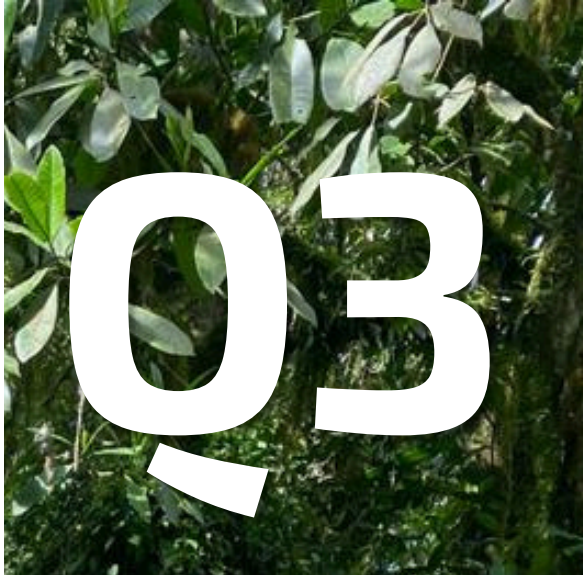
RHINO ARK

NEWSLETTER 2026

Protecting Forests, Protecting Kenya





CONSERVATION IN ACTION

A look at the work, people and partnerships driving conservation across Kenya's critical ecosystems in Q3 2026.

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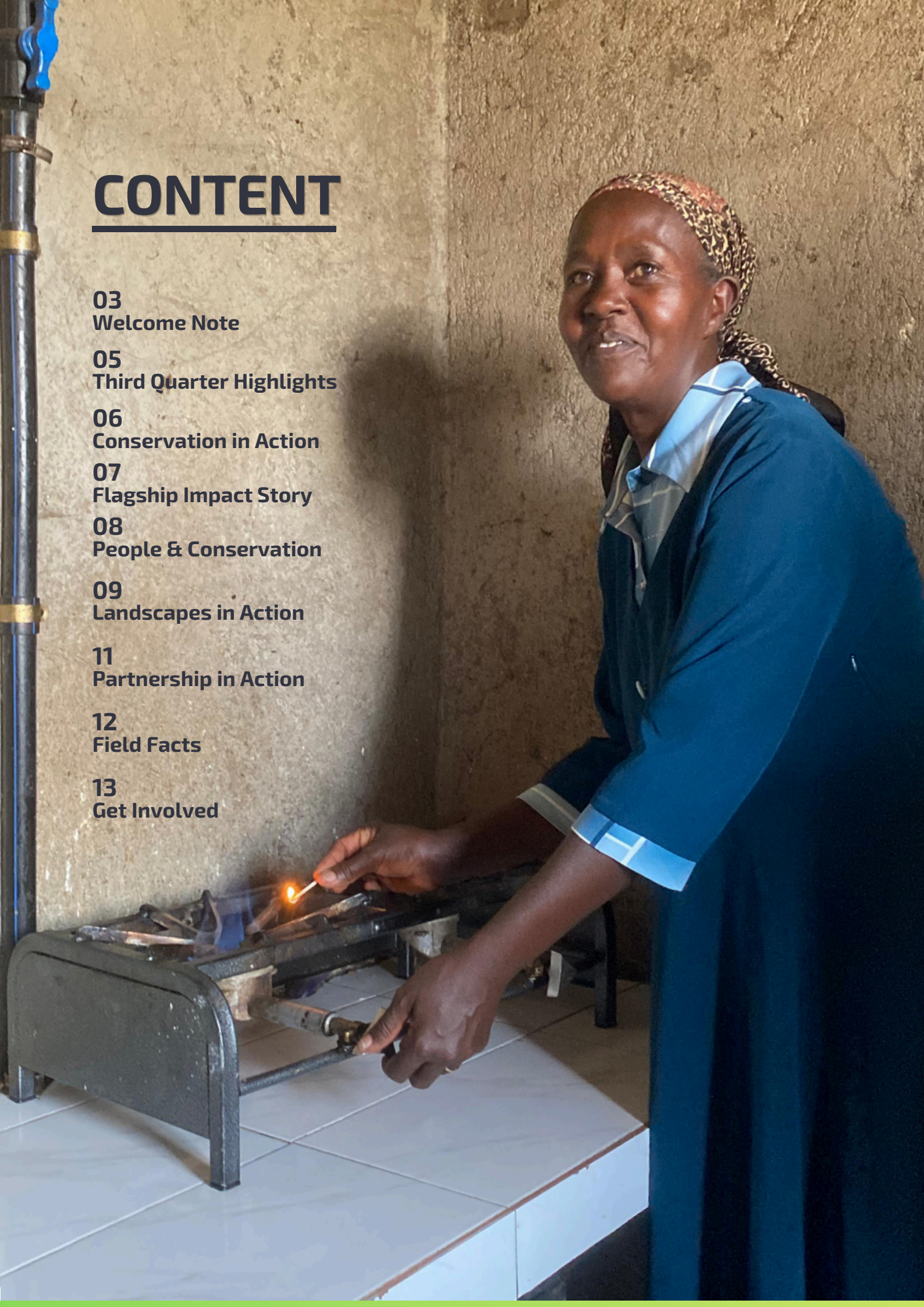
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WELCOME NOTE

During the third quarter, Rhino Ark continued its work across Kenya's vital water towers, from forest restoration and fence maintenance to conservation education and community-led initiatives.

