

# ARK*ive*

## THE SPIRIT OF THE CHARGE

WE ARE STILL HERE...



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FOREST CONSERVATION

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PROTECTING THE SOUTH  
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THE LAUNCH OF  
TREE PLANTING  
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NYERI COUNTY



HUMANS IN HARMONY WITH HABITAT & WILDLIFE



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

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Photography by:  
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 Peter Munene, Donna Sheppard,  
 Alfonse Kiprono**

## RHINO ARK OBJECTIVES

Rhino Ark seeks solutions to the challenges facing the mountain forest ecosystems of Kenya, also known as the water towers. More specifically, Rhino Ark aims to:

- Protect Kenya's mountain forests, other threatened habitats and their rich biodiversity;
- Engage and educate adjacent communities in conservation;
- Secure the connectivity between mountain forests and other threatened wildlife habitats;
- Establish sustainable financing mechanisms for the conservation of mountain forests and other threatened wildlife habitats;
- Advocate nationally and internationally for the conservation of the mountain forests and other threatened habitats, their wildlife and their ecological functions; and,
- Use science to assess the impacts of, and review conservation interventions.



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S VIEW

CHRISTIAN LAMBRECHTS

2020 has been a year unlike any other. For the first time in Rhino Ark's history, we had to cancel the annual Rhino Charge, our main fundraising event. This was a decision taken jointly by the Board of Rhino Ark and its Rhino Charge Committee, after much consideration, to protect our Chargers, sponsors and officials from the health risks associated with COVID-19.

Although this decision did disappoint some of our enthusiastic Charge teams, we are most grateful for the messages of understanding and support we have received from across the entire Rhino Charge community.

At Rhino Ark, the cancellation of the Rhino Charge led to a massive reduction in our expected core funding. To address this situation, we adopted far-reaching cost-saving measures. We revised our programme of works with a focus on maintaining our legacy projects, in particular the 650 kilometres of conservation electrified fences built to date, and on strengthening our community forest patrols. The latter was required to help mitigate the impacts of the COVID-19-induced budget cuts affecting law enforcement by our Government partners. A number of administrative measures, including staff salary reductions, were taken to minimize operating costs.

Despite the difficult socio-economic environment, a number of Charge teams raised and remitted funds to Rhino Ark. These contributions, gratefully received, provided much-needed support for our core activities. At the same time, we embarked on an extensive fundraising programme run by a committee comprising key Rhino Ark managers. By the time of the publishing of this newsletter, over KES 34 million has been secured from several grantors. Additional grant applications amounting to KES 66 million have been submitted.

Although the pandemic is far from over, some initial lessons can already be drawn. COVID-19 has highlighted the importance of having a wide and diverse fraternity supporting our cause. This is a key factor contributing to our resilience. Broadening our sources of funding is a critical strategic objective we have been pursuing for a number of years to reduce our vulnerability to a changing socio-economic environment.

Our fast-changing world brings a range of new challenges that highlight our dependency on our natural capital for water supply, crop production, climate change mitigation, among others, underscoring the importance of the Rhino Ark's conservation work. At the same time, new opportunities are emerging, to which we remain alert. It is through leveraging such opportunities that we are able to strengthen our impacts on conservation even in these challenging times. We also remain adaptive to the dynamic environment to ensure that we uphold our high operational standards.

The incredible support and encouragement we have received from our Charger community, partners and well-wishers during this difficult period has been critical to helping us maintain our operations. Our sincere thanks to all of you.



# CHARGERS' CORNER

## WHY WE CHARGE

My charging journey started when a friend persuaded me to join a team to take part in the 2006 Charge. Our team leader was full of ideas, and was very persuasive. Our hybrid car was a product of James Kelmanson's imagination; was heavier than the Golden Gate Bridge and provided much entertainment. The whole charge experience was an adventure; from our transport vehicle's brakes locking solid on the road from Archer's post, arriving late at night long after scrutineering had closed, to the early morning of the Charge itself and arriving at a checkpoint and needing to open the car bonnet with an axe as the great inventor had omitted to consider access to the engine bay fully.

The whole experience provided, as it has done every year since, an ever extending list of what we would do differently next time, as well as an increasingly strong bond between team members who have become life-long friends. The combination of the friendships made and the never-ending challenge to improve, combined with the intrigue of visiting a new, unique place, for the first time, proved an irresistible combination.

2008, in Namunyak, was my favourite Charge. Our trusty steed caught fire on the way to our start control; after this unlikely start, our team battled away for the whole day. In the dying embers of the day, with every part of our team and car on the very edge of failure, but still going, we rounded a corner to find a leopard in the middle of the road. With this omen spurring us on, we finished just in time to a surprise 4th place.

Every year provided a different set of unmatched experiences; it's difficult to explain how much happens in one short ten hour day; and how that translates into a burning desire to come back, improve and do better again the next time. Every day of the year, building sleeplessly towards the next time, our team would arrive in the new dawn at line-up, ready to do it all over again. Moving to the Organising Team, was a decision not taken lightly.



Car 1 hybrid vehicle taking on the Rhino Charge



Don White the Rhino Charger



Don White the Clerk of Course

However, the bigger picture is clear as it can be, that the work done by Rhino Ark is critical to our futures and those of our children and their descendants too. Being part of helping to support this cause through organising the Rhino Charge, is something I am honoured to do.

With an incredible team of volunteers who put the Rhino Charge together, I love sharing the Charge experience with more and more people, and hope to inspire others to join in, and take that first journey to join the Charge... See you at line-up...

### Don White

Rhino Charge Clerk of the Course  
Rhino Charger 2006 - 2018



# RHINO CHARGE FACTS



**55,030,000 KES**  
Community Funds Raised

This money is raised from the Land Access Fees (LAF) paid for by all who access the venue. This money is then used for community projects in the area such as the construction of school classrooms or the installation of boreholes.

SINCE  
**1989**

**366**

GUARD  
POST  
SPONSORS



**1761**  
COMPETITORS

VOLUNTEERS



**850**  
APPROX.

SINCE  
**2010**

**25,000+**  
ATTENDEES



Who as a result have contributed to the funding of the vital projects managed by Rhino Ark. #ConservationHeroes

**1,655,414,545 KES**

RAISED SINCE 1989

Total Sponsorship Raised by Teams since 1989 in aid of Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust

**7.02% >**

Shortest distance ratio - in 1999 Car 5, Alan McKittrick & Bruce Knight, completed the course in 44.5km, only 7.02% greater than the shortest possible as the crow flies distance of 41.58km.



Rhino Ark fully offsets the event's carbon footprint by purchasing Certified Emission Reductions (CERs) which go towards UNFCCC certified projects that reduce, avoid or remove greenhouse gas emissions from the atmosphere.

## VOLUNTEER-RUN

The Rhino Charge is primarily volunteer run. The Main Organising Committee consists of 11 members. They plan the event year round and spend up to 2 weeks on site before and after the Charge. Onsite at the event another 60+ volunteer Officials give their time and expertise to ensure the smooth running of the event. Volunteers not only donate time, but considerable resources which help reduce the overall costs of the event.



**60+**  
VOLUNTEER  
OFFICIALS

**0.16%**

In 2013, Terry Childs and Car 49 completed the Vineyard-Copycat Tigerline within 0.16% of the shortest possible distance.

A Tigerline is a specific route between two controls that provides a unique challenge. It is not compulsory but is designed to reward competitors for attempting a route that they may otherwise not consider.

**10+**  
RECCES



As the Rhino Charge is the guest of the host community, whilst on reccer much of the Main Organising Committee's time is spent building understanding with the host community. They also spend time finding and designing the route, plus planning how to provide good camping for up to 3,000 people, including planning water provision, medical facilities, airstrips and other key parts of the event.

**4-5 AIRCRAFT**



Search and Rescue on venue typically consists of:

- 4-5 Aircraft including fixed wing planes, helicopters and gyrocopters,
- 4-5 Cars in strategic positions,
- Team @ HQ monitoring positions of cars and co-ordinating with S&R Team over the radio.

The S&R team remains on duty until all people have been safely accounted for and recovered. At Nannapa Conservancy, the S&R team ended their shift at 4am in the morning after the Charge. Stuck, lost or broken vehicles are often recovered the next day.

# CHARGERS' CORNER

## CHARGERS' STORIES



Car 34 team members



Rajesh Maini's Car 34 manoeuvring the Rhino Charge

"Wow, what a year 2020 has been! Our annual pilgrimage to an unknown destination into the beautiful depths of Kenya was put on ice, best laid plans laid out after the 2019 event will simply have to wait. Rhino Charge and the phenomenally important cause it supports through Rhino Ark was quite rightly postponed until 2021.

As a Team committed whole-heartedly to this cause it did leave a rather large void in our lives and calendar, as you know every Charge is unique, very special and these moments are poignant because they can't be repeated. Now our focus shifts to making the 2021 Charge bigger and better than ever before. Rhino Ark now needs our support more than ever so as a Team we have committed to raising as much funds as possible for this great cause.

We have a unique chance to turn this pandemic into an opportunity to make meaningful memories that can soften the blow of those missed milestones in 2020. In essence we have a chance to clarify what really

matters, focus on that and make an even bigger impact for the greater good.

As a team that has meant us thinking outside the box on what we can do better to raise awareness and funds. Our focus has been on this rather than our car as we feel that is already in a happy place! These may well be famous last words – a Charge car is "never" ready!!

