

RHINO ARK KENYA CHARITABLE TRUST STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 KES	2022 KES
INCOME	7	<u>220,427,811</u>	<u>157,769,574</u>
EXPENDITURE			
Aberdare expenses	8	38,522,966	22,856,232
Mau Eburu expenses	9	13,541,037	15,708,289
Mt Kenya expenses	10	37,752,859	30,653,073
South West Mau expenses	11	24,866,794	10,427,742
Fund-raising expenses	12	40,174,061	29,863,823
Kakamega forest	13	10,410,058	5,681,564
Administrative and general expenses	14	<u>44,715,073</u>	<u>46,373,254</u>
		<u>209,982,848</u>	<u>161,563,977</u>
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		<u>10,444,963</u>	<u>(3,794,403)</u>

*Twenty percent of each year's Rhino Charge donation is allocated specifically for maintenance of existing fences.

RHINO ARK KENYA CHARITABLE TRUST STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 MARCH 2023

	Note	2023 KES	2022 KES
ASSETS			
NON CURRENT ASSETS			
Property and equipment	2	<u>7,834,369</u>	<u>9,261,789</u>
CURRENT ASSETS			
Investments	3	2,527,617	2,335,746
Trade and other receivables	4	3,379,940	7,157,170
Cash and cash equivalents	15	<u>23,991,663</u>	<u>15,378,535</u>
		<u>29,899,220</u>	<u>24,871,451</u>
TOTAL ASSETS		<u>37,733,589</u>	<u>34,133,240</u>
CURRENT LIABILITIES			
Trade and other payables	5	<u>4,059,669</u>	<u>10,904,283</u>
NET ASSETS		<u>33,673,920</u>	<u>23,228,957</u>
FINANCED BY:			
General fund		<u>33,673,920</u>	<u>23,228,957</u>

RHINO ARK KENYA CHARITABLE TRUST NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

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 fund 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 AND EQUIPMENT

	Motor Vehicles KES	Furniture, fittings and Equipment KES	Computers KES	Total KES
2023				
COST				
At 1 April 2022	52,638,393	38,140,690	5,146,904	95,925,987
Additions	<u>515,100</u>	<u>2,731,285</u>	<u>647,860</u>	<u>3,894,245</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>53,153,493</u>	<u>40,871,975</u>	<u>5,794,764</u>	<u>99,820,232</u>
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2022	49,041,361	32,475,933	5,146,904	86,664,198
Charge for the year	<u>3,522,147</u>	<u>1,583,586</u>	<u>215,932</u>	<u>5,321,665</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>52,563,508</u>	<u>34,059,519</u>	<u>5,362,836</u>	<u>91,985,863</u>
NET CARRYING AMOUNT				
At 31 March 2023	<u>589,985</u>	<u>6,812,456</u>	<u>431,928</u>	<u>7,834,369</u>
2022				
COST				
At 1 April 2021	52,231,074	35,929,050	5,146,904	93,307,028
Additions	<u>407,319</u>	<u>2,211,640</u>	-	<u>2,618,959</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>52,638,393</u>	<u>38,140,690</u>	<u>5,146,904</u>	<u>95,925,987</u>
ACCUMULATED DEPRECIATION				
At 1 April 2021	44,977,320	30,883,912	4,968,861	80,830,093
Charge for the year	<u>4,064,041</u>	<u>1,592,021</u>	<u>178,043</u>	<u>5,834,105</u>
At 31 March 2022	<u>49,041,361</u>	<u>32,475,933</u>	<u>5,146,904</u>	<u>86,664,198</u>
NET CARRYING AMOUNT				
At 31 March 2022	<u>3,597,032</u>	<u>5,664,757</u>	-	<u>9,261,789</u>

