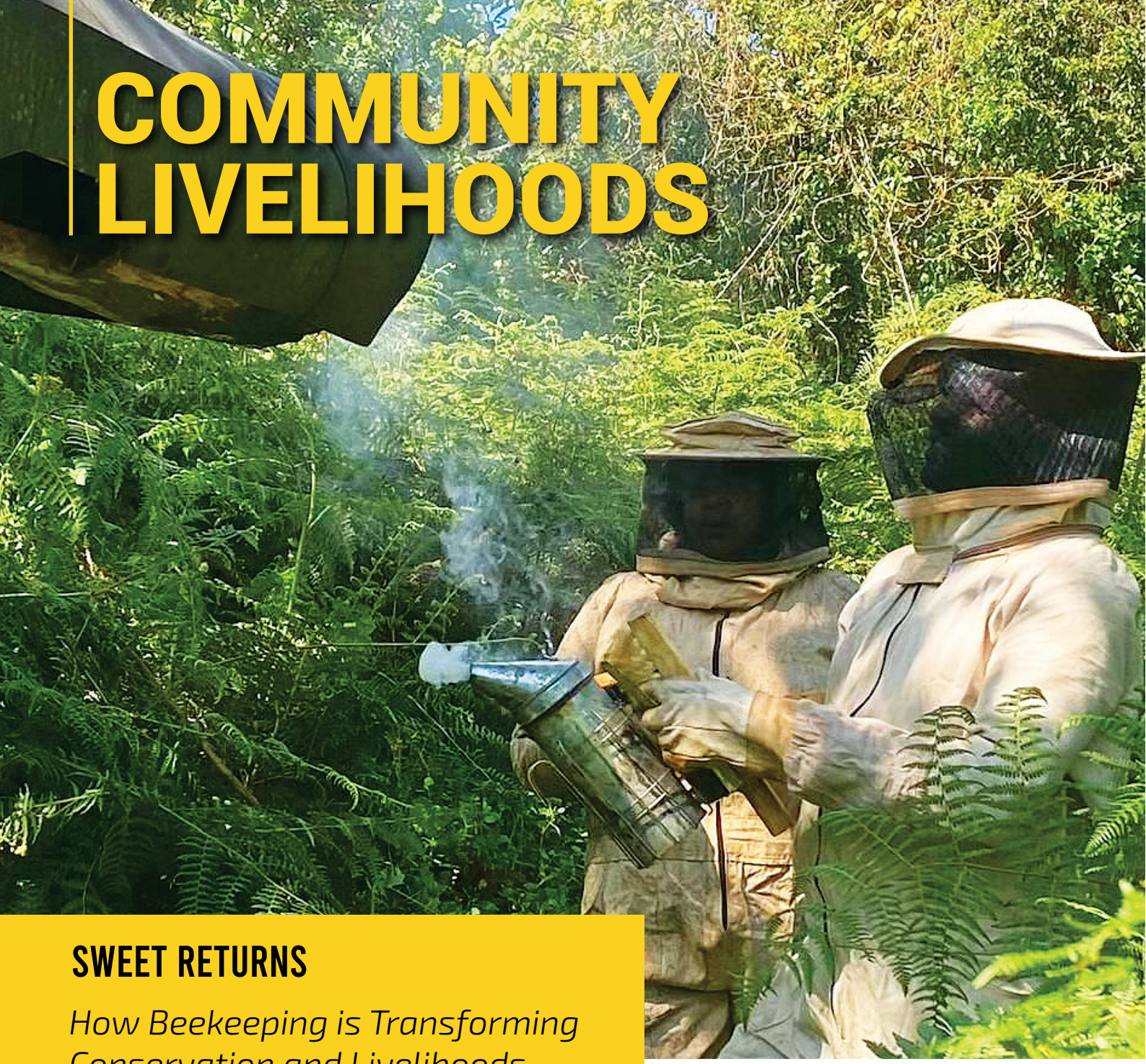
Between November 2025 and May 2026, every forest protected, every degraded habitat restored and every step taken towards reintroduction represented progress in securing the future of this iconic antelope. While significant challenges remain, the momentum for recovery continues to grow. With sustained collaboration between government agencies, conservation organisations, local communities and international partners, the 'Ghost of the Forest' may once again roam Kenya's mountain landscapes in healthy, thriving numbers.

For Rhino Ark, protecting the mountain bongo is about more than saving a species. It is about conserving the forests that sustain wildlife, secure water resources and support millions of people. By protecting the mountain bongo, we are safeguarding the future of Kenya's mountain ecosystems and preserving a living symbol of hope for generations to come.



Community scouts conducting research on Mountain Bongo foraging habitat.

COMMUNITY LIVELIHOODS



SWEET RETURNS

How Beekeeping is Transforming Conservation and Livelihoods

Across Kenya's mountain forests, the gentle hum of bees is becoming a powerful symbol of hope. From the mist-covered slopes of South Western Mau and Mau Eburu to the forest-edge communities surrounding the Aberdares, Mt Kenya and Kakamega Forest, beekeeping is demonstrating how conservation and livelihoods can flourish together.