We cannot wait to get out into the Kenyan bush again and build new memories as a Team with all our friends and family and participate in what is a unique and very special Kenyan event – our country and environment needs us more than ever. We wish the Rhino Charge Team the very best of luck in bringing us a great event in 2021 and thank you for the endless hours of effort that you pour into this event."

**Rajesh Maini**

Rhino Charge Team 34



Wacus the Landover driven by team 47



Team 47 manoeuvring through the gauntlet

"It was sad to miss the 2020 event and we really hope we can do the 2021 Charge. We hope it will be a great Charge and fun to meet all the competitors after such a long time. We are sure that again an amazing area will be chosen.

Ahead of the 2021 Charge, Wacus is treated like a normal car serviced and repaired if need be, nothing else done to it; but the requirements of the rules Rhino Charge requests.

Wacus - A special L/R, probably the oldest car in the charge has been to Kinshasa, Harare and around East Africa in the hunting days; then retired and sometimes used by the children to learn how to drive. In 1994 woken up, serviced and off to the Rhino Charge with Eustace

Sapieha who was persuaded after five bypasses and challenged to try driving in the Charge, which was a great success and we've continued ever since!!!

We love the extraordinary areas of Kenya, hardly visited by Kenyans and also to be able to contribute to the wonderful cause.

Wacus and its team still loves to participate even though she looks ridiculous with roll bars, fire extinguishers, and a helmeted driver in a five-point safety belt."

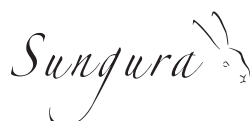
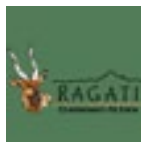
**Teresa Sapieha**

Rhino Charge Car 47 Wacus



# RHINO CHARGE

## RAFFLE DONORS



# HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE RHINO CHARGE?

## ENTER A TEAM OR JOIN AN EXISTING TEAM

Spaces are limited and competition is fierce but once a Charger, always a Charger! If you are interested in getting involved please contact us on [info@rhinocharge.or.ke](mailto:info@rhinocharge.or.ke) and we can explain more about how the Charge works and what you need to do to enter.

## SPONSOR A CAR OR THE RHINO CHARGE EVENT

The Rhino Charge offers some fantastic branding and PR opportunities and is a unique way to support Rhino Ark's conservation efforts. Details on how to get involved as a sponsor can be found on the Rhino Charge website.

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

For live updates, including information on the competitors, event news and #WhyWeCharge please follow us on all our social channels.

 @Rhino.Charge  
 @Rhino\_Charge  
 @RhinoChargeKenya  
 @rhinocharge

## HELP OUT AT THE EVENT

If you're interested in volunteering your time and helping out at the event please do get in touch with the Rhino Charge Organising team on [info@rhinocharge.co.ke](mailto:info@rhinocharge.co.ke).

## ATTEND AS A SPECTATOR

Attending a Charge as a Spectator is a fantastic way to support the event and be a part of one of the most unique off-road 4x4 competition, all in the name of conservation.

For more info on attending the Charge as a Spectator please visit our website.

## JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

To keep up-to-date on the Rhino Charge news, please visit our website and subscribe to our mailing list.

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

# HOW TO SPONSOR A CAR

## MPESA

Mpesa payments must be done in the following way:

Safaricom

Mpesa

Lipa na M-PESA

Pay Bill

Enter business no. 855995

Account No. (Car no. being sponsored e.g. CAR01)

Enter amount (minimum KES 2,000)

**MPESA PAYBILL ACCOUNT NUMBER FOR EACH TEAM IS "CAR" FOLLOWED BY THE CAR NUMBER, e.g. "CAR01"**

## BANK TRANSFER

If you wish to make a donation by direct transfer to Rhino Ark's bank account, kindly contact us on:  
Email: [info@rhinoark.or.ke](mailto:info@rhinoark.or.ke),  
Telephone: +254 722 230 929

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

## CHEQUE

Please ensure that all Cheques are made out to:

RHINO ARK KENYA CHARITABLE TRUST

**When delivering a Cheque to Rhino Ark please ensure that the relevant car number is clearly stated on the envelope.**

## ONLINE GIVING

Many of the Teams have set themselves up with online giving pages please go to our website [www.rhinocharge.co.ke](http://www.rhinocharge.co.ke) to see the teams' details.



## CHARGERS' CORNER PICTORIAL



# EXCERPTS FROM RHINO ARK CHARITABLE TRUST ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

## RHINO ARK KENYA CHARITABLE TRUST STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

	Note	2020 KES	2019 KES
<b>INCOME</b>	7	<u>189,822,463</u>	<u>227,555,091</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>			
Aberdare expenses	8	51,468,967	73,203,637
Mau Eburu expenses	9	19,629,452	15,620,172
Mt Kenya expenses	10	43,712,413	45,448,560
South West Mau expenses	11	16,851,159	16,845,954
Fund-raising expenses	12	28,753,812	44,314,663
Kakamega forest	13	5,940,026	-
Other project expenses		265,538	-
Administrative and general expenses	14	<u>47,998,135</u>	<u>44,618,959</u>
		<u>214,619,502</u>	<u>240,051,945</u>
<b>LOSS FOR THE YEAR</b>		<u>(24,797,039)</u>	<u>(12,496,854)</u>

## RHINO ARK KENYA CHARITABLE TRUST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2020

	Note	2020 KES	2019 KES
<b>ASSETS</b>			
<b>NON CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Property and equipment	2	<u>19,552,047</u>	<u>12,259,262</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Investments	3	1,988,463	1,824,746
Trade and other receivables	4	22,025,567	8,495,233
Bank balances and cash	15	<u>52,041,896</u>	<u>104,020,123</u>
		<u>76,055,926</u>	<u>114,340,102</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<u>95,607,973</u>	<u>126,599,364</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Trade and other payables	5	<u>17,987,746</u>	<u>24,182,098</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<u>77,620,227</u>	<u>102,417,266</u>
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>			
General fund		<u>77,620,227</u>	<u>102,417,266</u>

## RHINO ARK KENYA CHARITABLE TRUST NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

### 1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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

#### (a) Basis of preparation

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

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

#### (b) Income recognition

Donations and Rhino Charge collections are recognised on receipt.

Investment income is recognised on accrual basis.

#### (c) Property and equipment

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

The annual depreciation rates in use are:

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

#### (d) Foreign currency transactions

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

#### (e) Financial instruments

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

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

#### (f) Receivables

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

#### (g) Cash and cash equivalents

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

#### (h) Use of estimates

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

#### (i) Investments

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

#### (j) Payables

Payables are stated at nominal value.

### 2. PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT

	Motor Vehicles KES	Furniture, fittings and equipment KES	Computers KES	Total KES
<b>2020</b>				
<b>COST</b>				
At 1 April 2019	39,064,907	35,095,706	4,616,614	78,777,227
Additions	<u>13,166,167</u>	<u>833,344</u>	<u>572,290</u>	<u>14,571,801</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>52,231,074</u>	<u>35,929,050</u>	<u>5,188,904</u>	<u>93,349,028</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 1 April 2019	37,052,898	25,679,250	3,785,817	66,517,965
Charge for the year	<u>3,962,211</u>	<u>2,711,285</u>	<u>605,520</u>	<u>7,279,016</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>41,015,109</u>	<u>28,390,535</u>	<u>4,391,337</u>	<u>73,796,981</u>
<b>NET CARRYING AMOUNT</b>				
At 31 March 2020	<u>11,215,965</u>	<u>7,538,515</u>	<u>797,567</u>	<u>19,552,047</u>

	Motor Vehicles KES	Furniture, fittings and equipment KES	Computers KES	Total KES
<b>2019</b>				
<b>COST</b>				
At 1 April 2018	37,581,230	33,707,956	3,371,040	74,660,226
Additions	<u>2,682,677</u>	<u>1,387,750</u>	<u>1,245,574</u>	<u>5,316,001</u>
Disposals	<u>(1,199,000)</u>	-	-	<u>(1,199,000)</u>
At 31 March 2019	<u>39,064,907</u>	<u>35,095,706</u>	<u>4,616,614</u>	<u>78,777,227</u>
<b>ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION</b>				
At 1 April 2018	37,156,229	22,570,862	3,254,005	62,981,096
Disposal	<u>(1,199,000)</u>	-	-	<u>(1,199,000)</u>
Charge for the year	<u>1,095,669</u>	<u>3,108,388</u>	<u>531,812</u>	<u>4,735,869</u>
At 31 March 2019	<u>37,052,898</u>	<u>25,679,250</u>	<u>3,785,817</u>	<u>66,517,965</u>
<b>NET CARRYING AMOUNT</b>				
At 31 March 2019	<u>2,012,009</u>	<u>9,416,456</u>	<u>830,797</u>	<u>12,259,262</u>

### 3. INVESTMENTS

	2020 KES	2019 KES
Old Mutual Money Market Fund	153,133	145,267
British American Money Market Fund	<u>1,835,330</u>	<u>1,679,479</u>
	<u>1,988,463</u>	<u>1,824,746</u>
<b>Movement</b>		
At 1 April 2019	1,824,746	1,681,267
Add: Interest earned	<u>163,717</u>	<u>143,479</u>
At 31 March 2020	<u>1,988,463</u>	<u>1,824,746</u>

### 4. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade receivables	4,911,911	1,660,025
Prepayments	6,764,089	1,073,012
Other receivables	10,859,567	5,762,196
Rhino Ark USA	<u>456,013</u>	<u>456,013</u>
	<u>22,991,580</u>	<u>8,951,246</u>
Less: Provision for bad debts	<u>(966,013)</u>	<u>(456,013)</u>
	<u>22,025,567</u>	<u>8,495,233</u>



# EXCERPTS FROM RHINO ARK CHARITABLE TRUST ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2020

The provision for bad debts relates to amounts Rhino Ark USA and customers whose amounts have been outstanding for over a year.