3. INVESTMENTS

	2023 KES	2022 KES
Old Mutual Money Market Fund	189,736	173,911
British American Money Market Fund	<u>2,337,881</u>	<u>2,161,835</u>
	<u>2,527,617</u>	<u>2,335,746</u>
Movement		
At 1 April 2022	2,335,746	2,159,612
Add: Interest earned and capitalised	<u>191,871</u>	<u>176,134</u>
At 31 March 2023	<u>2,527,617</u>	<u>2,335,746</u>

The investments are held at Britam and Old Mutual. The average rate of interest on the investments was 8%. (2022- 8%)

4. TRADE AND OTHER RECEIVABLES

Trade receivables	3,135,697	5,317,172
Other receivables	244,243	6,069,334
Rhino Ark USA	-	<u>456,012</u>
	<u>3,379,940</u>	<u>11,842,518</u>
Less: Provision for bad debts	-	<u>(4,685,348)</u>
	<u>3,379,940</u>	<u>7,157,170</u>

EXCERPTS FROM RHINO ARK CHARITABLE TRUST ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2023

5. TRADE AND OTHER PAYABLES

Accruals	1,215,591	5,546,978
Payroll liabilities	1,266,739	1,785,702
Rare Species Conservatory Foundation *	1,451,173	-
Sundry creditors	-	3,571,603
Other liabilities	126,166	-
	<u>4,059,669</u>	<u>10,904,283</u>
*Movement		
Funds received from RSCF	2,712,983	
Funds disbursed to Mike PretteJohn	<u>1,261,810</u>	
Funds payable to RSCF	<u>1,451,173</u>	

6. RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

	2023 KES	2022 KES
Key management compensation:		
Salaries	23,370,627	21,492,516
Pension	<u>240,000</u>	<u>240,000</u>
	<u>23,610,627</u>	<u>21,732,516</u>

7. INCOME

Rhino Charge collections (note 7 (a))	167,661,796	121,398,498
Other income (note 7 (b))	10,508,469	13,752,121
Other donations (note 7 (c))	41,117,019	21,594,924
Interest income – on current accounts and short term deposit	948,656	847,897
Interest income – on investments	<u>191,871</u>	<u>176,134</u>
	<u>220,427,811</u>	<u>157,769,574</u>

(a) RHINO CHARGE COLLECTIONS

Rhino Charge 2019	-	4,419,900
Rhino Charge 2021	1,971,223	98,699,096
Rhino Charge 2022	129,839,183	18,279,502
Rhino Charge 2023	<u>35,851,390</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>167,661,796</u>	<u>121,398,498</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 2022 RC donations will therefore be booked in two financial years, that is, the total 2022 RC donations are reflected in 2022 and 2023 financial years.

(b) OTHER INCOME

	2023 KES	2022 KES
Bongo surveillance project	-	5,194,868
Operations base – Aberdare	4,140,708	3,283,055
Miscellaneous income	<u>6,367,761</u>	<u>5,274,198</u>
	<u>10,508,469</u>	<u>13,752,121</u>

(c) OTHER DONATIONS

	2023 KES	2022 KES
M-Pesa Foundation	3,625,000	2,985,500
Platinum Credit	11,202,056	-
International Union for Conservation – BIOPAMA	1,515,220	-
Calgary Zoo	3,868,479	3,896,925
Wildlife Conservation Society	809,836	2,626,334
Total Kenya	783,348	627,090
Eburu Rafiki	357,000	535,325
IDH, The Sustainable Trade Initiative	1,922,068	1,072,373
Elephant Cooperation	-	5,678,107
Tusk Trust	-	3,303,270
Guard Post Sponsorship	3,100,000	870,000
Darwin Initiative	<u>13,934,012</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>41,117,019</u>	<u>21,594,924</u>

8. ABERDARES EXPENSES

	2023 KES	2022 KES
Staff costs	8,681,662	7,581,339
Other costs	5,083,736	3,138,383
Fuel	1,559,912	886,038
Motor vehicles costs	971,836	773,939
Tools & materials	1,115,817	598,264
Depreciation	1,338,941	1,338,941
Community support	<u>15,717,264</u>	<u>2,780,540</u>
	<u>34,469,168</u>	<u>17,097,444</u>
Bongo surveillance project	<u>4,053,798</u>	<u>5,758,788</u>
	<u>38,522,966</u>	<u>22,856,232</u>