Between November 2025 and May 2026, Rhino Ark continued to strengthen community-led beekeeping initiatives across its conservation landscapes, helping local communities generate sustainable incomes while supporting the protection of some of Kenya's most important ecosystems. What began as a livelihood intervention has evolved into a practical conservation tool, proving that when communities benefit directly from healthy forests, they become active partners in safeguarding them.

Kenya's mountain forests provide essential ecosystem services, including water provision, climate regulation, biodiversity conservation and natural resources that support millions of people. Yet many communities living adjacent to these forests face limited economic opportunities. Rhino Ark's community conservation approach seeks to address this challenge by promoting sustainable enterprises that rely on healthy ecosystems. Beekeeping has emerged as one of the most successful examples.

Unlike many livelihood activities, beekeeping depends on intact forests rich in indigenous vegetation and flowering plants. In return, bees contribute to pollination, supporting biodiversity and natural regeneration. This relationship creates a powerful incentive for communities to conserve the landscapes that sustain their livelihoods.

Nowhere has this become more evident than in South Western Mau, where community beekeeping continues to gain momentum. A major milestone during the reporting period



Beeswax being weighed for commercial use.

was the continued growth of the Ndoinet Beekeepers Farmers' Cooperative, which was officially registered following years of support from Rhino Ark and its partners. The cooperative has helped transform beekeeping from a small-scale activity into a viable commercial enterprise. Through training, exchange visits and technical support, members have strengthened their skills in hive management, honey harvesting, quality control and cooperative governance. As household incomes improve, communities are increasingly recognising the value of conserving the forest that supports honey production. The initiative complements broader conservation efforts in the ecosystem, including forest restoration, ranger patrols and community-led forest management.

A similar success story can be found in Mau Eburu, where the Eburu Beekeeping Cooperative continues to create economic opportunities while strengthening local support for conservation. Members have benefited from improved production techniques, market access and value-addition opportunities, enabling them to earn greater returns from their honey. For many households, beekeeping has evolved into an important source of income while contributing to the protection of a unique ecosystem that serves as a refuge for endangered wildlife, including the critically endangered mountain bongo. The achievements in Eburu have provided a model that is increasingly being replicated across other Rhino Ark landscapes.

Across the Aberdares, Mt Kenya and Kakamega Forest, growing interest in beekeeping is creating new opportunities for communities to participate in conservation-compatible enterprises. In the Aberdares, beekeeping supports local stewardship of one of Kenya's most important water towers while providing households with an alternative source of income. On the slopes of Mt Kenya, the enterprise is gaining popularity as communities recognise the value of forest-friendly livelihoods that complement ongoing restoration and conservation efforts. In Kakamega Forest, Kenya's only tropical rainforest, beekeeping also highlights the vital role of pollinators in maintaining the ecosystem's extraordinary biodiversity while offering communities a sustainable source of income.

The success of these initiatives demonstrates that conservation and development are not competing priorities but mutually reinforcing goals. Through cooperatives, training programmes and community partnerships, beekeeping is helping to strengthen local economies while encouraging responsible stewardship of natural resources.

Between November 2025 and May 2026, the impact of these efforts continued to grow. From the expanding Ndoinet Beekeepers Farmers' Cooperative and the thriving Eburu Beekeeping Cooperative to emerging opportunities in the Aberdares, Mt Kenya and Kakamega, communities are embracing an enterprise that delivers both economic and environmental benefits.

For Rhino Ark, the success of these programmes is measured not only by honey production but also by stronger community partnerships, improved livelihoods and healthier ecosystems. As more households embrace beekeeping, the humble honeybee is helping to tell a powerful conservation story — one in which economic opportunity, environmental stewardship and community resilience work hand in hand to secure the future of Kenya's mountain forests.



Community beekeeping training in the forest.



NATURE'S HIDDEN TREASURES

Ecotourism Driving Conservation and Community Prosperity

Across Kenya's mountain forests, conservation is creating opportunities that extend beyond protecting wildlife and safeguarding water resources. From the Aberdares and Mt Kenya to South Western Mau, Mau Eburu and Kakamega Forest, Rhino Ark's conservation investments are helping to unlock the ecotourism potential of some of the country's most remarkable natural landscapes.

For decades, Rhino Ark has protected Kenya's critical water towers through conservation fencing, habitat restoration, ranger patrols and community engagement. These efforts have strengthened ecosystem health while creating favourable conditions for sustainable tourism, demonstrating how conservation can generate lasting benefits for local communities.

Healthy ecosystems are the foundation of ecotourism. Visitors are drawn to pristine forests, spectacular scenery, unique wildlife and authentic cultural experiences. As conservation efforts continue to improve the health and security of these landscapes, they are increasingly attracting hikers, birdwatchers, researchers and nature enthusiasts.

The Aberdare ecosystem remains one of Kenya's most impressive wilderness destinations, known for its waterfalls, moorlands, forests and diverse wildlife. Conservation efforts have helped preserve the area's ecological integrity, creating opportunities for local communities through guiding services, hospitality businesses and the sale of local products.

Similarly, Mt Kenya continues to attract visitors from around the world. As Africa's second-highest mountain, it offers exceptional opportunities for hiking, wildlife viewing and environmental education. Community-based tourism initiatives are enabling visitors to engage with local culture while creating additional income streams for surrounding communities.