	2020 KES	2019 KES
<b>5. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES</b>		
Trade payables	3,143,078	19,075,649
Other payables	<u>14,844,668</u>	<u>5,106,449</u>
	<u>17,987,746</u>	<u>24,182,098</u>
<b>6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS</b>		
Key management compensation:		
Salaries	18,963,432	15,709,662
Pension	<u>240,000</u>	<u>141,000</u>
	<u>19,203,432</u>	<u>15,850,662</u>
<b>7. INCOME</b>	<b>2020 KES</b>	<b>2019 KES</b>
Rhino Charge collections (note 7 (a))	156,700,761	177,497,937
Other income (note 7 (b))	15,220,224	16,947,609
Other donations (note 7 (c))	13,396,513	23,969,811
Interest income	<u>4,504,965</u>	<u>9,139,734</u>
	<u>189,822,463</u>	<u>227,555,091</u>

## (a) RHINO CHARGE COLLECTIONS

Rhino Charge 2020	12,800,301	-
Rhino Charge 2019	139,900,460	17,598,978
Rhino Charge 2018	<u>4,000,000</u>	<u>159,898,959</u>
	<u>156,700,761</u>	<u>177,497,937</u>

Donations for the Rhino Charge (RC) are booked in the financial year that they were received. As the RC is held in the month of June each year, total 2019 RC donations will therefore be booked in two financial years, that is, the total 2019 RC donations are reflected in 2019 and 2020 financial years. However, since RC 2020 has been cancelled, the funds the funds will be credited to the respective chargers for RC 2021.

## (b) OTHER INCOME

	2020 KES	2019 KES
Bongo surveillance project	7,583,413	5,701,622
Operations base – Aberdare	2,475,695	2,787,737
Miscellaneous income	<u>5,161,116</u>	<u>8,458,250</u>
	<u>15,220,224</u>	<u>16,947,609</u>

## (c) OTHER DONATIONS

Other donations are monies received from various donors for projects specific to Rhino Ark. In the current year, there were donations received from MPESA Foundation and IDH for South Western Mau project, Eburu Rafiki for conservation of Mau Eburu and from Mount Kenya Trust for the conservation of Mt. Kenya.

## 8. ABERDARES EXPENSES

	2020 KES	2019 KES
Staff costs	6,675,545	9,301,043
Other costs	11,558,575	10,788,628
Fuel	1,233,402	1,696,441
Motor vehicles costs	1,168,665	1,239,708
Tools & materials	5,986,259	35,746,865
Depreciation	1,338,941	-
Community support	<u>4,601,399</u>	<u>4,251,348</u>
	<u>32,562,786</u>	<u>63,024,033</u>
Bongo surveillance project	<u>18,906,181</u>	<u>10,179,604</u>
	<u>51,468,967</u>	<u>73,203,637</u>

## 9. MAU EBURU EXPENSES

Staff costs	5,579,708	5,238,930
Allowances	76,396	185,909
Community conservation	1,677,999	398,304
Tree nurseries project	300,000	1,751,184
Eburu Rafiki	2,770,132	1,010,077
Fence costs	5,990,327	3,429,262
Public relations	81,400	628,767
Other costs	2,777,459	2,507,443
Motor vehicle costs	<u>376,031</u>	<u>470,296</u>
	<u>19,629,452</u>	<u>15,620,172</u>

## 10. MT. KENYA EXPENSES

Staff costs	6,970,113	9,120,026
Allowances	13,924,584	10,465,420
Fence costs	16,535,400	8,039,849
Fire fighting	-	15,238,511
Motor vehicle costs	799,836	763,039
Other costs	<u>5,482,480</u>	<u>1,821,715</u>
	<u>43,712,413</u>	<u>45,448,560</u>

## 11. SOUTH WESTERN MAU EXPENSES

Allowances	404,509	279,822
Depreciation on property and equipment	670,670	670,670
Public relation	523,302	355,708
Staff costs	5,363,757	5,240,326
Fence and other costs	<u>9,888,921</u>	<u>10,299,428</u>
	<u>16,851,159</u>	<u>16,845,954</u>

## 12. FUND RAISING EXPENSES

	2020 KES	2019 KES
General fund raising	19,233,866	35,363,710
Rhino charge raffle and event costs	7,829,946	6,963,529
Rhino charge filming	<u>1,690,000</u>	<u>1,987,424</u>
	<u>28,753,812</u>	<u>44,314,663</u>

## 13. KAKAMEGA FOREST

Staff Costs	3,823,625	-
Vehicle running	210,661	-
Fence construction	140,209	-
ESIA	461,680	-
Depreciation	<u>1,303,851</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>5,940,026</u>	<u>-</u>

## 14. ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL EXPENSES

Depreciation on property and equipment	3,965,555	4,065,199
Bank charges	477,012	409,499
Office management and administration	37,428,064	34,098,437
Auditors remuneration	1,484,477	850,000
Public relations and press	3,054,408	3,641,706
Provision for bad debts	510,000	456,013
Vehicle running expenses	<u>1,078,619</u>	<u>1,098,105</u>
	<u>47,998,135</u>	<u>44,618,959</u>

## 15. CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS

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

Cash and bank balances	17,166,416	23,524,620
Call deposits	<u>34,875,480</u>	<u>80,495,503</u>
	<u>52,041,896</u>	<u>104,020,123</u>

## 16. CONTINGENT LIABILITY

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

## 17. LEGAL FORM

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

## 18. TAXATION

The Trust has been granted exemption from taxation under the First Schedule to the Kenyan Income Tax Act (Cap 470) under Certificate number 20170214/11869 dated 14 February 2017 valid for 5 years.

## 19. EVENTS AFTER THE REPORTING DATE

The Trust reporting date is 31 March 2020 and its draft financial statements were issued on 17 September 2020. Management is required to identify if there are material events, favourable or unfavourable, which have impacted upon the financial statements between the reporting date and the date on which the draft financial statements were finalised for issue.

COVID-19, a pandemic declared by World Health Organisation (WHO) on 11 March 2020, has had far-reaching health and economic ramifications globally. The COVID-19 outbreak developed rapidly between March to August 2020, with a significant number of infections across Africa and the world. Measures taken to contain the virus have affected economic activity, which in turn has implications on finances.

Measures to prevent transmission of the virus include limiting the movement of people, restricting flights and other travel, temporarily closing businesses and schools, and cancelling events. This has had an immediate impact on businesses and lower economic activity is likely to result in reduced fund-raising.

Management has prepared its COVID-19 strategic response while closely monitoring the situation as it continues to unfold. In light of the lower economic activity, Management has reviewed and reduced its conservation programme, with a focus on priority interventions and maintenance of projects. The Rhino Charge (RC) 2020 has been cancelled and hence the funds received will be credited to the respective chargers for RC 2021.

## 20. CURRENCY

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



The COVID-19 pandemic is affecting all of us. It is reminding us that we are an integral part of the environment and that the way we interact with nature in turn impacts on us - our health, well-being and our economic development.

Even as we grapple with COVID-19's far-reaching impacts, we must remain focussed on what has brought us together: our common vision of safeguarding our water towers for the benefit of Kenya and its people. We have an extraordinary conservation legacy that we must continue to cherish and support.

#### Overall funds 2019/20

The total funds raised during the financial year under review were KES 272.34 million. This included in-cash donations amounting to KES 189.82 million (2019: KES 227.16 million) from Rhino Charge, Corporates, individuals and other donors and in-kind donations amounting to KES 138.76 million, from the Government, various corporates and individuals.

The 2019 Rhino Charge raised at the field audit a total of KES 154.7 million or approximately USD 1.51 million. The top ten fund raisers were Peter Kinyua/Car 23 (KES 19,000,000); Adil Khawaja/AK44 (KES 17,000,000); Stanley Kinyanjui/Magnate Chargers (KES 15,015,499); Bovard/Walton/Ray/McKittrick/Anderson/Walton/Car 5 (KES 7,138,932); Mark Tilbury/Hog Charge Team (KES 5,580,231); Tim Carstens/Team Aussie Rules (KES 5,395,400); Glen/Llewellyn/Team 48 (KES 3,309,700); Eddy Verbeek/Team One (KES 2,810,212); Jaspal Singh/Team Thirty Nine (KES 2,270,001); William Carr-Hartley/Team 42 (KES 2,431,254).

The National Treasury through Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) was a major donor providing KES 50 million for fence materials. As those funds were not channelled through our accounts, they are not reflected in our balance sheets, although they are earmarked in support of our fence projects in Mt. Kenya.

In addition, KWS covered the costs of the personnel maintaining the 400 km Aberdare Fence and the 200 km Mt. Kenya Fence already built whilst Kenya Forest Service (KFS) covered such costs for the 43.3 km Eburu Fence. These contributions amounted to KES 25.8 million.

#### Corporate / conservation bodies support

Corporate and consensual grant supporters continued positively.

I would like to acknowledge the following organisations that have made generous cash contributions:

- IDH Sustainable Trade Initiative for donating Euros 2,969 for the activities of the Bongo Surveillance Project and Euros 8,201 for South Western Mau.