At Sofia in the Aberdares, restoration combined indigenous tree planting with continued aftercare and survival monitoring. In Eburu, teams maintained conservation fencing, conducted joint forest patrols and engaged school learners. In South Western Mau, Community Conservation Champions supported local conservation activities, while four biogas units were installed.

These activities reflect the different kinds of work needed to protect forests and the people and wildlife that depend on them. Planting is only the beginning of restoration. Fences need regular inspection and repair, while community participation depends on continued engagement, skills and opportunities to contribute.



Thank you to the communities, public institutions, conservation partners, donors and businesses whose contributions help sustain this work.

As we enter the final quarter of the year, our focus remains on protecting forest landscapes, caring for restoration sites, maintaining conservation infrastructure and building on the partnerships that support this work.



RHINO ARK

OUR VISION

To restore and maintain harmony between humans, habitats and wildlife in Kenya.



OUR MISSION

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

THIRD QUARTER HIGHLIGHTS



WHY FORESTS MATTER

Kenya's forests and water catchments support biodiversity, regulate water systems and sustain communities and livelihoods. Protecting them requires more than maintaining forest boundaries.

Rhino Ark brings together forest restoration, conservation fencing, surveillance, community engagement, education and livelihood initiatives to protect the landscapes on which people and wildlife depend.

CONSERVATION IN ACTION

PROTECT: Joint patrols in Eburu and South Western Mau dismantled snares and removed illegal structures alongside government forest and wildlife teams. In Eburu, 15 camera traps remained active, with two weeks of inspections and data collection completed in August.

RESTORE: At Korabariet in South Western Mau, daily monitoring continued alongside maintenance following wildlife damage to the micro-fence and seedlings.

At Sofia in the Aberdares, teams continued monitoring, weeding, gap-filling and nursery care.

REDUCE CONFLICT: Conservation fence maintenance continued in Eburu and the wider Aberdare landscape. At Eburu, teams repaired 144 metres of fencing in July and a further 202 metres in August.



In South Western Mau, fence monitoring and preventive work continued, including a seven-metre extension at Timbili River.

EMPOWER: Community Forest Associations (CFAs) received support in governance, finance, procurement, forest management and user rights. In Soknot, all five CFAs filed their annual returns by the 15 July deadline. Ecosystem assessments in South Western Mau helped identify governance needs and guide more targeted support.



INSPIRE: Conservation education continued through schools, wildlife clubs and community outreach. In July, 38 pupils and two teachers from Ndabibi Main Primary School Wildlife Club visited Eburu Forest. In August, bird lessons and conservation activities reached 117 learners across three Eburu schools.

SUSTAIN: Eburu's honey enterprise processed 109.55 kg of raw honey in August, with 69.50 kg of pure honey sold to the public.

In South Western Mau, tree nursery activities continued, and four biogas units were installed following a July baseline study covering 34 sites: 15 installation sites and 19 control sites.



Long-term conservation depends on sustained forest protection, education, viable livelihoods and strong community governance.



FLAGSHIP IMPACT STORY

FROM SEEDLINGS TO FOREST

SOFIA, GETA FOREST STATION | ABERDARES

THE CHALLENGE

The 65-hectare Sofia rehabilitation site in the Aberdares was a degraded forest block requiring sustained restoration to support the recovery of vegetation and habitat.

THE WORK

Restoration goes beyond planting. It includes regular monitoring, weeding, gap-filling, protection and replacing seedlings that do not survive.

The Sofia site spans two paddocks, illustrating the ongoing care needed to help indigenous trees survive and establish.

EVIDENCE OF CHANGE

- 65 hectares under rehabilitation across two paddocks.
- 71,900 indigenous seedlings planted cumulatively.
- 91.5% reported survival rate, subject to confirmation of the monitoring basis.
- 9,700 seedlings planted through gap-filling in August.
- 97,600 seedlings held in the nursery, with more than 50,000 reported ready for future planting.

WHY IT MATTERS

Seedling survival reflects the importance of sustained aftercare. Through monitoring, weeding and replacing losses, the Sofia team is helping support the recovery of forest habitat, biodiversity and vital water-catchment functions.