In South Western Mau, the recovery of a once-degraded forest is opening up new possibilities for nature-based tourism. Improved forest health, cleaner water sources and increasing biodiversity are attracting researchers, birdwatchers and visitors interested in conservation success stories. The ecosystem's transformation demonstrates the positive impact of collaborative conservation efforts.

Mau Eburu is emerging as a destination for low-impact ecotourism, thanks to its unique biodiversity and its importance as a refuge for endangered species such as the mountain bongo. Nature walks, environmental education programmes and community-led tourism activities are helping to generate income while encouraging the continued conservation of the ecosystem.

Meanwhile, Kakamega Forest, Kenya's only tropical rainforest, offers visitors a unique biodiversity experience. Renowned for its rich birdlife, butterflies, rare plants and primates, the forest supports tourism activities that provide economic opportunities for local communities while promoting conservation awareness.

Across all of Rhino Ark landscapes, communities are increasingly benefiting from conservation-linked tourism through guiding services, accommodation facilities, transport services, handicrafts and cultural experiences. As people experience the economic value of healthy forests and thriving wildlife, support for conservation continues to grow.

This creates a positive cycle in which protected ecosystems attract visitors, tourism generates income and communities become stronger champions of conservation. Between November 2025 and May 2026, Rhino Ark's landscapes demonstrated that healthy forests are not only essential for biodiversity and water security but are also powerful drivers of sustainable development.

By protecting nature and supporting community participation, Rhino Ark is helping to create a future in which thriving ecosystems, sustainable livelihoods and meaningful tourism experiences go hand in hand. Across Kenya's mountain forests, ecotourism is proving that conservation can benefit both people and nature, ensuring these landscapes remain valuable for generations to come.





RIDING FOR CONSERVATION

How Boda Boda Champions Are Driving Change Across Rhino Ark Landscapes

Across Kenya's forest-edge communities, boda boda riders play an essential role in daily life, connecting people to markets, schools, health facilities and remote villages. Increasingly, they are also becoming champions of conservation.

Through Rhino Ark's Boda Boda Conservation Champions Programme, motorcycle operators are being empowered to promote environmental stewardship, community leadership and road safety across the organisation's conservation landscapes. Between November 2025 and May 2026, the initiative continued to strengthen its presence in the Aberdare and Mau Eburu ecosystems, demonstrating the important role local communities can play in protecting Kenya's forests and water towers.

The programme forms part of Rhino Ark's broader Community Conservation Champions Initiative, which seeks to identify and empower influential community members who can help drive positive environmental change. Boda boda riders are particularly well suited to this role. Their daily work takes them through villages, farms and forest-adjacent areas, giving them a unique understanding of local challenges and opportunities. Their extensive networks and regular interactions with community members also make them effective ambassadors for conservation awareness.

The initiative was first piloted in the Mau Eburu ecosystem, where motorcycle operators were identified as an influential group capable of supporting conservation efforts. Through partnerships between Rhino Ark, the Kenya Wildlife Service, the Kenya Forest Service and the National Transport and Safety Authority, riders received training in environmental conservation, community leadership, waste management and road safety. Participants were also provided with safety gear, including certified helmets and reflective jackets, helping to improve both their professional standards and their role as community role models.

Building on the success of the pilot phase, the programme expanded into other Rhino Ark landscapes. In the Aberdare ecosystem, dozens of boda boda riders were trained and certified as conservation champions, equipping them with the knowledge and skills needed to advocate for environmental protection within their communities. Many operate along forest access roads and community routes, providing valuable opportunities to share conservation messages and encourage the responsible use of natural resources.

Across these Rhino Ark landscapes, the programme is helping to strengthen local support for conservation by engaging community members who are already trusted and respected. Riders are raising awareness about forest protection, responsible waste disposal, and sustainable resource management while supporting broader conservation initiatives within their areas.

The programme also delivers important social benefits. By integrating road safety education into conservation training, it helps address challenges faced by one of Kenya's most vulnerable groups of road users. Participants become advocates not only for environmental conservation but also for safer and more responsible riding practices.

As Rhino Ark continues to protect Kenya's critical water towers and forest ecosystems, community participation remains central to its long-term success. The Boda Boda Conservation Champions Programme demonstrates that conservation is not only about protecting forests and wildlife; it is also about empowering people to become active custodians of the environment.

From the Aberdares to Mau Eburu, boda boda riders are helping to carry the conservation message into communities every day. Through their influence, leadership and commitment, they are proving that even the smallest daily journeys can contribute to a more sustainable future for Kenya's forests and the people who depend on them.

GROWING TOMORROW'S CONSERVATION LEADERS

Nature Conservation Clubs Inspire a New Generation



A member of the Nature Conservation Clubs potting seedlings.

Across Kenya's mountain forests, a new generation of conservation champions is emerging—not from ranger patrols or research stations, but from classrooms. Between November 2025 and May 2026, Nature Conservation Clubs continued to play a vital role in Rhino Ark's conservation programme, helping young people develop a deeper appreciation for the forests, wildlife, and water resources that sustain their communities.