- Safaricom Foundation for donating KES 984,000 for forest replanting.
- M-Pesa Foundation for donating KES 3,697,000 for Mau Eburu Trust Fund.
- Rare Species Conservatory Foundation for donating USD 75,000 in support of the conservation of the Mountain Bongo antelope.
- Calgary Zoo for donating Euros 1,300
- Eburu Rafiki for donating KES 3.13 million in support of grassroots education outreach. This includes funds from African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW) amounting to KES 2 million, KES 0.58 million from The Safari Collection and several other donors.

In-kind contributions were also made by corporates in support of the Trust and the Rhino Charge, and the contributors of KES 7.059 million are detailed here below:

- AutoXpress: KES 1.25M.
- TOTAL Kenya: KES 609,062.
- Flamingo Horticulture Kenya Ltd: KES 3,138,000.
- Dedan Biogas Ltd: KES 400,000.
- Instarect Ltd: KES 702,000.
- James Finlays (Kenya) Ltd: KES 300,000.
- Kenchic Ltd: KES 70,000.
- KCB Bank: KES 590,000.

Conservation of the wider Mau Eburu ecosystem is well underway.

Following completion of the fence construction in November 2014, Rhino Ark has supported fence maintenance operations on an interim basis, while working with stakeholders towards establishing the Eburu Trust and Endowment Fund. The Eburu Trust will be jointly established by Rhino Ark, Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service and M-PESA Foundation and will have representation from forest adjacent local communities. It will provide the sustainable long-term mechanism to fund the maintenance and management of the fence.

The M-PESA Foundation, is a key sponsor of the fence project, and has a commitment to support the Trust once it is established through providing KES 30 million as part of the seed capital that will build up the endowment fund. As completion of the Trust establishment process is awaited, the M-PESA Foundation has undertaken to provide annual funding support for fence maintenance, channelled through Rhino Ark. The first tranche of KES 3,697,000 was disbursed to Rhino Ark on 18 March 2020, and will help to cover operations, maintenance materials, tools, equipment and maintenance gear for the fencing team, among others.

Rhino Ark continues to play a key role in improving law enforcement in the forest, through supporting local intelligence gathering and regular forest patrols with community scouts. These interventions, jointly coordinated with KFS and KWS, have resulted in arrests and prosecutions of criminal elements and is a deterrent to illegal activities.

7,500 indigenous tree seedlings were planted at Ole Sirwa in the north eastern part of the Eburu Forest. The tree planting exercise was coordinated by Rhino Ark in partnership with Kenya Forest Service, as part of the ongoing initiative to restore Eburu Forest to its original pristine state.

Implementation of conservation education in 32 Eburu forest-adjacent schools has been on-going since 2014. The ultimate goal is to cultivate positive behaviour change among young generation towards the protection and sustainable management of Eburu forest. Some of the key outcomes of the initiative were

increased tree covers in schools, enhanced pupils' performance in environmental related subjects, and growth in income generating projects in schools such as tree nurseries and bee keeping and emergence of community conservation champions among others.

The grassroots educational outreach work is still ongoing. The funding support for the outreach series has been provided by Eburu Rafiki, in partnership with Rhino Ark. Nearly 3,500 community members were directly contacted during the 2019 outreach.

Rhino Ark has worked to facilitate exposure of the forest-adjacent communities to biogas as an alternative source of energy and to encourage its adoption. This initiative is aimed at reducing the reliance of the forest-adjacent communities on forest-derived fuel-wood, hence propagating sustainable conservation of Eburu forest. The initiative has seen good uptake by the community, who are investing their own resources to purchase the biogas units. Biogas is a cleaner, more efficient and renewable energy source, and its adoption by the community will help in reducing pressure on forest-sourced fuelwood.

#### Mt Kenya fencing project

A milestone in the construction of the Mount Kenya Electric Fence has been reached with the completion of 200 kilometers of the 450 kilometers comprehensive fence that will eventually encircle Mount Kenya. The fence requires regular maintenance and, to that effect Rhino Ark and KWS has a team of fence supervisors and fence attendants that monitor and fix the damages to enable the full functionality of the electric fence.

The Mount Kenya Electric Fence constructed under a public-private partnership, involving Government agencies (KWS and KFS), the community, Rhino Ark, the Upper Tana Natural Resources Management Project (this is a Government project under Ministry of Water, Sanitation and Irrigation), Mount Kenya Trust and the local communities have played a significant role in curbing human-wildlife conflicts in the adjacent mountain region.

Rhino Ark, together with the Mount Kenya Conservation Forum, KFS and the Nanyuki Community Forest Association, established a mega tree nursery in Nanyuki Forest Station, Mt. Kenya with the purpose to rehabilitate degraded forest areas on Mt. Kenya. The work included rehabilitation of the existing tree nursery and its expansion to cover an area of 2.7 acres, the construction of a gravity fed water supply, sowing of tree seeds worth over KES 300,000 in the seed beds. Complementary to the tree nursery work, Rhino Ark, together with partners, started forest rehabilitation with the planting of 22,000 tree seedlings in Nanyuki Forest, Mt. Kenya.

Based on the lessons learned from the extensive wildfires in early 2019, a team of 60 men received a week-long training on firefighting. The team also received new equipment and clothing. The team will be the first respondents to tackle fires in remote forest areas and the moorlands in Mt. Kenya and the Aberdares. The training was coordinated by the Mount Kenya Trust and co-financed by Rhino Ark.

#### Aberdare ecosystem

The 400-kilometer Aberdare Electric Fence construction started in 1989 and was completed on 28th August, 2009 making it the world's longest electric fence. The fence rises seven feet above the ground. It is electrified and wired down to three feet below ground to deter burrowing wildlife. The upright posts are hot-wired to deter baboons and monkeys



from scaling them. The fence cost approximately KES 800 million (approximately USD 10 million) to construct.

Rhino Ark, together with KWS, begun a rehabilitation programme to upgrade part of the fence surrounding the Aberdare ecosystem that are over 21 years old. This has been divided into various phases of which the first phase – the oldest part of the fence (38 km long) – has been fully rehabilitated. Rehabilitation of Phase II is continuing with 18 kms of the 40 kms rehabilitated. As part of the rehabilitation work, Rhino Ark is replacing the gates that are in poor condition.

600 pupils from 60 schools participated in the 9th edition of the Aberdare Fence Relay Run that aims at raising awareness among the youth on the importance of the Aberdare Forest ecosystem and the 400-km electric fence.

Rhino Ark, together with KFS, has established the status of all the forest plantation compartments situated inside the Aberdare Electric Fence, totaling 6,912.74 hectares which represent approximately 3% of the fenced protected area. Of these, 45.8% have been earmarked to be reverted to indigenous forest.

Surveillance flights above the northern part of the Aberdare ecosystem revealed reduction in illegal logging activities, in particular, of cedar trees.

## South Western Mau ecosystem

The Mau Forests Complex is the largest forest ecosystem and the most important Water Tower in Kenya, covering approximately 416,000 ha. It comprises of 22 forest blocks, including Mau Eburu and South Western Mau that are two key conservation projects of Rhino Ark.

Cabinet Secretary for Environment and Forestry, Hon. Keriako Tobiko, committed Kenya to the Queen's Commonwealth Canopy (QCC), nominating restoration and rehabilitation of Mau Forests Complex as its dedication. The inclusion of the Mau Forests Complex in the QCC will provide further visibility, commitment and support towards the conservation of this mountain ecosystem and the work undertaken by key government partners, including Rhino Ark.

Under the Initiative for Sustainable Landscape (ISLA), and with funding support from Safaricom Foundation, Rhino Ark is undertaking forest rehabilitation in collaboration with KFS. 40 hectares at Kipkoris in Ndoinet Forest Station has been rehabilitated and is under active maintenance.

Rhino Ark is working with KFS to enhance forest patrols through community scouts. These patrols include active desnaring work, which helps to protect wildlife. Rhino Ark field staff also participate in the patrols, enabling first hand observation of forest conservation issues. Rhino Ark's conservation champions programme is enabling identification and recruitment of a pool of volunteer community members that can participate in forest conservation work in different zones of the expansive forest.

Surveillance flights above the South Western Mau revealed reduction in livestock and illegal charcoal making. Rhino Ark, together with KFS and KWS and in partnership with IDH/ISLA and James Finlays Ltd, undertook two aerial surveillance flights above the SW Mau and part of the adjacent Western Mau Forest Reserve.

Rhino Ark continued the roll out of a conservation education programme to 46 schools found within 8 kms of the boundary of the South Western Mau

Forest Reserve. The programme aims to equip pupils with the relevant knowledge to encourage and empower them to be proactive in the practice of environmental conservation in their daily lives. Key elements of the programme are the implementation of comprehensive conservation education curricula for both primary and secondary schools, together with a pilot sustainable energy initiative in 15 of these schools. The Conservation Education programme is fully supported by the Safaricom Foundation and is a key component of the ISLA framework for SW Mau.

Under the ISLA framework, funding support for bioenterprise has been provided to Rhino Ark by the Safaricom Foundation to support the local communities to maximize on potential market opportunities in production and sale of honey and related products. Comprehensive practical training for community groups on beekeeping and value addition for the communities was carried out. The training programme has now reached forest adjacent communities along the entire eastern boundary of the forest.

## Bongo Surveillance Project (BSP) successes

Rhino Ark remains a key partner and supporter of the Bongo Surveillance Project, raising the bulk of the funds for the project and seconding a conservation education officer to the project.

