MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

A BEACON OF CONSERVATION

20 Years ANNIVERSARY

MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY



2024 YEARBOOK

Message from Chairperson



Dear reader,

As 2025 begins, I am filled with immense pride as I reflect on a year of extraordinary progress at the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy (MKWC). 2024 was marked by significant achievements, the strengthening of valuable partnerships, and an unwavering commitment to our mission of wildlife conservation and habitat restoration. Through all our efforts, one thing remains clear: our impact is growing, and we are making a meaningful difference for Kenya's wildlife. The central pillar of our conservation work is the Mountain Bongo Program, which stands as a beacon of hope for recovery of this critically endangered species in Kenya. The year was especially significant as we celebrated 20 years since we first embarked on the journey to save the Mountain Bongo. The impact of these two decades of dedication is evident at the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary, where we witnessed the remarkable birth of several new calves. The very first born calf within the sanctuary –Fanaka celebrated her second birthday. This milestone is a clear sign that our rewilding efforts are not just hopeful—they are bearing fruit. We are more determined than ever to meet our goal of reintroducing 50 bongos to this sanctuary by 2027 as part of Kenya's National Recovery and Action Plan. This ambitious target continues to be supported through the invaluable partnerships we have with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Kenya Forest Service (KFS), with whom we work hand-in-hand to restore the bongo population across the range.

Our conservation efforts extend far beyond the breeding and rewilding of the critically endangered Mountain Bongo. In 2024, we reached a significant milestone in our educational programs, hosting 11,500 students through initiatives aimed at inspiring the next generation of conservation leaders. Our educational trips, internship programs, and community outreach efforts are crucial to fostering a deeper understanding of wildlife conservation. Partnership with local communities continues to strengthen the foundation of our conservation work, as we believe that protecting wildlife starts with educating and involving the communities who live alongside them.

The use of innovative technologies is another key factor that is revolutionizing how we protect endangered species. With the help of AI-powered cameras and collaborations with leading Institutions such as Chester Zoo and Liverpool John Moores University, we are enhancing our ability to monitor wildlife and make informed conservation decisions. These technologies allow us to track animal movements and behaviors in real time, providing invaluable data that strengthens our conservation strategies.

In 2025, our resolve remains stronger than ever. With your continued support, we are confident in the strides we are making to protect the wildlife and ecosystems of Mount Kenya. Together, we are paving the way for a future where these majestic animals and their habitats can thrive for generations to come. Thank you for being part of this incredible journey. Stay connected with us through our website and social media for exciting updates.

Best wishes,

NYAWIRA KARIUKI
Chairperson, Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy

About Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy

The Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy (MKWC) is a non-profit trust dedicated to conservation of the environment and the wildlife within. The Conservancy is located at the foot of the scenic Mount Kenya, a United Nations World Heritage site.

30 Different animal species represented

1,200 Total Conservancy animal population estimated

Our purpose is to inspire generations to preserve and protect nature's beauty and wildlife.

How it all Began

The Conservancy's pioneering work dates back to 1964 when the Government of Kenya, concerned about the declining numbers of Mountain Bongos in Mount Kenya and Aberdares, permitted Don Hunt, then Director of Mount Kenya Game Ranch and founder of the Conservancy, to export 36 Mountain Bongos to American zoos as a safeguard for the species. This move ensured that if the situation in the wild worsened, the Mountain Bongos would not become extinct and could be reintroduced. Based on this proposal, the Government permitted him to export 36 Mountain Bongos to the USA. These Mountain Bongos bred successfully and became the founder population of the animals in the zoos in the United States. When Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy was established in 2004, 18 Mountain Bongos were repatriated from the USA to kick off the Mountain Bongo breeding and rewilding program.



Bongo Breeding and Rewilding Program

The Bongo Breeding and Rewilding Program stands as a beacon of hope for the critically endangered Mountain Bongo. This ambitious initiative aims to reverse the decline of the iconic mountain bongo, a striking and elusive antelope species native to the montane forests of Kenya. The program's ultimate goal is to rewild the Mountain Bongos for their eventual reintroduction into the wild.