Operating across the Aberdare, Mt. Kenya, South Western Mau, Mau Eburu, and Kakamega Forest ecosystems, the clubs are nurturing environmental awareness, leadership, and stewardship among students living alongside some of Kenya's most important conservation landscapes. Through hands-on activities such as tree planting, environmental education, biodiversity awareness, and community outreach, learners are gaining the knowledge and skills needed to become future custodians of the country's natural heritage.

Rhino Ark recognises that long-term conservation success depends not only on protecting forests today but also on inspiring future generations to value and safeguard them. Nature Conservation Clubs provide an effective platform for achieving this goal by connecting classroom learning with practical conservation action.

One of the key milestones during the reporting period was the continued expansion of conservation clubs within the Mt. Kenya ecosystem. Eight new Wildlife Nature Conservation Clubs were established in secondary schools around the Ragati–Chehe landscape, bringing the total number of active clubs in the area to 23. Beyond environmental education, the programme is demonstrating how conservation can generate tangible benefits for schools and communities.

Through the Nature Conservation Clubs Programme, schools along the forest edge are raising indigenous and selected exotic tree seedlings in school nurseries. The sale of these seedlings supports school development projects while contributing to forest restoration efforts. During a monitoring visit to Kabiruini Girls' School, Rhino Ark teams recorded 3,320 healthy potted seedlings thriving in the school nursery. The initiative is equipping students with practical skills in nursery management, entrepreneurship, and environmental responsibility while strengthening their connection to conservation.

Across the Aberdare ecosystem, schools continued to support broader conservation efforts through tree-planting campaigns, environmental awareness activities, and community outreach programmes. In South Western Mau, conservation education is helping students understand the importance of forest restoration, water catchment protection and sustainable natural resource management, complementing the wider recovery efforts taking place across the forest landscape.

In Mau Eburu, conservation education was further strengthened through the development of a Pocket Guidebook to the Common Birds of Eburu Forest, compiled by Community Conservation Champions with support from Rhino Ark and the Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo. Distributed through Nature Conservation Clubs in schools surrounding the forest, the guidebook introduces students to the rich birdlife of Eburu and promotes a deeper understanding of local biodiversity. Similar learning opportunities are also being created in Kakamega Forest, where students are exploring the unique flora and fauna of Kenya's only tropical rainforest through nature-based learning activities.

Beyond environmental knowledge, the clubs foster leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills. Students are encouraged to identify environmental challenges within their schools and communities and to take action to address them. Many go on to become ambassadors for conservation within their families and neighbourhoods, helping to spread environmental awareness beyond the classroom.

As Rhino Ark continues to protect Kenya's forests through fencing, restoration, ranger patrols, and community engagement, conservation education remains a critical investment in the future. By inspiring young people to value and protect the natural world, Nature Conservation Clubs are helping to cultivate the next generation of conservation leaders who will carry forward the responsibility of safeguarding Kenya's forests for years to come.



Members of the Nature Conservation clubs tending to their tree nursery.

TESTIMONIALS



"For thirty-eight years, Rhino Ark has demonstrated the extraordinary impact that can be achieved when conservation is driven by partnership, commitment, and innovation. What began as a bold effort to protect the Aberdare ecosystem has grown into a national conservation movement, safeguarding Kenya's most critical water towers through more than 853 kilometres of electric fencing and the restoration of vital forest landscapes. The success of Rhino Ark stands as a testament to the power of collective action, ensuring that our natural heritage continues to support livelihoods, economic growth, and the well-being of future generations."

— H. E. Dr. William Samoei Ruto, C.G.H., President of the Republic of Kenya and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces.

"Our partnership with Rhino Ark has had a profound impact on our school community. Through the integration of the Conservation Education Curriculum into our learning programme, our students are gaining valuable knowledge, skills, and a deep appreciation for environmental stewardship. This initiative is nurturing a new generation of conservation champions committed to protecting our natural heritage for the benefit of future generations."

— Dennis Rotich, Deputy Principal, Kipkoris Girls Secondary School





"This forum has been a real eye-opener for both me and our Community Forest Association. It has highlighted the need to involve more young people in our conservation efforts and to plan for the future of our CFA. I also valued the opportunity to connect with other conservation partners, share our concerns, and learn that we are not alone in this work. I am grateful to Rhino Ark for creating such an important platform for collaboration and learning."

— Samuel Murindany, Chairman, Ndoinet Community Forest Association

SITES TO BEHOLD:

RHINO ARK FENCE LINES



Aberdare fence line in Maragua.



Aberdare fence line in Mathioya.