USD 75,000 (KES 7.58 million) was received during the year from Rare Species Conservatory Foundation and EU 8,201 (KES 0.93 million) from IDH towards the BSP. The funds go towards collecting vital information about the Bongo, patrols, removal of snares and spear traps, as well as to the dynamic Bongo wildlife school outreach programmes under BSP.

The Aberdare Electric Fence, supported by Rhino Ark, has helped KWS tremendously in securing the bongo population in the Aberdare Salient. This population is now the largest remaining in the wild and is recovering well with number growing.

The Eburu Electric Fence, also supported by Rhino Ark, provides increased security for the small group of bongos residing in the 8,700 hectares forest. This forest will eventually become a Bongo Sanctuary, adding much value to the tourism potential of the ecosystem. Rhino Ark, in collaboration with Calgary Zoo (Canada) completed a comprehensive 2-year trap camera study of the forest's bongo habitat. The findings of this study provide technical knowledge about bongo distribution within the forest as well as other wildlife.

The engagement of communities in the building and maintenance of the fences, in forest patrols (community scouts), through the development and implementation of conservation curricula, as well as through support to the establishment and running of bongo clubs in schools, is assisting in securing the support of the local communities in the conservation of the bongos and their habitats.

## Kakamega Forest

Kakamega Forest is the first fencing and conservation project spearheaded by Rhino Ark to be implemented in Western Kenya. It is the only tropical rainforest in Kenya and hosts an incredible array of biodiversity.

The County Government of Kakamega made a commitment of KES 100 million and County Government of Vihiga KES 30 million over the next 3 years towards the conservation of Kakamega forest. This will entail fencing Kakamega forest (117 kms), ecotourism development and community conservation education and livelihood improvement.

Rhino Ark committed KES 100 million towards the project.

With financial support from Rhino Ark, KWS undertook the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) study of fencing Kakamega Forest, with the purpose to obtain a license from the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA).

Partnership agreement and fencing implementation agreement have been finalized to pave way for the project implementation.

## Other initiatives

Rhino Ark entered into a partnership with Powering Africa – Recharging Conservation (PARC) with the purpose of establishing long-term financing arrangements to support the maintenance of the Aberdare and the Mt. Kenya Electric Fences. PARC creates technologically innovative and economically viable solutions to extend access to clean energy and secure long-term funding for conservation projects that protect the environment and promote climate change resilience in rural areas in Africa. PARC secures funding from investors that are not only interested in financial return but are also looking to providing long-term funding for conservation.

## Thousands to thank

Rhino Ark has an enormous following both in Kenya and now greatly developed overseas as well. Much of the funds raised focus on the annual Rhino Charge where individual car entrants make substantial pledges and raise even more than their pledge each year. It is a grass roots conservation thrust within Kenyan society that has now developed a deep foundation.

Every donor knows that Rhino Ark's ventures are to secure the nation's precious 'water towers' and to work in partnership with the Government to ensure good governance for maximum benefits. Several mountain forest ecosystem valuation studies have been undertaken in Kenya, including the 2011 study triggered by Rhino Ark and with support from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Kenya Forests Working Group (KFWG). These studies indicate that each hectares of these mountain forests provides annually environmental goods and services (water being the most important), amounting to an average of KES 530,000 per hectare per year.

The Aberdares, Mt. Kenya and the Mau Forest where Rhino Ark is operating, are the three largest water towers of Kenya. They are the source of major rivers that provide much-needed water to Nairobi which is the key contributor to Kenya's GDP. Together these three mountain ecosystems provide yearly ecological services to Kenya worth a staggering amount of KES 412 billion (USD 4.12 billion).

It is always difficult to single out thanks in a report like this. Rhino Ark has thousands of donors in Kenya and friends overseas who support our home grown and home driven conservation initiative. I wish to especially mention all the Chargers without whose fundraising efforts fencing of the Aberdares and all the other Water towers we are working on would not have been possible.

## I thank all of you for your generous support.

I wish to especially thank the Rhino Charge Committee and the huge band of volunteers who yearly give so much time, thought, ideas and energy to running this unique event.

## Isaac Awuondo

Chairman, Board of Directors

# HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MOUNTAINS MAU EBURU ECOSYSTEM

## CHICKEN FARMING INITIATIVE MULTIPLIES BENEFITS TO EBURU FOREST EDGE FARMERS

In May 2019 Rhino Ark, with support from KENCHIC Ltd. introduced forest edge farmers to the KENBRO bird, a hardy breed of chicken. The project aimed to boost on-farm livelihoods through farming of the KENBRO bird for eggs and meat for domestic consumption and for income. The farmers have taken to the programme. Since receiving their initial stock of 100 chicks in late 2019, one farmers' group in Ndunyu Buru village has invested income from sale of eggs and birds to grow their flock to 2,000 birds, a 20-fold increase within a few short months!

The KENBRO poultry project has provided an opportunity for farmers in the Kiambogo area of Mau Eburu to increase their incomes by introducing them to the KENBRO bird. The farmers have enthusiastically embraced this initiative and are growing their flocks day by day. The Rhino Ark team recently engaged Kiambogo farmers to assess the status of the KENBRO programme. Even with the COVID season challenge, some farmers reported earning enough surplus from the project to take on other activities like upgrading their

homes from earth to stone and adding water storage tanks.

The farmers are happy with the KENBRO birds and the income they derive from them. The initiative is one of the many ways forest edge farmers are gaining from Rhino Ark's conservation and compatible livelihood programmes. These initiatives help to reduce reliance on precious forest resources.



Kiambogo village farmer giving KENBRO birds surplus feed



Mature KENBRO birds taking feeds



KENCHIC Ltd. introducing Eburu forest edge farmers to the KENBRO bird by supplying 100 chicks and surplus feed

## COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE EMPOWERMENT-COMPOST MAKING



Compost manure training



Water harvesting lessons



Zero grazing lessons

Compost increases soil's ability to retain water and decreases runoff. Runoff pollutes water by carrying soil, fertilizers and pesticides to nearby streams. Compost can reduce chemical pesticides since it contains beneficial microorganisms that may protect plants from diseases and pests.

Rhino Ark, in supporting community livelihoods, organizes exchange programmes for farmers. The programme is aimed at equipping the farmers with different skills on how to carry out proper farming methods.

Since 2019, we have engaged local churches within the South Western Mau ecosystem as part of our conservation outreach programme. This outreach work is bringing more community members into the conservation fraternity, with eight churches having so far been recruited into the programme.



## COMMUNITY PATROLS: A ROLE MODEL FOR FOREST CONSERVATION

Our community-based forest patrol teams are hard at work removing wildlife snares and traps from inside Eburu forest, and in the other forest ecosystems where Rhino Ark operates. These field units are hearty! They move quickly and quietly throughout the forest, detecting, dismantling, and GPS mapping all illegal forest activities.

Most frequently detected are neck snares, leg traps and charcoal kilns. During 2020, our patrol teams used 174 days of work effort (comprising over 1000 hours of forest foot patrols) to remove 92 snares, 35 charcoal kilns, and make three arrests. Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in Kenya, the team has recorded an increase in illegal forest activities at Eburu Forest, but have met that challenge with an increased work effort. Thanks goes to BSP, Eburru Rafiki, KFS, KWS and Calgary Zoo for teaming up with us for improved forest security.



Scout holding recovered buffalo snare in Eburu Forest



Eburu Forest patrol team showing recovered buffalo snare



Eburu scout holding a fence wire used to make buffalo snares

## CONSERVATION WORK OPENS OPPORTUNITIES FOR OGIEK COMMUNITY LIVELIHOOD IMPROVEMENT

Rumour has it that the honey from Eburu Forest is among the best in Kenya. After tasting it for ourselves during recent survey work, we cannot dispute this claim! Our research team has been studying further the people harvesting honey in and around Eburu Forest. We established that there is now a total of 21 groups and an additional 39 individuals in the honey harvesting business.

Groups favoured the Top Bar hives pictured here, whereas individuals were more commonly using traditional log hives. Six groups have hives inside the forest; five more groups have hives both inside and out; and the other groups have hives positioned outside of the forest only. No matter the location of the hives, those bees will be mostly feeding from inside the forest.

In 2019, 31% of all group hives (351/1,131), and 59% of all individual hives (264/449) were successfully harvested for honey. Challenges include predation from honey badgers and ants, damage from forest fires, lack of funds to support the operation, and a lack of colonizing bees.

Rhino Ark has teamed up with the Calgary Zoo through the Mountain Forest Conservation Partnership to conduct the surveys as part of our continued support to the communities surrounding Eburu Forest towards a well-established commercial grade honey production.



Honey combs



Maseto with honey



Eburu beehive



## EBURU FENCE MAINTENANCE-LANDSLIDES



Eburu fence repair



Eburu landslide



Mitigating erosion in Eburu Forest

Maintaining the Eburu Electrified Fence is a continuous process that requires deep commitment. The terrain of Eburu, coupled with poor local road infrastructure and in some cases extreme weather presents major logistical challenges to the fence maintenance work.

In the April-May 2020 period, torrential rainfall has caused heavy damage to the fence, with over 110 meters of fence at different sections destroyed by the forces of nature. This challenge saw a 12-man fence maintenance team deployed ensure that forest wildlife does not invade adjacent farmlands.

A technical oversight committee, fence vehicle, tools, equipment, materials, training and other resources provide the comprehensive operational support necessary to keep the fence in full working order all year round. Funding for fence maintenance work is provided by the kind support of Rhino Ark's wider family, particularly the Safaricom Foundation and the Rhino Charge community through their annual fund raising efforts.