RESTORATION IS MORE THAN PLANTING

The field team continued root pruning, weeding, watering, seed collection and pest management, alongside nursery care and record keeping. This work keeps seedlings healthy and ready for future planting.

FIELD LESSON:

Restoration requires continued attention after planting. Monitoring, aftercare and replacement help improve the prospects of seedlings surviving and establishing.



PEOPLE & CONSERVATION

FROM CLASSROOM TO THE FOREST

NDABIBI WILDLIFE CLUB | EBURU

In July, 38 pupils and two teachers from Ndabibi Main Primary School Wildlife Club visited Eburu Forest for a guided walk and briefing on the forest, conservation fence and wildlife corridor.

The visit built on the club's May 2026 forest restoration activity, which used seedlings supplied by Eburu Rafiki courtesy of Rhino Ark. It connected the pupils' school-based work with the wider forest ecosystem they were learning to protect.

Why It Matters: Conservation education becomes more meaningful when young people can connect what they do at school with the wider landscape around them.

Image: Ndabibi Main Primary School Wildlife Club pupils walking through Eburu Forest with a guide.
Caption: Members of the Ndabibi Main Primary School Wildlife Club experience Eburu Forest firsthand during their July visit, connecting classroom learning with conservation on the ground.

CONSERVATION CHAMPIONS

SOUTH WESTERN MAU

Community Conservation Champions received training in July covering:

- Tree nursery management.
- Forest protection and basic firefighting.
- Conflict resolution.
- CFA user rights.
- Waste management.
- Energy-saving alternatives.
- Climate change.
- Rhino Ark's safeguarding and human-rights policy.

In August, the champions continued meeting and supporting conservation activities close to their areas of residence. Their local involvement helps sustain engagement, particularly where poor roads and difficult weather make field coordination challenging.

WOMEN, YOUTH & LOCAL ENTERPRISE

EBURU FOREST

In August, 35 women and 25 men received training in Eburu and agreed to participate in conservation activities.
The honey enterprise processed 109.55 kg of raw honey, selling 69.50 kg of pure honey to the public.

WHY IT MATTERS

Community participation extends beyond training to practical involvement in conservation, local enterprise and forest stewardship.

LANDSCAPES IN ACTION

EBURU | KEEPING THE FENCE FUNCTIONAL, PROTECTING THE FOREST

THE CHALLENGE

Electric fencing helps reduce human-wildlife conflict and protect forests, but its effectiveness depends on regular maintenance. Difficult terrain, wildlife damage and weather all take their toll.

OUR INTERVENTION

- Fence maintenance: Repaired 202 metres of fencing in August, up from 144 metres in July.
- Forest protection: Conducted two weeks of joint forest patrols, dismantling 11 snares and destroying one illegal pole-harvesting site.
- Wildlife monitoring: Maintained 15 active camera traps, completing two weeks of inspections and data collection.
- Trail access: Reopened Eburu's 4.5-kilometre Deep Valley Trail following landslides.
- Field support: Assessed biogas sites, completed spatial mapping, and cleaned and validated the survey database.



The inspection and maintenance of camera traps in Eburu Forest

SOUTH WESTERN MAU | ENERGY, RESTORATION AND PROTECTION

- **CLEAN ENERGY:** Four biogas units were installed in August, following a July baseline study covering 34 sites: 15 installation sites and 19 control sites.
- **FOREST RESTORATION:** Daily monitoring continued at Korabariet, where wildlife damage to the micro-fence and seedlings created additional maintenance needs. Increased wildlife use of the restoration area was also observed.
- **FOREST PROTECTION:** Joint surveillance by the South Western Mau JSU, Soknot JSU and KFS covered seven days each in Ndoinet and Nyangores. Eight makeshift structures were detected and destroyed.
- **CAPACITY BUILDING:** A forest-management training course commenced in August.
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** Community Conservation Champions continued supporting conservation activities in their local areas.

MT KENYA & ABERDARE | FENCING AND WATER

- Mt Kenya fencing: Phase VI reached 27.8 km against a 60 km target. Work paused in August due to material delays, following 2.8 km of progress in July.
- Rainwater harvesting: The project serving four Aberdare schools was branded in July and awaited official commissioning.
- Aberdare fence inspections: By the reporting period, 190 km of the 412 km fence had been inspected since March, alongside inspections of 17 guard posts.

SOKNOT & KAKAMEGA | STRENGTHENING LOCAL CAPACITY

- **SOKNOT:** All five Community Forest Associations filed their annual returns by the 15 July 2026 deadline. An ecosystem assessment identified differing governance needs across Ndoinet, Itare, Maramara and Kericho to guide targeted support.
- **KAKAMEGA:** Conservation champions received training in safeguarding, forest and wildlife management, climate change, CFA user rights, energy-saving alternatives and tree nursery establishment.
- **NDOINET NURSERY:** Nursery operations involved 3,500 indigenous seedlings managed or sold. The exact breakdown should be confirmed.