9. MAU EBURU EXPENSES

Staff costs	5,996,645	5,452,346
Allowances	116,230	107,275
Community conservation	13,676	2,763,389
Tree nurseries project	380,699	1,137,262
Eburu Rafiki	613,923	1,389,675
Fence costs	2,817,605	2,888,046
Other costs	2,848,357	1,438,210
Depreciation	84,600	41,675
Motor vehicle costs	<u>669,302</u>	<u>490,411</u>
	<u>13,541,037</u>	<u>15,708,289</u>

10. MT. KENYA EXPENSES

	2023 KES	2022 KES
Staff costs	9,186,312	8,006,269
Allowances	15,872,476	9,226,120
Fence costs	5,307,445	3,434,098
Aerial support	1,707,360	-
Depreciation	60,155	60,155
Motor vehicle costs	621,176	1,102,577
Other costs	<u>4,997,935</u>	<u>8,823,854</u>
	<u>37,752,859</u>	<u>30,653,073</u>

11. SOUTH WEST MAU EXPENSES

Allowances	234,049	169,333
Depreciation	42,925	670,669
Staff costs	6,481,506	5,515,599
Fence and other costs	<u>18,108,314</u>	<u>4,072,141</u>
	<u>24,866,794</u>	<u>10,427,742</u>

12. FUND RAISING EXPENSES

General fund raising	<u>40,174,061</u>	<u>29,863,823</u>
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13. KAKAMEGA FOREST

Staff Costs	4,898,991	4,131,456
Vehicle running	319,479	246,257
Fence construction	353,684	-
Environmental and Social Impact Assessment	3,534,053	-
Depreciation	<u>1,303,851</u>	<u>1,303,851</u>
	<u>10,410,058</u>	<u>5,681,564</u>

14. ADMINISTRATIVE AND GENERAL EXPENSES

Depreciation on property and equipment	2,448,268	2,418,814
Bank charges	764,320	570,230
Office management and administration	40,840,591	34,105,060
Auditor's remuneration	1,431,280	1,189,489
Public relations and press	2,211,771	3,606,041
Bad debt expense	(4,229,335)	3,619,335
Vehicle running expenses	<u>1,248,178</u>	<u>864,285</u>
	<u>44,715,073</u>	<u>46,373,254</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:

	2023 KES	2022 KES
Cash and bank balances	22,852,969	9,103,744
Fixed deposits	<u>1,138,694</u>	<u>6,274,791</u>
	<u>23,991,663</u>	<u>15,378,535</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 KRAEXM0096130722 valid from 15 February 2022 for 5 years.

19. CURRENCY

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



Peter Kinyua: Rhino Ark Board Chairman.

Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust was initially formed to assist the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in building an electric fence along sections of the Aberdare National Park on its Eastern Salient area which has the highest concentration of black rhino and borders directly onto farmland. The scope of the initial project then evolved into a much more ambitious programme.

Today, Rhino Ark is a leading Kenyan conservation organization that develops and implements practical solutions to the challenges affecting Kenya's mountain forests, also known as water towers, and their diverse wildlife, with a focus on threatened species. These solutions are high-impact forest, water catchments and endangered wildlife conservation initiatives that tangibly support adjacent local communities.

Overall funds 2022/23

The total funds raised during the financial year under review were KES 372.13 million. This included in-cash donations amounting to KES 220.43 million (2022: KES 157.77 million) from Rhino Charge, Corporates, individuals. In-kind donations amounting to KES 151.70 million was from the international organizations, Government, various corporates, individuals and volunteers.

KWS covered the costs of the personnel maintaining the 400 kilometres Aberdare Fence and the 270 kilometres Mt. Kenya Fence already built whilst Kenya Forest Service (KFS) covered such costs for the 43.3 kilometres Eburu Fence. These contributions amounted to KES 26.62 million.