## SUPPORTING RECOVERY EFFORTS FOR EBURU COMMUNITY WATER CRISIS



Women fetching water



Olesirwa water destroyed by land slides



Rufas measuring destroyed Olesirwa water point

Landslides in Eburu forest cut off over 20,000 community members from water access, damaging three water infrastructure systems on which they rely. Lack of potable water access is placing a great strain on the local community, who must now seek water from inside the forest or from other unsafe sources.

Rhino Ark is facilitating assessment of what is required to restore these critical water systems. So far assessments have been done for the Kahuho and Ole Sirwa water systems. Communities are benefitting from Rhino Ark's technical support towards the recovery effort.

The Kahuho and Ole Sirwa water systems require KES 520,000 (\$5,200) and KES 720,000 (\$7,200) respectively to repair. Rhino Ark is working with stakeholders to facilitate an assessment of the Ndabibi water system. This technical information will help in the mobilization of the necessary support.



## WORKING TOGETHER TO KEEP OUR MOUNTAIN WATER TOWERS SECURE

Rhino Ark teams up with the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Kenya Forest Service in the Water Towers of Kenya to keep these critical catchment areas intact and safe for wildlife. Our joint security patrols take place within the Aberdares, Eburu Forest and South Western Mau.

The key activity in our approach involves daytime, overnight and multiple-days forest foot patrols. During these patrols, our teams comb the forest, remove snares, destroy charcoal kilns, and intercept poachers.

By doing so, we have also been able to deter would-be interlopers and to charge a number of culprits. In our patrols, we also rely on other partners, including community intelligence teams, community forest associations, and the Bongo Surveillance Project. It takes much cooperation to keep our Water Towers safe!



Aberdare de-snaring



Forest patrol



Aberdare de-snaring programme

## WORLD RANGER DAY CELEBRATIONS AT EBURU FOREST

World Ranger Day is celebrated around the world annually on the 31st July to honour conservation rangers who have been injured, or who have died, in the line of duty. It is also a day to raise awareness about the activities that rangers do, and to help the public learn more about conservation work.

In 2020, the forest security teams from Eburu Forest Reserve – including the Kenya Forest Service, Fence Maintenance Team, and the Bongo Surveillance Project – conducted a 10-kilometer march which terminated at the main entrance gate to Eburu Forest. They carried a WORLD RANGER DAY banner to raise awareness of this important day. The rangers paused at Eburu Centre en route to the forest to offer speeches and share information about the work of rangers. Following COVID-19 protocols, the event was not widely publicized ahead of time to avoid the gathering of a crowd.

The Chief for Eburu Location joined the rangers for the full 10-kilometre uphill march, proving to us all that he was a fit and healthy administrator. Thanks go to partners Bongo Surveillance Project and the Calgary Zoo for joining Rhino Ark to fund the successful, first-time event at Eburu Forest Reserve.

Our communities need your support!



BSP team members with banner



At the end of the march



World Ranger Day at Eburu



# SOUTH WESTERN MAU ECOSYSTEM

## EMPOWERING THE OGIEK COMMUNITY



Joining Ogiek dance



Local administration together with the Ogiek



Ogiek lighting a fire using a traditional method



Traditional medicinal handwashing

The indigenous Ogiek community of the South Western Mau Forest ecosystem have a long tradition of beekeeping and using herbal medicine from the forest to treat various ailments. Rhino Ark's community conservation work initiated in 2017 has resulted in constructive engagement with the Ogiek, some of whom have already benefited from our honey production training in 2018/19. This engagement is enabling the development of conservation-based livelihoods amongst the community.

Our initiative is now extending further to up-scaling in value-addition processing and marketing of herbal products. This will enable the Ogiek community build on their traditional knowledge and derive economic benefits, while, in turn, participating further in forest conservation.

Rhino Ark is concerned with the holistic approach in the conservation of mountain forest ecosystems that comprise Kenya's key water towers.

## EXPANSIVE SOUTH WESTERN MAU FLIGHT SURVEILLANCE

Our latest Aerial Surveillance flight over the expansive South Western Mau Forest was carried out on 25 August 2020, with representatives from Rhino Ark, Kenya Forest Service, the National Administration and the Kenya Police Service taking part.

The flight team made detailed observations on the forest status and recorded on GPS all incidents of illegal activities such as logging, charcoal burning and illegal livestock grazing. Following the flight, the team held a detailed debrief meeting to agree on necessary follow-up actions to address the illegal activities observed.

The data collected during these flights enables law enforcement resources to be accurately directed to illegal activity hot-spots in the forest. The flights, coordinated by Rhino Ark and supported by Finlays and IDH, are an invaluable tool that helps to safeguard the ecological integrity of the forest.



South Western Mau flight team



## REGULAR JOINT SOUTH WESTERN MAU FOREST PATROLS



Snares targeting antelopes, wild pigs and other small wild animals found in the forest



Elephant snare on top of a tree



Sharp metal bar used by poachers to set up an elephant snare



De-snaring team

Rhino Ark conducts regular joint South Western Mau Forest patrols with Rhino Ark scouts, Kenya Forest Service rangers and Conservation Champions to contain poaching, charcoal burning and other illegal activities.

In the most recent de-snaring operation in August, Rhino Ark's Thomas Mutai with local scouts, including newly recruited Conservation Champion Faith Cherono removed snares along various forest trails in the Olenguruone zone. The team recovered a total of 15 snares, potentially saving 15 animals.

Snaring of wildlife in the expansive South Western Mau Forest is an ongoing challenge that continues to threaten the various wildlife species found in the forest.

Rhino Ark's field team regularly partners with local community scouts to carry out de-snaring operations along forest trails that are used by wildlife. These operations provide valuable conservation support by extending the number of teams that patrol the forest and disrupt illegal activities.

## PROTECTING THE SOUTH WESTERN MAU FOREST CANOPY



Chikamba forest



Scenic view of the forest from Chikamba ridge

The South Western Mau's indigenous forest canopy provides cover that protects the underlying soil from the force of rain and a mat of roots that keeps soil from eroding. This expansive canopy holds water that trees absorb and re-circulates it into the atmosphere through transpiration, thus helping to maintain the water cycle. It helps to attract rainfall for a significant part of the year.

Rhino Ark works closely with its partners and local communities to protect this fragile ecosystem from encroachment, charcoal burning, logging and other illegal activities that threaten precious forest cover. This work is an important contribution to conserving one of Kenya's key water towers.



## SOUTH WESTERN MAU CHURCHES CHAMPION CONSERVATION EFFORTS



WWCK church members attending to a tree nursery with the help of Conservation Champions



Conservation heroes attending to a tree nursery

The integration of local churches into Rhino Ark's community conservation programmes has seen tremendous growth in the past few months. Our outreach team has been working closely with local churches at the grassroots, directly reaching over 500 community members so far.

Eight churches now have fully established tree nurseries, with two others, AGC Taita and AGC Kibaraa now in process. The churches are influencing conservation in their localities by donating tree seedlings and providing a venue for training of youth and other community members in conservation.

WWCK church in Korabariet is taking the lead in an important activity. From their tree nursery they will provide seedlings for rehabilitation of the nearby riparian area and local primary and secondary schools. It is through such actions that the ecosystem will be transformed over time by the communities.

## SOUTH WESTERN MAU RIPARIAN CONSERVATION AREAS



Cheram waterfall



Cheram River

Rhino Ark continues to work with South Western Mau forest adjacent communities in conserving and protecting riparian conservation areas such as along River Cheram. Riparian zones, are unique, diverse, and are often the most fertile parts of the landscape. These areas are vulnerable and easily degraded. Damage can be caused by uncontrolled stock access, and clearing for agriculture. Waste from stock such as cows and sheep can contribute to pollution, and trampling can destroy vegetation, soil structure, and result in loss of valuable soil and land.

Riparian areas are important for many reasons. They support diverse vegetation, help maintain bank stability, and increase ecological and economic productivity. These conditions support cleaner water, reduce diseases and pests, and retain important nutrients and soil that supports healthy waterways. We continue to advocate and enlighten the communities on the importance of managing riparian land. It is increasingly being recognised, and protection, rehabilitation and restoration work is being undertaken across the South Western Mau catchments.



# MT. KENYA ECOSYSTEM

## IMPACT OF MT. KENYA ELECTRIC FENCE-GICHUNGE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Gichunge Primary School - Mt. Kenya Electric Fence line

Gichunge Primary School borders the Mt. Kenya Electric Fence in the Upper Imenti Forest area. These are some of the schools benefiting from our fencing project. Previously this used to be a 'battlefield' between human and wildlife. Currently people do co-exist in harmony with wildlife, thanks to the Mt. Kenya Fence. We have a fence maintenance team that regularly checks for breaches along these fences to ensure the safety of the local community.

## THE ECOLOGY OF THE STRANGLER FIG TREE



Sapling of the strangler fig tree

The strangler fig tree of Mt. Kenya. Seeds are dispersed by animals such as birds, bats or monkeys. The seeds are deposited on the tree trunk where they start growing. They develop long roots that descend along the trunk of the host plant until they reach the ground and enter the soil.

The fig tree develops a network of roots around the host plant forming a sheath around the trunk of the host plant. The fig tree develops thick foliage which shades the canopy of the host tree. The fig tree out competes the host tree which may eventually die leaving the strangler fig tree to thrive.

## THE LAUNCH OF TREE PLANTING PROGRAMME IN NYERI COUNTY



Community member planting a tree to rehabilitate Mt. Kenya forest

The month of April, traditionally a rainy period, provides a perfect opportunity to encourage citizens, stakeholders, and partners to plant trees to regain our forest cover.