THE REALITY ON THE GROUND: CONSERVATION IS RARELY LINEAR

Difficult terrain, weather, wildlife damage and material delays affected conservation work across the landscapes.

At Korabariet, increased wildlife use of the restoration area was observed alongside damage to fencing and seedlings. At Mt Kenya, material delays slowed fence construction.

FIELD LESSON

Conservation depends on ongoing monitoring, maintenance and coordination, with teams adapting as conditions change.

PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION

CONSERVATION IS A PARTNERSHIP

THE CHALLENGE

No single organisation can protect Kenya's vast and complex forest landscapes alone.

OUR INTERVENTION

During the third quarter, Rhino Ark worked with public institutions, conservation organisations, Community Forest Associations and other partners to support forest protection, restoration, fencing and community initiatives.

WHAT EACH CONTRIBUTION ENABLES

KENYA WILDLIFE SERVICE

Technical and operational collaboration on fence construction and maintenance, restoration, security patrols and field infrastructure, including the Mt Kenya fencing project.

WWF-KENYA

Supported CFA capacity building and restoration mapping, including training in finance, procurement, grants management and proposal writing.



KENYA FOREST SERVICE

Supported CFA capacity building and restoration mapping, including training in finance, procurement, grants management and proposal writing.

WYSS ACADEMY FOR NATURE

Funded the Imenti Virtual Elephant Grid and part of the Gathiuru fence section. Wyss Academy representatives visited the field team during the August reporting period.

M-PESA FOUNDATION

Identified as a partner in fence maintenance and Kakamega fencing infrastructure. In August, Rhino Ark submitted a request for KES 30 million in fence-maintenance capital funding. The request should not be read as a confirmed award.

CALGARY ZOO & OTHER CONSERVATION pARTNERS

Supported field capacity and community outreach, including recruitment of an outreach officer for Eburu.

KITCHEN TABLE CHARITABLE TRUST

Funded the Aberdare rainwater-harvesting project serving four schools. Project branding was completed in July, with commissioning pending.

Rhino Ark also continued collaborating with county governments and Community Forest Associations to strengthen local conservation efforts.

THE PARTNERSHIP PRINCIPLE: Lasting conservation depends on technical expertise, community participation and institutional support working towards shared goals.



FIELD FACTS

190 km
Of the **412 km** Aberdare fence inspected since March.

17
Aberdare fence guard posts inspected.

3,500
Indigenous seedlings managed or sold through Ndoinet nursery operations.

Eburu
Biogas sites assessed, spatial mapping completed, and the survey database cleaned and validated.

South Western Mau
Ecosystem assessments identified differing governance needs across Ndoinet, Itare, Maramara and Kericho, helping guide targeted CFA support.

Eburu trails
The quarter's reporting also records **18.6 km** of trails cleared.
This figure should be reconciled with the **4.5 km** Deep Valley Trail reopening reported above.

LOOKING AHEAD
CONTINUING THE WORK

In the final quarter of the year, priorities include:

PROTECTION
Continue patrols, fence inspections and repairs.

RESTORATION
Monitor restoration sites and maintain seedling aftercare.

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE
Strengthen CFAs and support newly trained conservation champions.

EDUCATION
Continue conservation education in schools and communities.

PARTNERSHIPS
Follow up on project reporting and maintain coordination with partners.

The focus remains on the ongoing work that makes conservation possible, from forest protection and restoration to community participation, education and collaboration.

GET INVOLVED

Conservation depends on people working together. Whether through funding, partnerships, expertise, advocacy or everyday choices, your contribution helps protect Kenya's forests and the communities and wildlife that depend on them.

FUND PRACTICAL CONSERVATION

- Electric-fence construction and maintenance to reduce human-wildlife conflict.
- Forest restoration, indigenous tree nurseries and seedling aftercare.
- Conservation-compatible livelihoods, including Eburu's honey enterprise and biogas installations.

PARTNER WITH RHINO ARK

Businesses, foundations and institutions can support conservation projects, community programmes, education, research, equipment and ecosystem management.

CHAMPION CONSERVATION IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- Share reliable information about Kenya's forests and water catchments.
- Promote responsible forest use and support community conservation initiatives.
- Report illegal activities to the relevant forest and wildlife authorities.

STAY CONNECTED

Follow Rhino Ark online, share conservation stories and help raise awareness of Kenya's mountain forests, wildlife and forest-adjacent communities.

SUPPORT THE MISSION

Fund conservation, partner with Rhino Ark, share your expertise or champion the cause in your community. Every contribution helps protect forests, water sources, wildlife and local livelihoods.

RHINO ARK CHARITABLE TRUST

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