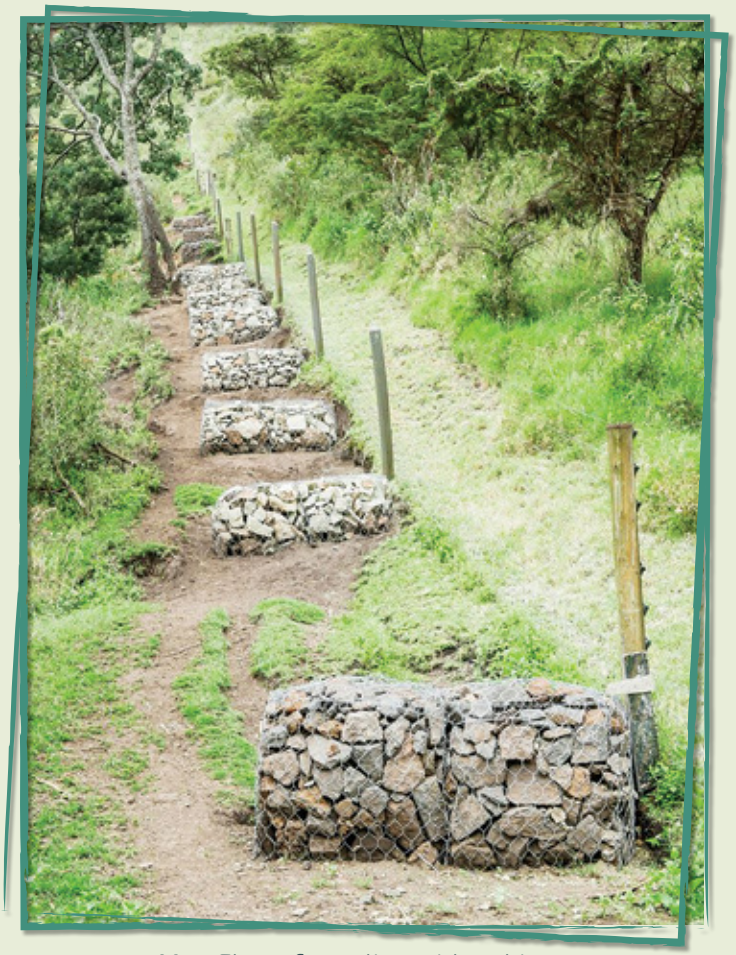
Kakamega fence line in Khwisero.



Kakamega fence line in Lurambi.



Mau Eburu fence line in Songoloi.



Mau Eburu fence line with gabions.



Mt. Kenya fence line at Castle.

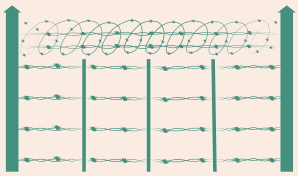


Mt. Kenya fence line.



South Western Mau fence line.

OUR ACHIEVEMENT



853 KILOMETRES

Of electric fences built and maintained to date (Aberdare – 412 km; Mt. Kenya – 316 km; Kakamega – 50 km; South Western Mau – 32 km; Mau Eburu – 43 km)



220 FENCE ATTENDANTS

Maintaining Rhino Ark electric fences around the clock



21 VEHICLES

Supporting Rhino Ark conservation work



90,000 HOUSEHOLDS

Protected from human-wildlife conflict



184 SCHOOLS

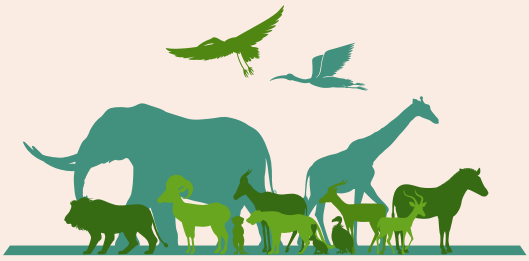
Providing conservation education

652,000 HECTARES

Of protected areas and water catchments better conserved

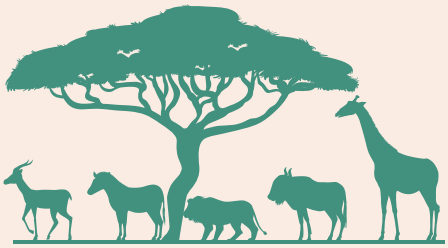
6 FOREST REHABILITATION PROJECTS

On going



15 THREATENED SPECIES

(Mammals and birds) better protected



2 CORRIDORS

Established for wildlife

KES 88,000,230 ($ 682,172.35)

Total funds raised in aid of Rhino Charge host communities' projects.

KES 3,085,000,000 ($ 23,914,728)

Total sponsorship raised by Rhino Charge teams in aid of Rhino Ark's conservation projects.

CHARGER'S CORNER



CAR 47: PEARLS, PASSION AND A LEGACY THAT ENDURES

In the rugged world of the Rhino Charge, where vehicles battle unforgiving terrain, mechanical breakdowns lurk around every corner, and competitors push themselves to their limits, one team has become impossible to miss. Not because of speed or spectacle alone, but because of a simple accessory that has become their trademark: pearls.

For more than three decades, Car 47, affectionately known as the Wacus Girls in Pearls, has been one of the most recognisable and beloved teams in the Rhino Charge. Their story is not merely about conquering checkpoints or navigating seemingly impossible landscapes. It is a story of family, tradition, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to conservation.

At the heart of their journey is a remarkable machine: a 1956 Land Rover Series I named Wacus. Now approaching its 70th birthday, it continues to tackle one of the toughest off-road events in the world. Even more extraordinary is the fact that the vehicle remains largely true to its original design and engineering. While many competitors rely on heavily modified machines built specifically for extreme terrain, Wacus represents a different philosophy: preserving history while proving that determination and ingenuity can overcome even the greatest obstacles.