Rhino Ark, Mount Kenya Trust, Mount Kenya Conservation Forum and the Kenya Forest Service have joint efforts towards taking advantage of the current rains to replant former commercial forest plantation areas and degraded natural forest areas. On 16th April, they together replanted 6000 assorted indigenous trees in Ontulili and Gathiuru



Rhino Ark Executive Director planting a tree in Mt. Kenya, Ontulili Forest Station

Forest Stations in Mt. Kenya.

This is the second tree planting exercise at Ontulili Forest Station. The tree seedlings were distributed to the participants who were divided into small groups to ensure that at all times, at least two-meters social distance was observed. The main species of trees planted included; Cedar, Prunus, Water Berry and Croton.

The partners have long-term goals to see that the trees develop and grow healthy since the



Mega tree nursery in Mt. Kenya forest, Ontulili Forest Station

process doesn't just stop at the planting stage.

Community involvement in the exercise makes them own the initiative and in the end, they help in nurturing the growth of the trees and protect the forest zones.

Trees and forests play an essential role in mitigating the impact of climate change. The health of our planet is essential to our own health and well being, and to our future, and trees are an essential part of it.



## REHABILITATION OF MT. KENYA FOREST WITH SUPPORT FROM CLIMATECARE OXFORD LTD



Peter Kinyua, Chairman of KFS, planting trees, assisted by a KFS officer

On 28 February 2020, ClimateCare Oxford Ltd signed an agreement with Rhino Ark (UK) for tree planting services to be implemented by the Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust. As per the first transaction appended to the agreement, 20,000 trees are to be planted near Nanyuki Forest Station. The rehabilitation need was triggered by major degradation that was observed in the western slopes of Mt. Kenya Forest. Large tracks of indigenous forest had been cleared to pave way for the establishment of commercial forest plantations or to settle people. Riparian forests were also clear-felled in such processes.

The most affected areas include: Ontulili Forest, Nanyuki Forest, Gathiuru Forest, Naro Moru Forest and Kabaruru Forest. Adjacent to Nanyuki Forest Station, within Gathiuru Forest, are 720 acres of degraded indigenous forest that have been earmarked for rehabilitation by the Kenya Forest Service. It is the area that Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust, together with its local partner the Mount Kenya Conservation Forum, have decided to rehabilitate with the support of ClimateCare.

The main key tree species planted to date in Gathiuru Forest are: African Olive (*Olea europaea ssp. africana*); Podo (*Podocarpus falcatus*); Cedar (*Juniperus procera*); African cherry (*Prunus africana*); and Ugandan greenheart (*Warburgia ugandensis*). The maintenance of the trees planted has been a continued activity: weeding around the young planted trees to avoid competition for nutrients, water and light as well as watering of the young trees. Every week, the young trees are being watered once or twice, using a water bowser from Bantu Lodge, located next to Gathiuru Forest, and contracting six community members that support this noble process.



KFS Chief Conservator of Forests planting trees



Young tree seedling watered



Community member planting trees



# ABERDARES ECOSYSTEM

## BONGO WILDLIFE CLUBS CONSERVATION CAREER MENTORING ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ELECTRIC FENCE



Bongo Wildlife Club members learn about the electric fence



Bird breeding - Black Smith Plover eggs



Hands-on binocular bird viewing

The Bongo Surveillance Project, in partnership with Rhino Ark, runs conservation education and outreach programmes in the community and in schools through the Bongo Wildlife Clubs' initiative. This programme gives pupils and students opportunities to explore conservation career choices and expose them to field knowledge which also helps them to improve on their academic grades in related subjects.

Bongo Wildlife Club members, Kamburaini Primary School in Aberdares

visited Sangare conservancy, where they learnt about:

- Importance of electric fences as a tool of conservation, while comparing wildlife protected areas and community unprotected areas;
- Importance of conserving an ecosystem - Sangare being a case study;
- Ornithology (birds study) - identifying species, birds as indicators of a healthy environment and birding as a career;
- Use of binoculars and GPS devices;
- Bird behaviour, migration and feeding.

## BIOGAS PROGRAMME EXPANDS TO ABERDARES



Biogas training in Kirimangai



Farmers listen attentively to a trainer



Mr & Mrs. Waigwa enjoy biogas in their kitchen

Farmers in Eburu are forging ahead in adopting alternative domestic energy sources that reduce pressure on forest resources. The uptake of biogas, in particular, has been a highlight of this trend. 54 biogas units have so far been installed by farmers within the Eburu ecosystem with logistical support by Rhino Ark.

The success of the biogas initiative in Eburu has enabled Eburu farmers to reach out to their counterparts in Nyandarua, along the eastern Aberdare mountain region. Through this engagement, the Nyandarua farmers are being trained on biogas and are appreciating its advantages over traditional fuel-wood stoves.

Key community members driving this cross-ecosystem exchange programme include Lydia Nyota, a Rhino Ark Eburu Conservation Champion. Since June 2020, this team has facilitated training of farmers and installation of 9 biogas units for their counterpart farmers around the Aberdares.



## COMPLETION OF ABERDARES FENCE REHABILITATION - PHASE 1

Protecting the precious but fragile ecosystem of the Aberdare needs constant Fence Maintenance to deter poachers, illegal loggers, charcoal burners and forest encroachment.

Rhino Ark, together with Kenya Wildlife Service, began a rehabilitation programme to upgrade part of the fence surrounding the Aberdare Ecosystem that is over 21 years old. This has been divided into various phases of which the first phase – the oldest part of the fence (38 km long) – has been rehabilitated. Work on Phase II is on the 8km in Wandare Ngare Ngiro river section, of which 4.9 km has now been fully rehabilitated.

Fence maintenance is one of the areas of responsibility of the Aberdare Trust, and among the financing options for Rhino Ark is the partnership with Powering Africa-Recharging Conservation (PARC). PARC creates technologically innovative and economically viable solutions to open up access to clean energy and secure long-term funding for conservation projects that protect the environment and promote climate change resilience in rural areas in Africa. PARC, in turn, secures funding from investors who are not just driven by financial returns, but also wish to provide long-term funding for conservation.



Aberdare Electric Fence cutting across River Honi



Farmers happily living next to the Aberdare Fence



Rehabilitation of Phase 1, Aberdare Fence

## WILDLIFE RANGERS CHALLENGE IN ABERDARES

The Wildlife Ranger Challenge, created by Tusk.org (who have given Rhino Ark USD \$50,000 for forest security) brought together Ranger teams from across Africa – more than 50 teams participated from 20 countries. The ranger teams did a weekly challenge, push-ups, sit ups, burpees, a ranger quiz, and finally the 21km race.

For the race day, Rhino Ark had 29 people from 6 different teams, representing 3 different eco-systems - Eburu, Mau, and Aberdare - to complete the final challenge.

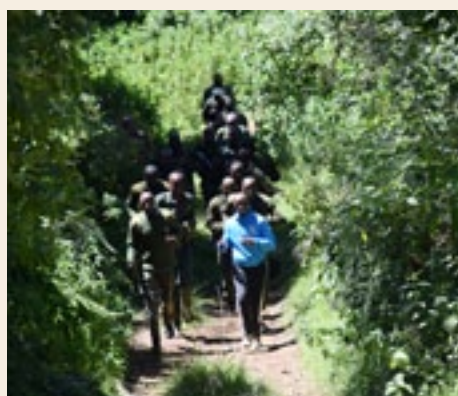
Team lineup: AJSU 6, BSP Eburu Forest 7, BSP Mau Forest 3, Fence Maintenance Team Eburu Forest 5, KFS Eburu 4, CFA Eburu 1, plus one school student and two officials (Peter Munene and Patrick Mwangi), bringing the total to 29.

The time was taken when the last person crossed the line – and our time was 3 hours, 43 minutes.

Fundraising continues through Tusk Trust and all the funds raised or donated are being matched by the Sheinberg Relief Fund, doubling their impact.



At the start



At 7km, KFS Forester leading



Celebrating at the finish line



Group photo: Wildlife Ranger Challenge



## 15 LANDSLIDES IN ABERDARES THAT DESTROYED 2,195 METRES OF FENCES



Fence attendant digging a hole for a fencing post using a hole digger

The unusually heavy rainfall that was experienced in Kenya's highland regions since late April 2020 caused havoc in the Aberdare ecosystem. The rainfall presented challenges to forest conservation work, causing landslides within the forest and at four different points along the 400km long fence line. In total, over 2,195 metres of fence were damaged by 15 landslides, leaving wide gaps in the fence through which forest wildlife could potentially escape onto adjacent farmlands. Landslide destructions were experienced in Muranga, Nyandarua and Nyeri counties.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic constraints, Rhino Ark mobilized its resources to repair all these fence sections in the shortest time possible to contain the situation. The fences are now in shape and proper working condition. Our fences are designed to protect forest integrity and at the same time help in promoting humans to co-exist in harmony with habitat and wildlife.



Joining tightlock mesh wire



Team work - straining tightlock mesh

## THE ABERDARE JOINT SURVEILLANCE UNIT GETS A BOOST FROM TUSK TRUST



De-snaring exercise carried out by one of the AJSU team members



The AJSU team at the site of illegal logging of red cedar



The AJSU team on a patrol in Aberdares

The Aberdare Joint Surveillance Unit (AJSU) is a partnership between Rhino Ark, Kenya Forest Service and the Kenya Wildlife Service. Founded in 2010, it was a pioneer concept that sought to involve more actively forest-adjacent communities in conservation efforts. Today, the Unit is at the forefront of conservation. Fully trained and equipped, AJSU carries out many tasks, including: forest patrols, detection of illegal activities, arrests, destruction of charcoal kilns and marijuana crops, and removal of snares and traps. AJSU also conducts regular assessment of the status of the 400-kilometre-long fence around the Aberdare ecosystem.