Corporate/conservation bodies support

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

- M-Pesa Foundation for donating KES 3,625,000 million for the maintenance of the Eburu Electric Fence;
- Wilder Institute/Calgary Zoo for donating KES 3,868,479 in support of forest conservation and community livelihoods towards the recovery of the Mountain Bongo antelope;
- Wildlife Conservation Society for donating USD 7,000 (KES 809,836) for the construction of an underpass in Imenti forest;
- European Union through the International Union for Conservation of Nature for

donating Euro 12,410 (KES 1,515,219) to towards the maintenance of the Aberdare Fence;

- Platinum Credit for donating KES 11,202,056 in support towards reforestation in Southern West Mau Forest Reserve;
- Sustainable Trade Initiative (IDH) for donating Euro 14,185 (KES 1,922,068 million) for the activities at South Western Mau Forest Reserve;
- Total Energies for donating KES 783,348 in fuel credit in support of the Rhino Charge 2022 event;
- Darwin Initiative for donating GBP 99,833 (KES 13,934,012 million) for support towards the conservation of the Aberdare and South Western Mau forests; and,
- Eburu Rafiki for donating KES 357,000 in support of education outreach around Eburu Forest. This includes funds from Musiara Ltd, Governors Camp and several other donors.
- Various donors contributed for the guard post sponsorship at the rhino charge amounting to KES 3,100,000.

Mau Eburu Ecosystem

Fencing

Rhino Ark maintained the 43.3-kilometre long-Eburu Electric Fence, providing materials for maintenance and equipping (uniforms, tools, technical support) the 12-man fence maintenance team engaged by Kenya Forest Service. We further provided technical support for the fenced wildlife corridor that runs through Loldia Farm and links Eburu Forest to Lake Naivasha. To take stock of the impact of the fence and other interventions, Rhino Ark organized a 3-day strategic workshop on the Eburu Forest in October 2022. The workshop, organized jointly with Kenya Forest Service was attended by 40 participants from key stakeholder organizations. The workshop report provides an important formal baseline for the project.

Forest and wildlife habitat security

Our 6-man community scouts' team, working in collaboration with Kenya Forest Service carried out forest patrols that had the following outputs: 98 snares recovered; Sites for illegal activities detected charcoal (23), wood products harvesting (74), illegal grazing (11), grass harvesting (17); 6 arrests of suspects conducting illegal activities. Under the Rhino Ark / Calgary Zoo Mountain Forest Conservation Partnership, the long-term wildlife monitoring programme continues to document wildlife in the forest using 16 strategically placed trap cameras. This programme is providing comprehensive baseline data about wildlife species that will support future wildlife conservation interventions, including for the mountain bongo antelope.

Rhino Ark continued to play a central role in coordinating and providing logistical support for firefighting work during the fire season, thus

helping to protect the forest. To build capacity for firefighting, a 5-day professional forest fire fighting training programme for a 22-member Eburu Community Fire Brigade was organized. The trainees received both theoretical and practical knowledge on how to fight forest fires. The training was funded by the Tusk Trust.

Community livelihoods

Rhino Ark facilitated a total of 9 on-farm training sessions for farmers from the local community. Practical, zone-specific lessons learnt by members included subjects ranging from farming best practices, soil and water conservation, installation and use of biogas. 72 farmers have now fully adopted biogas within the ecosystem. A total of 194 farmers were direct beneficiaries of diverse training sessions provided by experts from the Ministry of Agriculture. Coupled with this was ongoing support for the community beekeeping project under the Rhino Ark / Calgary Zoo Mountain Forest Conservation Partnership: 36 community members received training in basic beekeeping at the National Beekeeping Institute. 28 members also participated in a study visit to a beekeeping project in Baringo County. Registration of the beekeeping cooperative was completed and the central processing plant was established at Eburu Forest Station with equipment valued at over KES 400,000 procured. The beekeeping cooperative now has 73 members.