Mawingu Sanctuary is a 776-acre reserve located in the stunning Mount Kenya Forest. Established in 2022, the sanctuary focuses on the conservation and rewilding of the endangered Mountain Bongos.

20 Bongos Translocated

4 is the number of Bongo births recorded to Ghana, Kavu, Malewa and Gift respectively in the Sanctuary.

50 is the target number of fully rewilded Bongos by the year 2027

24 is the increase in number of Bongo population, exceeding expectation.From 70 to over 90 Bongos in December





Success Stories

20th anniversary,

2024 is the year Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy celebrated its 20th anniversary, marking two significant milestones: two decades since the Conservancy's founding and the repatriation of the first Mountain Bongos to kick-start the Bongo program.

10 Mountain Bongos

were released into the sanctuary in the first year

50 fully rewilded Mountain Bongos

is the number the Conservancy projects the sanctuary will be housing **50 fully rewilded Mountain Bongos**

MKWC at 20

This historic importation, known as the Bongo Repatriation Project, was prompted by the dramatic decline of the Mountain Bongo in the wild, with the population having fallen to fewer than 100 individuals. The species existed in fragmented pockets across Mount Kenya and the Aberdares, limiting their potential for natural recovery. The successful repatriation laid the foundation for the ongoing breeding and rewilding program, a success that is evident today.

A key achievement in the Conservancy's 20-year history was the opening of the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary in March 2022. Located at the foothills of Mount Kenya, the Sanctuary is both Kenya's and the world's first dedicated Mountain Bongo sanctuary.

To commemorate the 20th Anniversary, on May 7, 2024, another 10 Mountain Bongos were released into the Sanctuary during a special event attended by Her Excellency Mrs. Rachel Ruto, the First Lady of Kenya. By this time, at least 4 Bongo calves had been born and survived, bringing the total number of Mountain Bongos in the Sanctuary to 24. This success demonstrates that rewilding the Mountain Bongo in Kenya is not just a possibility but a proven reality.

Looking ahead, the Conservancy projects that by 2027, the Sanctuary will house 50 fully rewilded Mountain Bongos. To ensure the continued success of the Sanctuary, funding is needed to cover the ongoing costs of translocation, post-translocation monitoring, sanctuary security, and infrastructure maintenance. Today, Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy stands as a global center of excellence in conservation, leading on the breeding and rewilding of these critically endangered antelopes, restoring their habitat and returning them to their natural home in the wild.

Animal Orphanage



27 Species

of animals being housed under the Animal orphanage Rescue Centre, which serves as a centre for wildlife care, research and education.

---

10 Ostriches

were brought from Solai Ranch to the (MKWC) Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy Animal Orphanage.

2024 KWS Accreditation Secured

We are excited to share that the Animal Orphanage was again proudly accredited by the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) for 2024! This means we continue to be one of the trusted places where injured, orphaned, and abandoned wildlife are brought for care. Animals from all over Kenya are brought to us for rehabilitation, medical treatment, and a safe haven. Our mission is to provide them with the care they need to recover and, once they are healthy, release them back into the wild whenever possible, where they truly belong.

Upgraded Spaces for Rescued Wildlife

We have also been making some improvements to our animal enclosures! Our spotted and striped hyenas, along with the lionesses (including our blind lioness), now have larger, more spacious enclosures to roam around in. These new spaces allow them to interact more with each other and enjoy a bigger, more comfortable area while they stay with us.

84 animals across 27 different species

are currently housed at the orphanage

Animal Rescues

Our Animal Orphanage and Rescue Centre, home to more than **27 species**—including the rare Patas monkey—serves as a centre for wildlife care, research, and education. The latter part of 2024 saw plenty of exciting new additions to the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy Animal Orphanage. These heartwarming tales of rescue, resilience, and the dedication of the animal keepers paint a picture of the life-changing work being done to provide a second chance to wild animals in need. We commend the extraordinary efforts of Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy staff, volunteers, and supporters who have all made a difference in the lives of these rescued animals..