The team's Rhino Charge story began in 1989 when the family first entered the competition. What started as an adventurous challenge soon evolved into a lifelong commitment to a cause far greater than motorsport. Year after year, the family rallied support, raised funds, and championed the work of Rhino Ark, helping to protect Kenya's mountain forests, wildlife habitats, and critical water tower ecosystems.



Car 47 navigates the rugged terrain during the Rhino Charge.

Over the decades, they have witnessed the Rhino Charge grow from a small conservation fundraiser into one of Kenya's most successful environmental events. Through it all, Car 47 has remained a constant presence, earning admiration for its longevity, sportsmanship, and infectious enthusiasm.

Today, the legacy continues through a new generation determined to carry the torch forward. The Wacus Girls in Pearls have embraced the responsibility of preserving not only a family



Teresa Sapieha receives the Spirit of the Charge Award.

tradition but also the conservation values that have defined the team since its inception.

Their presence on the course is impossible to ignore. Adorned with pearls and wide smiles, they bring a distinctive touch of glamour to one of the most demanding motorsport events on the continent. Yet beneath the elegance lies extraordinary grit. Competing in the unmodified vehicle category requires patience, skill, and perseverance. Every rocky incline, muddy crossing, and steep ravine presents a challenge that must be overcome without the advantage of extensive vehicle modifications.

It is this unique combination of grace and determination that has earned the team a special place within the Rhino Charge community. Fellow competitors, volunteers, and spectators know them not only for their signature pearls but also for their willingness to lend a helping hand. Whether assisting another team through difficult terrain or offering encouragement at a challenging checkpoint, the Girls in Pearls embody the spirit of camaraderie that makes the Rhino Charge so much more than a competition.



Team Wacus takes on the challenge at the Rhino Charge.

Their crowning achievement came in 2012, when *Wacus* carried them to victory, proving that experience, teamwork, and resilience could triumph against seemingly impossible odds. It was a moment that cemented their place in Rhino Charge history and demonstrated that an unassuming vintage Land Rover could still compete with the best.

Yet, ask any member of Car 47 what matters most, and the answer is unlikely to be trophies or rankings. For them, the true reward lies in supporting conservation. Every kilometre travelled, every fundraiser organised, and every Rhino Charge completed contributes to the protection of Kenya's natural heritage.

The forests safeguarded through Rhino Ark's work provide water for millions of people, support biodiversity, and serve as critical habitats for endangered species. By participating in the Rhino Charge, the Girls in Pearls are helping to ensure that these landscapes remain protected for future generations.

As Wacus continues its remarkable journey into its seventh decade, it stands as a symbol of endurance, heritage, and purpose. The vehicle has become more than a Land Rover; it is a living piece of Rhino Charge history. Likewise, the team has become more than competitors; they are ambassadors for conservation, proving that commitment can span generations.



The Girls in Pearls in action at the gauntlet.

In an event filled with extraordinary stories, Car 47 remains one of the most inspiring. Their blend of heritage, humour, glamour, and determination reminds us that conservation is not just about protecting landscapes and wildlife. It is about people, families, and communities coming together around a shared purpose.

For more than 35 years, the Wacus Girls in Pearls have shown that true success is measured not only by where you finish on the leaderboard but also by the difference you make along the way. And with a string of pearls, a legendary Land Rover, and a passion for conservation, they continue to blaze a trail unlike any other in the Rhino Charge.

ABOUT THE RHINO CHARGE

The Rhino Charge is an annual off-road 4×4 competition held in Kenya in which competitors are required to visit 13 guard posts scattered across approximately 100 km² of rough terrain within a 10-hour period. Entrants are supplied with a 1:50,000 scale map of the venue, coordinates of the 13 guard posts and their start position the night before the event. Each competitor must plot the guard posts on the map and decide their route. The winner is the competitor who visits the most guard posts while travelling the shortest distance, as measured by GPS.

The event is organised in order to raise funds to support the activities of the Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust, a charitable conservation organisation that works to conserve and protect Kenya's mountain ecosystems, commonly known as the country's "water towers."

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE RHINO CHARGE

ATTEND AS A SPECTATOR

Attending the Rhino Charge as a spectator is one of the best ways to support the event while experiencing all the excitement firsthand.

SPONSOR A CAR OR THE RHINO CHARGE EVENT

The Rhino Charge offers exceptional branding and public relations (PR) opportunities and provides a unique way to support Rhino Ark's conservation efforts.

HELP OUT AT THE EVENT

If you are interested in volunteering at the Rhino Charge, please get in touch with us at info@rhinocharge.or.ke.

ENTER A TEAM OR JOIN AN EXISTING TEAM

Spaces are limited, and competition is fierce, but once a Charger, always a Charger! If you are interested in getting involved, please contact us at info@rhinocharge.or.ke.