South West Mau Ecosystem

Forest rehabilitation

At total of 70 hectares of degraded indigenous forest were rehabilitated by Rhino Ark during the reporting period, with 77,000 seedlings planted. The work comprised 40 hectares at Tirigoi A/B, supported by Platinum Credit, and 30 hectares at Korabariet supported by the Darwin Initiative. The sites are secured using micro fencing, and each is guarded and maintained by community attendants. The two new sites join existing Rhino Ark maintained sites at Kipkoris (40ha), and Kapkembu (10ha).

Forest and wildlife habitat security

A new forest security outpost has been established at Korabariet with funding support from the Darwin Initiative.

This new outpost will provide a base for forest rangers and community scouts to carry out forest protection work in the northern sector of the Ndoinet forest block. The outpost also enhances security for the newly rehabilitated adjacent 30ha site. 19 collaborative forest patrols with Rhino Ark staff, community scouts and forest rangers recovered 22 snares, 14 timber posts and destroyed 24 illegal charcoal kilns within the reporting period.

Rhino Ark has procured equipment for 15 rangers (Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service) with forest hiking gear and camping equipment for extended forest patrols. The gear and equipment is enabling the rangers to carry out extended, multi-day security patrols deep

inside the forest. The patrols aim to address illegal human activities detected through the aerial surveillance programme spearheaded by Rhino Ark. The items will greatly assist in wildlife and forest protection work by the security teams.

Community livelihoods

With funding from the Darwin Initiative, we have initiated a new phase of the beekeeping project within the landscape. Community mobilization has been carried out and a baseline survey with 104 beekeepers commenced (completed in April 2023). Our outreach team is continuing to engage with the community through local churches, youth groups and other forums to sensitize the community about conservation. This drive is complemented by Rhino Ark's formal conservation education programme running in 46 schools within the landscape. Close monitoring of this programme is carried out by Rhino Ark's team in collaboration with officials of the Ministry of Education.

Mount Kenya Ecosystem

The Mount Kenya Electric Fence has been making good progress. Of the 60-kilometre-long phase of the fence in Nyeri County that was launched in November 2021, 45 kilometres have been built. This phase stretches from River Sagana to River Tigithi, along the forest reserve/community boundary. It is implemented through a public/private partnership between the Upper Tana Catchment Natural Resources Management Project, Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust and Mount Kenya Trust. Support is also received from the Kenya Pipeline Company who provided KES 20 million through Car 23 and the Fresno Chaffee Zoo (USA). The activity is a continuation of the Mt. Kenya Electric Fence programme through which 275 kilometres of comprehensive fence have already been built.

The Imenti Forest, in the northeast of Mount Kenya, has been one of the most challenging forest area fenced by Rhino Ark to date. This is due to elephant movement and fence breakage. Together with KWS and the Upper Tana Catchment Natural Resources Management Project, two additional elephant grids have been built, bringing the number of grids in the Imenti to four. These add to the 53 kilometres of double fences and the two one-way automatic elephant gates already built in the same area. Rhino Ark has also completed the technical design of an elephant underpass to be constructed on the Nanyuki-Meru Highways where it crossed the Imenti Forest. This forest has likely one of the highest concentrations of applied technology to enable elephant movement and human development side-by-side.

Through the Rhino Ark – Wilder Institute / Calgary Zoo Mountain Conservation Partnership and in collaboration with other partners, Rhino Ark has made great progress towards the re-introduction of Mountain Bongo antelope in Ragati and Chehe forests in the south-western

part of Mt. Kenya. A Mountain Bongo Expert Advisory Committee comprising of international and national advisors has been assembled to provide technical advice on veterinary, re-introduction, and ungulate translocation issues. The Committee held its inaugural meeting in October 2022. A feasibility study was prepared and finalized, as well as an environmental impact assessment study. Two prior informed consent processes were conducted in Ragati and Chehe forest stations. The management plan for the re-introduction is also nearly completed. To ascertain the remnant population of the mountain bongo in these forests, as well as the population of other wildlife, camera traps have been set up in these forests.