Over the years, the unit has been increasingly involved in fighting wildfire. To build their capacity in this area, AJSU was provided with professional fire-fighting equipment and uniforms in 2019 and trained by experts from South Africa.

Rhino Ark was privileged to be granted funding from Tusk Trust in 2020 at a time when COVID-19 is hitting hard on our economy and budget cuts are affecting our government conservation partners. These funds are greatly assisting the AJSU team in maintaining and strengthening their field operations, contributing extensively to better secured forest and wildlife in the Aberdares.



# RHINO ARK NEWS

## BONGO WILDLIFE CLUBS – MAASAI MAU.

The Bongo Surveillance Project in partnership with Rhino Ark is running a bongo conservation programme in Mau, especially at Maasai Mau Forest where we have a promising growing herd of bongo. This programme has the support of communities and schools adjacent to the forest.

BSP is doing a case study to introduce the programme of using recycled plastic posts to help ease dependency on cedar poached from the forest. This programme is part of our conservation education initiative introduced to Maasai Mau schools and communities adjacent to the forest.

In February / March 2020, the Osanangururi Primary received their first batch of recycled plastic posts and immediately started building a Bongo Wildlife Club tree nursery.



Osanangururi Primary School Bongo Club with plastic posts



Osanangururi Primary School children holding plastic posts



Camera trap image of Mountain Bongo

## FEEDBACK AND TESTIMONIALS



### FRANCIS MUIGAI - COMMUNITY MEMBER - TANGI TANO AREA, MAU EBURU ECOSYSTEM

"As you can see, there is a positive impact brought about by conservation of Eburu Forest and protecting it with an electric fence. In previous years, I used to harvest 10-15 bags of maize per acre, but now there is an increase to 15 to 21 bags per acre. The rain pattern has changed for the better since we can grow vegetables two times a year now. Community sensitization on forest conservation, better methods of farming and fuel alternatives have also contributed to this positive impact. Thanks to Rhino Ark and partners for this noble cause. The initial weather pattern has started coming back gradually. We can feel the ownership and connection to our Eburu Forest."



### JULIUS KIRIMI, FRUIT FARMER, NKABONE VILLAGE, MT. KENYA ECOSYSTEM

"I am the immediate neighbour of Ruthumbi Forest, Mt. Kenya and life has really changed since Rhino Ark built for us this fence. Elephants used to raid my small farm destroying our food crops in one night. On the other hand, hyenas and leopards would not spare my sheep and cows. Now I have a different story to tell. Our future is bright thanks to Rhino Ark Mt. Kenya Electric Fence. I am a trained mason but I have since abandoned the construction industry to embark on farming of tree tomatoes because my farm is now secure and there is assurance of reaping my harvest now that wildlife no longer come to my farm. I produce the juiciest tree tomatoes, free of pesticides."



### JOSEPH BARNO, OGIEK COMMUNITY ELDER, SOUTH WESTERN MAU ECOSYSTEM

"The forest was degraded and hunting led to wildlife population reduction. We were desperate. Thanks to Rhino Ark that came in to save us when the situation was crucial. We are happy for the consistency and bio enterprise training that they support always. We are now sensitizing the community to stop hunting and embrace other sustainable livelihood projects like beekeeping."



#### PATRONS:

LORD ABERDARE DL.

DR. DAVID WESTERN

DR. SALLY KOSGEI

JONATHAN SCOTT, CHARLES NJONJO

#### US TRUSTEES:

SHEENA BLISS, GEORGE GRIFFIN,

ANDREW FRITZ

#### UK TRUSTEES:

GUY TRITTON, SIR KIT KABERRY,

JOHN BOWDEN, NICHOLAS KUHLE,

JOHN EDWARDS, PATRICK ORR

#### KENYA DIRECTORS:

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BRIAN HAWORTH, MICHAEL TURNER,

ISABELLA OCHOLA-WILSON

PETER KINYUA, ADIL KHAWAJA

## THANK YOU!

Rhino Ark wishes to thank the following people and companies who have provided services or specific donations in cash or kind to Rhino Ark.

- **ChallengeAid** - Support to the Schools of Hope (Aberdares)
- **KWS** - Rhino Ark Offices
- **KWS** - Provision of fence materials
- **IDH-ISLA & Finlays** - Support to the surveillance flights and conservation of the mountain bongo (South Western Mau)
- **Flamingo Horticulture Kenya Ltd** - Supply of plastic posts
- **Calgary Zoological Society** - Support to the conservation of Eburu Forest
- **Rare Species Conservatory Foundation** - Support to the conservation of the mountain bongo
- **Wildlife Conservation Society** - Construction of two elephant grids in Mt. Kenya
- **Elephant Cooperation** - Construction of two elephant grids in Mt. Kenya
- **Eburru Rafiki** - Community awareness raising and de-snaring operations (Eburu)
- **ClimateCare** - Support towards planting and maintaining 20,000 trees in Mt. Kenya
- **AutoXpress** - Provision of tyres for all Rhino Ark vehicles
- **Safaricom Foundation** - Support for the conservation of South Western Mau
- **MPESA Foundation** - Support for the maintenance of Eburu Electric Fence and the establishment of tree nurseries in schools
- **Tusk Trust** - support towards community scouts in Eburu and Aberdares

## 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 free of charge.
- Rhino Charge book KES 5000 only.
- 2020 Rhino Charge Calendar for KES 1,000 only.
- Mau Eburu Visitors' Guidebook for KES 1,500 only.



Act now!...

help us to continue our work

#### Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust

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

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guytriton@virgin.net  
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 USA  
Email: sheenab230@gmail.com  
Telephone: 608-576-0571

#### Website Donations:

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

Please make cheques payable to:



**RHINO ARK KENYA  
CHARITABLE TRUST**

Your donations of **USD 200 or KES 20,000**  
will maintain **250 meters** of fence

## FRIENDS OF RHINO ARK

**ACT NOW AND HELP US TO CONTINUE OUR VITAL WORK**

I/We: .....  
of .....

**Please tick your selection and fill in where applicable:**

- ☐ We wish to receive ARKive, the bi-annual newsletter, and enclose a cheque/Postal Order for KES 1,000 or US\$ 10.
- ☐ We wish to make a donation in the form of cheque/Postal order for 2020 (KES/US\$).
- ☐ We wish to complete a Standing Order / Deed of Covenant - please send an application form.



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

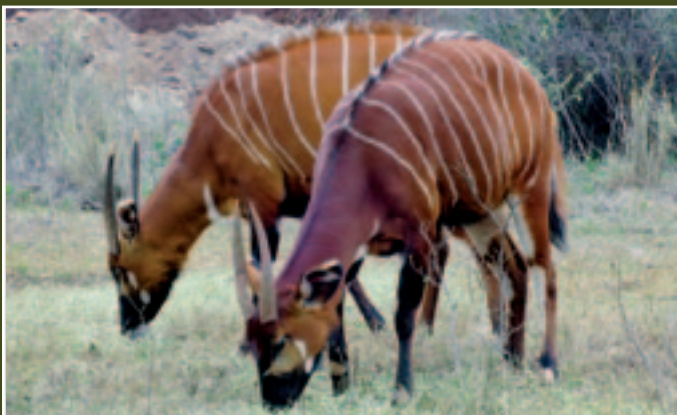


### WHY IT MATTERS

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

The forest-adjacent communities are critical to conservation of these forests. They are the front-line guardians. Conversely, they are the most directly dependent on the forests and also the most impacted by human-wildlife conflict.



### WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

- 1.6 BILLION KENYA SHILLINGS (\$16 MILLION) invested in conservation
- 650 KILOMETERS of game-proof electrified fences built
- Over 500,000 hectares of MOUNTAIN FOREST SECURED
- 80,000 KENYAN FAMILIES protected from human/wildlife conflict, and their livelihoods secured
- 178 SCHOOLS actively learning about conservation
- 90 HECTARES OF FOREST rehabilitated

# DONATE!

### HOW CAN YOU HELP?

We welcome your kind donations to support our work. Your 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 (\$25,000). Once built, fences must be maintained continuously. We have 174 fence attendants maintaining our fences daily, supported by eight 4x4 vehicles. Fence maintenance costs KES 80,000 (\$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, 7-man team of community scouts that patrols the Aberdare ecosystem. AJSU targets illegal activities such as logging, charcoal kilns, snaring and wildlife trapping. They also monitor wildlife abundance and distribution, gather intelligence information, and participate in forest fire fighting. KES 73,500 (\$735) can cover a two-week field mission.

In Eburu, a 5-man Foot Patrol Team responds to local intelligence reports to enact dark sting operations to catch would-be wildlife or forestry criminals. Their main targets are wildlife snares, illegal logging and charcoal kilns. KES 24,000 (\$240) can cover a two-day field operation.

##### *Support forest rehabilitation:*

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

#### 3. Community conservation and livelihoods

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

## HOW TO DONATE

1. Mobile money
2. Bank Transfer
3. PayPal

If you wish to make a donation kindly contact us on:

Email: [info@rhinoark.or.ke](mailto:info@rhinoark.or.ke)

Telephone: +254 722 230 929

Or visit our website donations page

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