In 2024, we received several new animals for rehabilitation including a giraffe calf, an owl, ten ostrich chicks, a genet, a common zebra, a hedgehog, a bushbuck, an African marsh harrier, and two buffalos! The orphanage has also successfully released several animals back into the wild after rehabilitating them, including two colobus monkeys, a waterbuck, a hedgehog, and five bushbucks, all in consultation with the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS).

Currently, the orphanage is home to 84 animals across 27 different species.



Over 30,000

Students were hosted in the conservancy in 2024, giving them a chance to learn firsthand about wildlife and the importance of conservation.

Conservation Education Program

Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy (MKWC) continues to lead by example when it comes to wildlife conservation education, striving to inspire the next generation of conservationists.

Through interactive programs, students gained invaluable experience and knowledge that will hopefully spark a lifelong passion for preserving our planet's biodiversity. One memorable moment this year was when Garrison Primary School students – a long serving partner school – performed for the First Lady during the tree-planting activity at the Bongo Release ceremony. The Conservancy also hosted nine students for internships and attachments, providing them with hands-on experience in conservation work. These internships give students the chance to work directly with the animals, participate in field research, and see first-hand how conservation efforts are made. It is a rewarding experience for them, and we are always excited to see the passion and energy they bring to our projects.

By offering these opportunities, MKWC ensures that the next generation is not only aware of environmental issues but is actively involved in the solutions. Whether it is through educational trips, internships, or directly participating in conservation activities like tree planting, MKWC is shaping the future of wildlife protection in Kenya and beyond. We believe that education is a powerful tool in shaping a sustainable future for wildlife. With each student we host, we are one step closer to creating a future where wildlife conservation is a top priority for everyone. We also believe that by working closely with local communities and showing young people the value of nature, we are not just protecting wildlife—we are shaping the future of conservation. It is all about balancing wildlife preservation with environmental stewardship and community involvement. Our conservation education programs can be booked by emailing info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org or getting in touch on +254 (0) 20 233 0097 or +254 (0) 111 235 068