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For lots of news and information about the Rhino Charge follow us:
@Rhino.Charge
@Rhino_Charge
@RhinoChargeKenya
@Rhino.Charge
@rhinocharge4x4

www.rhinocharge.co.ke

HOW TO SPONSOR A TEAM

MPESA

MPESA payments must be carried out in the following way:
- Lipa na M-Pesa
- Pay Bill
- Enter business no. 855995
- Account No. (Car no. being sponsored e.g.CAR01)
- Enter amount

BANK TRANSFER

If you wish to make a donation by direct transfer to Rhino Ark's bank account, kindly contact us on:
Email: info@rhinoark.or.ke.
Please include the relevant car number you are making payment for in the transfer reference.

CHEQUE

Please ensure that all cheques are made payable to:
RHINO ARK KENYA CHARITABLE TRUST
When delivering a cheque to Rhino Ark, please ensure that the relevant car number is clearly stated on the envelope.

ONLINE GIVING

Many of the teams have created online giving pages. Please visit our website to view the participating teams and make your donation.

2026 RHINO CHARGE ENTRANTS



TOP 10 RHINO CHARGE FUNDRAISERS



Over 693 million shillings
Adil Khawaja's AK44 Team
(2005-2026) Car 44



Over 231 million shillings
Peter Kinyua's Team
(2000-2026) Car 23



Over 200 million shillings
Graham McKittrick's Team
(1989-2026) Car 5



Over 122 million Kenya Shillings
Martin Kinyanjui's Magnate Chargers Team
(2007-2026) Car 62



Over 99 million shillings
Robin Tilbury's Hog Charge Team
(1999-2026) Car 35



Over 76 million shillings
Tim Carstens' Aussie Rules Team
(2013-2026) Car 63



Over 61 million shillings
The Avery's Bundufundi's Team
(1996-2026) Car 38



Over 59 million shillings
Mark Glen's Team 48 Team
(2005-2026) Car 48



Over 49 million shillings
Eddy Verbeek's Rhino Charge Car No 1
(2000-2026) Car 1



Over 45 million shillings
Peter Bonde-Nielsen's Team 64
(2006-2026) Car 64

THANK YOU!

- **KWS** - Rhino Ark Offices and support towards the maintenance of the fences in the Aberdare and Mt. Kenya
- **KFS** - Support towards the maintenance of the Eburu Electric Fence
- **IDH-ISLA & Finlays** - Support towards the fencing of South Western Mau
- **Kenya Tea Development Agency** - Support towards the fencing of South Western Mau
- **Browns Plantations (Kenya and East Africa)** - Support towards the fencing of South Western Mau
- **Wyss Academy** - Support towards the fencing of Mt. Kenya, and the development and construction of a virtual elephant grid prototype
- **Aviva (UK)** - Support towards forest restoration in Gathiuru Forest Station
- **European Union Via WWF** - Support towards the conservation of the southern part of the Mau Forests Complex
- **Wilder Institute / Calgary Zoo** - Support to forest conservation / community livelihoods in Eburu Forest
- **Wilder Institute / Calgary Zoo** - Support to forest conservation / community livelihoods / bongo recovery in Ragati Forest, Mt.Kenya
- **Rare Species Conservatory Foundation** - Support to the conservation of the mountain bongo
- **AutoXpress** - Provision of tyres for all Rhino Ark vehicles
- **MPESA Foundation** - Support for the maintenance of Eburu Electric Fence
- **MPESA Foundation** - Support for the construction of the Kakamega Electric Fence
- **Platinum Credit & Platcorp Foundation** – support the Community Conservation Champions programme in Kakamega and South Western Mau
- **County Government of Kakamega** - Support towards the maintenance of the Kakamega fence
- **County Government of Vihiga** - Support towards the maintenance of the Kakamega fence
- **London Marathon** - Rainwater harvesting systems across selected schools within Rhino Ark's conservation education programme
- **Kitchen Table Trust** - Support rainwater harvesting systems in 4 schools in the Aberdares
- **Big Give Green Match Fund** - Supporting activities in the Mount Kenya ecosystem, including school-based improvements such as water systems, sanitation, and fence-related infrastructure
- **Asilia Africa** – Supporting conservation education is South Western Mau and Kakamega
- **SWIRE Group** - Support towards the fencing of South Western Mau

Our Contacts

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Email: info@rhinoark.or.ke
Website: www.rhinoark.org/www.rhinocharge.co.ke

Rhino Ark UK Charity No. 1047083

Acorn Wood, Swan Lane,
Edenbridge, Kent TN8 6AH
Tel: +44 (780) 224 5865
Email: kit@rhinoark.org
Website: www.rhinoark.org
Website Donations: justgiving.com/charity/rhinoark

Rhino Ark US

A registered US Charity with IRC 501 (c) 3 Status
Ms. Sheena Bliss
P.O. Box 46250 Madison, WI 53744-6250
Tel: +1 608-576-0571, Fax: +1 608 4425 264
Email: sheenab230@gmail.com
Website: www.wildlifedefenseusa.org

Website Donations:

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

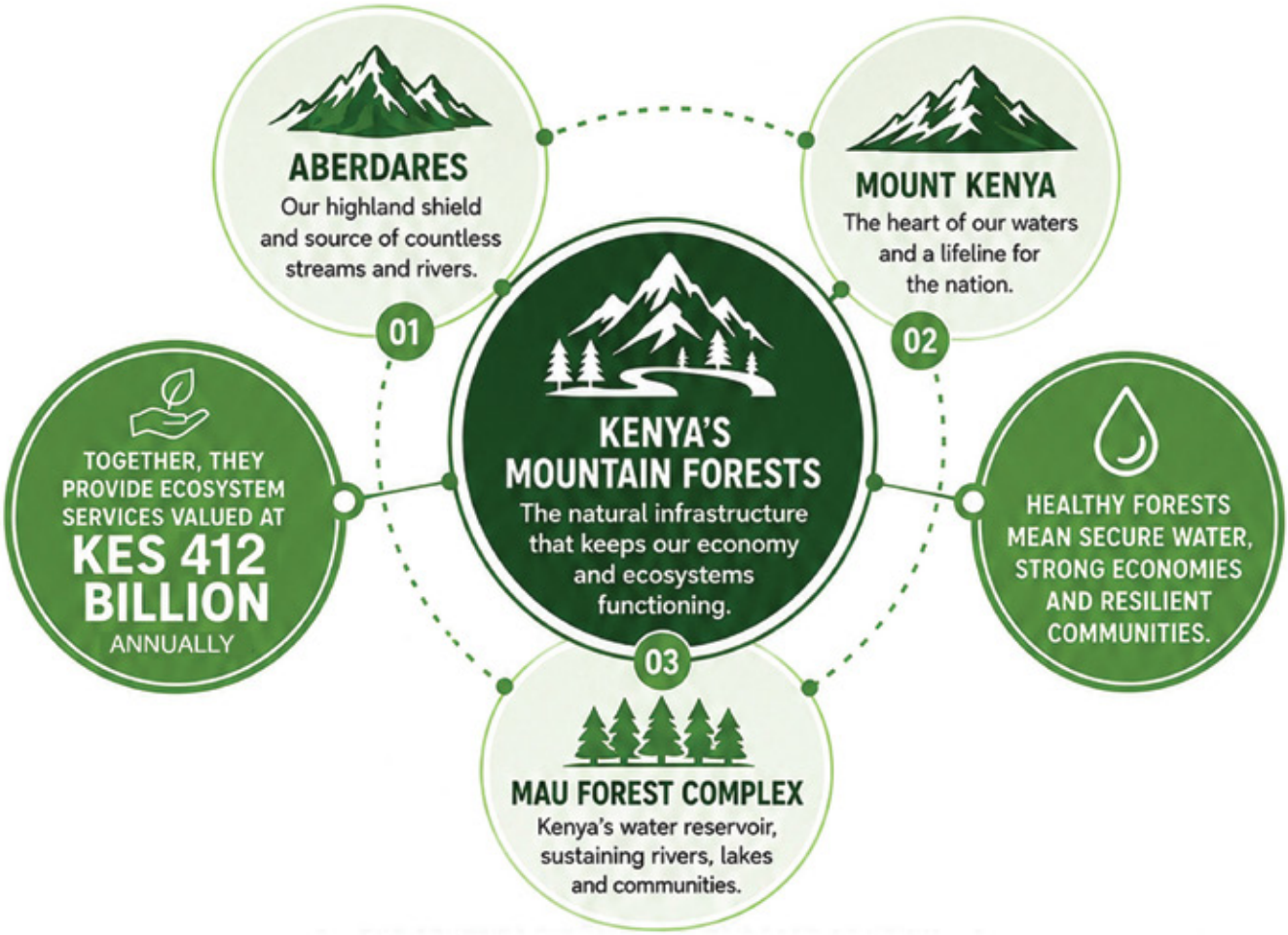
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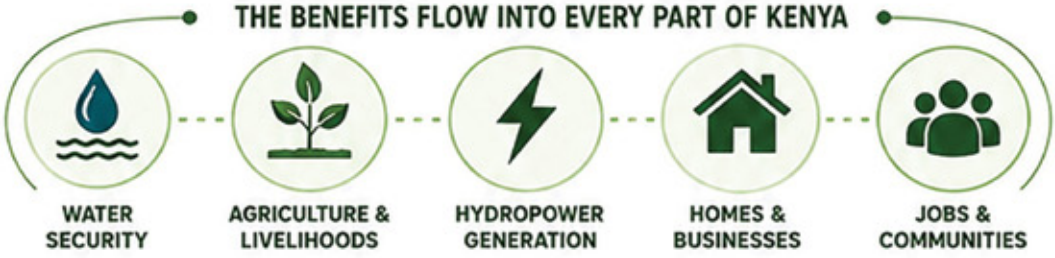
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websites: www.rhinoark.org/
www.rhinocharge.co.ke

Order your copy of:

- Environmental, social and economic assessment of the fencing of the Aberdare Conservation Area. Available for KES 3,000 only.
- Rhino Ark Profile.
- Rhino Charge 2026 calendar. Available at KES 1,100 only.
- Mau Eburu Guidebook. Available at KES 1,500 only.

KENYA'S WATER TOWERS





RHINO ARK

Kenya's mountain forests are our water towers, supplying the water that flows in our rivers, supports agriculture, generates hydropower, and reaches millions of homes and businesses every day.