Aberdares Ecosystem

Maintaining the 400-kilometres-long electric fence remained a priority area for Rhino Ark. This is a critical activity to continue deter poachers, illegal loggers, and charcoal burners as well as forest encroachment but largely to protect forest-adjacent communities from marauding wildlife. Fence maintenance received support from European Union's Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) to run our fleet of fence vehicles, procure new uniforms for the 114 fence attendants and purchase fence tools and fence materials.

This year's Aberdare Relay Run was also supported by the European Union's BIOPAMA. The Run aims to raise awareness among young people living around the Aberdare ecosystem of the importance of conserving this critical water tower, which provides most of the drinking water for Nairobi and population centres located around the Aberdare ecosystem.

Rhino Ark secured a large grant from the Darwin Initiative to boost conservation efforts in the north-western part of the Aberdare. With Darwin support, Rhino Ark procured fence material to close the 10-kilometre gap that was left at the bottom of the Wanjohi-Shamata escarpment. A survey of some of the most degraded forest areas was conducted and a tree nursery established to support replanting. Training and gears were provided to the Guides and Porters Association based in Geta to promote eco-tourism in the area.

Wildfires have been a major concern in the Aberdare. Several fires affected various part of the moorlands from Kinangop to Shamata. In February 2023, a major fire broke up and spread across the central moorlands destroying approximately 40,000 acres of vegetation. Resources were mobilized from Rhino Ark, KWS, KFS, Mount Kenya Trust, National Youth Service and the Kenya Pipeline Company to contain the fire.

Kakamega Forest Ecosystem

Rhino Ark spearheaded the setup of a strong partnership to conserve and fence Kakamega Forest. The partnership includes Rhino Ark, KFS, KWS, National Environment Trust Fund

(NETFund) and the county governments of Kakamega and Vihiga. A partnership agreement and a fence implementation agreement were signed between the partners on 24 February 2023. This follows the undertaking of the Environmental and Social Impact Assessment study for the fencing of Kakamega Forest, financed by Rhino Ark. A NEMA licence was issued after the successful submission of the study report.

Funding from UNDP to build the first 15 kilometres of fence was secured by Rhino Ark. Disbursement was made through NETFund who procured and delivered the fence material in December 2023. The Kakamega Forest Fencing and Conservation was officially launched by Hon. Soipan Tuya on 24 February 2023.

Rhino Ark UK and Rhino Ark USA

Over the past year, we have been working towards strengthening Rhino Ark US and Rhino Ark UK. Rhino Ark US has expanded its Board with the addition of two new members: Dr. Paul Reillo and Mark Somen. With the in-kind support of Ballantines PR, we have been pitching the stories of Rhino Ark and Rhino Charge in the US market towards securing donations. In the UK, the branding and social media channels of our sister charity have been revamped. A professional fundraiser has been contracted in the US, while in the UK a fundraising committee has been working towards securing grants. As of 31 March 2022, Rhino Ark US and Rhino Ark UK were holding USD 187,425.59 and GBP 33,908.77 respectively, from Rhino Chargers' online sponsorships as well as from grants.

Thousands to thank

There are many individuals and organizations, both local and international, who have contributed to our conservation triumphs in this past year. While it may not be possible to mention each one here, we at Rhino Ark deeply appreciate and treasure their support. We do not take it for granted, and it is the sacrifices, support and input of each one that have collectively ensured that Kenya's critical forests and water towers remain secured for another year through our fences, conservation programmes and advocacy.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the Rhino Charge Community – officials and volunteers. Their energetic efforts, skill and innovation in running this exceptional annual event continue to set new benchmarks and enable competitors to participate and raise the funds that support Rhino Ark's paradigm shifting work to be carried out.

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

Peter Kinyua
Chairman, Board of Directors