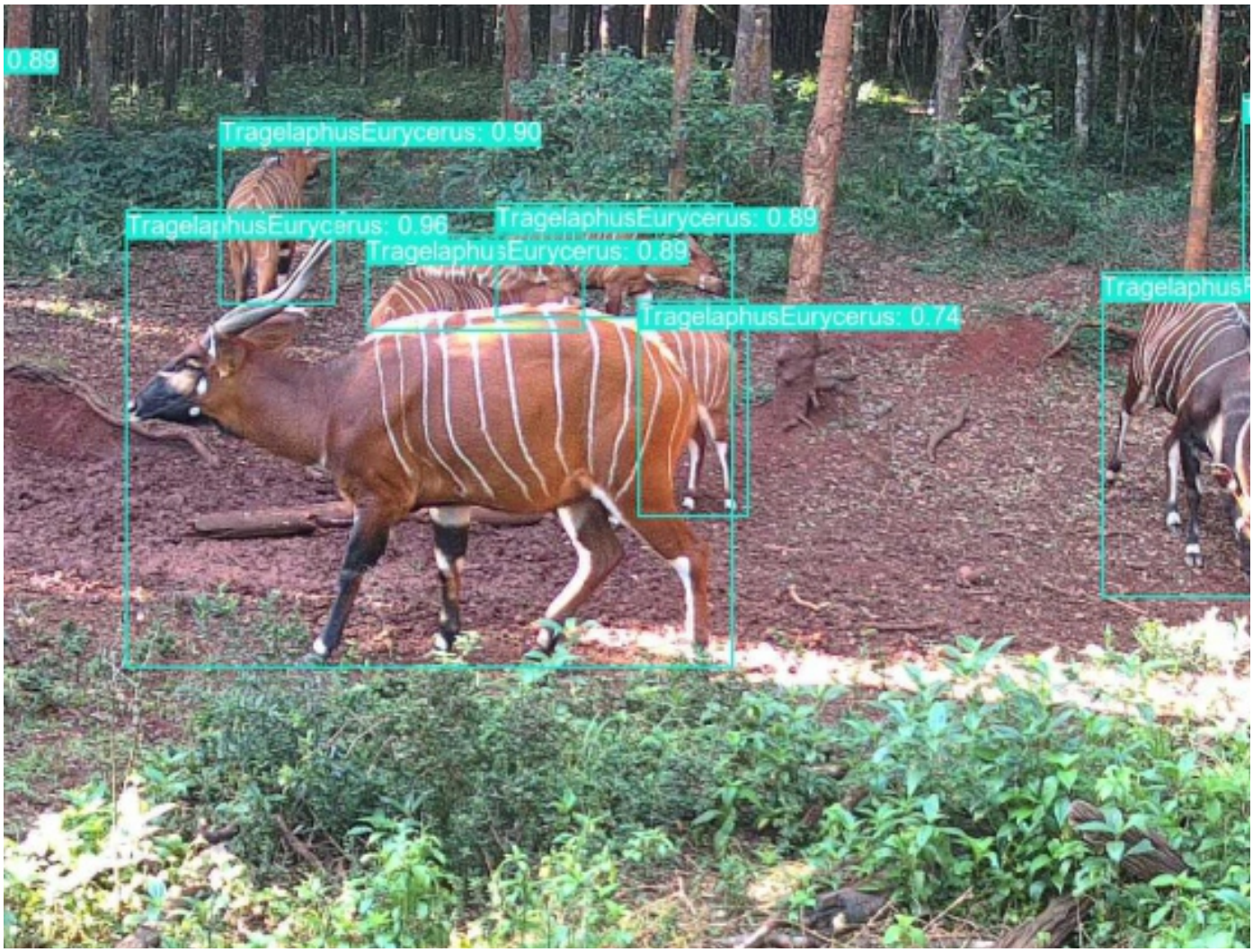
Ecological Monitoring and Research

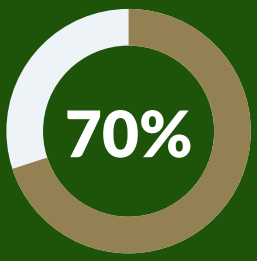
100

Mountain Bongos or fewer are left in the wild in the world.

Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy recognizes the need to use data for sound management of the Mountain Bongo and other wildlife. To this end, the Conservancy established a robust ecological monitoring and research program for the Bongo. This program is centered on understanding the behaviors, biology, and ecology of the Mountain Bongo to assist in management of the species. Ecological monitoring and research are primarily focused on collecting critical data sets of this secretive antelope to provide baselines that will be important in habitat assessments and support reintroductions particularly during selection of future sites for the Bongo. Data collection focuses on both individual animal sighting and group behavior and dynamics.

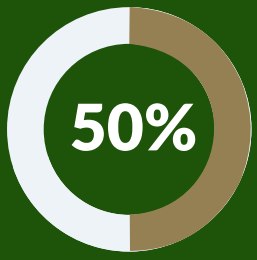
Daily observations are made by human or by assistance of trail and AI cameras set at strategic points within the Bongo areas. Equally important is the continuous collection of Bongo health data, that is done opportunistically through faecal collection, blood draws during immobilizations for treatment or translocation. To continue this program, it is important to equip the ecological monitoring and research teams with equipment and tools to ensure that data collection and analysis is enhanced and sustained.





Mount Kenya provides 70% of Kenya's hydroelectric power needs

---



The Forest supplies over 50% of Kenya's fresh water

5,000

indigenous trees are planted annually by the Conservancy, with support of the communities

---

40,000

indigenous trees have been planted across **350 acres**, helping restore critical forest habitats for the Bongos

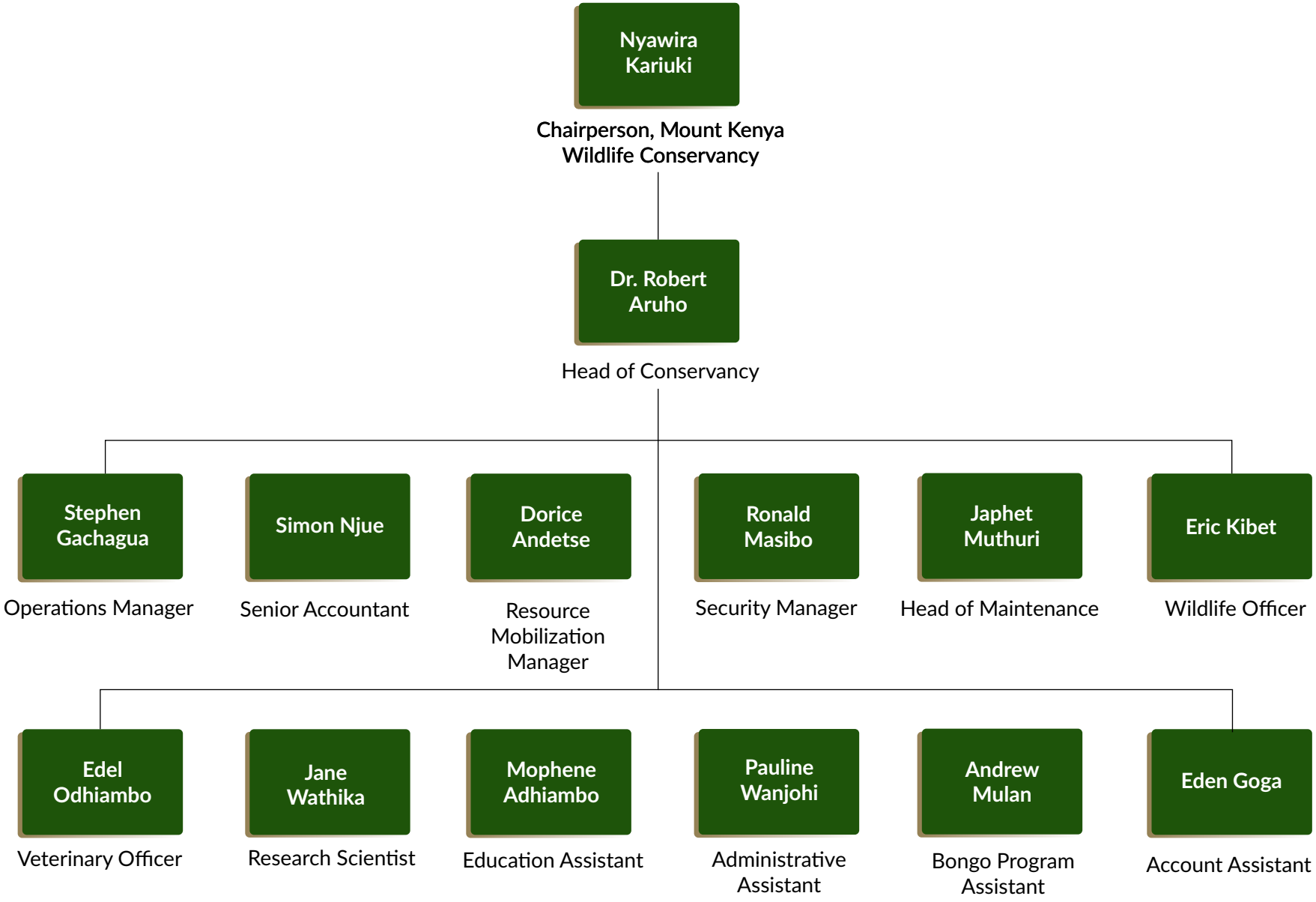
Habitat Restoration

The forests of Mount Kenya-the home of the Mountain Bongo, are important areas for biodiversity conservation and are important water catchment towers meeting over 50% of the fresh water needs for Kenya and supplying 70% water for hydroelectric power generation. Therefore, these forests are critical for the well-being of the surrounding communities and the entire population of Kenya. The Conservancy works with the communities to restore degraded areas within Mount Kenya forest, through its forest restoration and reforestation program.

The Conservancy purchases seedlings of indigenous trees from local Community Forest Associations (CFAs), trains and employs local community groups who then assist in planting and taking care of the seedlings in the forest until they are established. Under this partnership with the communities, the Conservancy has involved 3,000 community members to plant over 35,000 indigenous tree species in Mount Kenya Forest. The Conservancy has an annual target of planting **5,000** indigenous trees with support of the communities. Over the past 20 years, we have been deeply involved in environmental restoration and community engagement. We have planted over **40,000** indigenous trees across **350** acres, helping restore critical forest habitats for the Bongos.



Meet the Team



Strategic Planning

Strategic Master Plan Underway

Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy is developing a Strategic Master Plan to guide its long-term growth and conservation priorities. Key focus areas include improved rangeland management, integration of priority wildlife species, a full revamp of the Animal Orphanage, and optimized use of Conservancy property. This process marks a critical step toward enhancing institutional sustainability and conservation impact.

Key Partnerships

Exciting Partnership for Mountain Bongo Conservation

On December 15, 2024, Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy (MKWC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), marking the beginning of a five-year strategic partnership. This collaboration will focus on advanced research, capacity building, AI-powered wildlife monitoring, and conservation innovation, aimed at accelerating the recovery of the critically endangered Mountain Bongo and strengthening biodiversity conservation efforts in the Mount Kenya ecosystem.





Other Key Partners

Conservation & Wildlife Organization

Corporate & Financial Partners

Sustainable Tourism & Hospitality

Innovation, Research & Strategic

Creative & Awareness Partners

How to Get Involved

Our aim is to preserve and protect the wildlife and habitats of Mount Kenya region. We believe that everyone can make a difference in conserving nature's beauty, and we invite you to join our efforts.

1. Make a Donation:

As a token of our gratitude, donors are honored with a special hand-painted tile mounted on the colorful walls located at the Animal Orphanage. The tiles represent the donor's dedication to protecting some of our most precious ecosystems and wildlife. Donors also receive appreciation certificates.

Donation Categories:

1. Bush Baby – **US$ 100**
2. Green Friend – **US$ 200**
3. Golden Friend – **US$ 500**
4. Platinum Friend – **US$ 1,000**
5. Wildlife Guardian – **US$ 10,000**

2. Animal Fostering and Adoption:

These fees help to pay for animal care, vet expenses, nutritional needs, enclosure maintenance and enrichment, safety and security measures, and other unexpected expenses. We encourage our guests to remain involved in the animals' lives by fostering or becoming adoptive parents.

Foster parent packages:

- Any amount from US$ 500 – 1,000 for an Orphanage animal resident.
- US$ 500 – 1,500 for a Mountain Bongo.

Adoptive parent packages

- Any amount from US$ 500 and above for an Orphanage animal resident.
- US$ 1,500 for a Mountain Bongo.

3. Plan your Visit

As you explore the Centre today, you will meet dedicated guides who will introduce you to the animals under our care and their inspiring stories. Each enclosure tells a tale of survival and resilience. Our Guest Information Centre offers a deeper understanding of our work and how you can make a meaningful difference. The Animal Orphanage is open daily from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Our experienced guides will give you a tour of the facility as you make new animal friends.

	E.A. Citizen	Resident	Non-Resident
Adult (over 12 years)	KES 1,000	KES 2,000	USD 40
Child (between 6-12 years)	KES 500	KES 1,000	USD 20
Child (below 6 years)	Free of charge	Free of charge	Free of charge

Thank you to our 2024 Individual Donors

Together, we make a difference

.

INDIVIDUALS				
Aaron Christan	Ding Siruiyun	Jonathan Mccrea	Pascher Heinz	Wilder Insttute/Calgary Zoo
Agastya Mukherji	Diya Mehta	Joseph Louise	Peggy & Greg	William Holden Foundation
Amber Levinson	Doreen Harrison	Jostein Nordstorm	Peter Wu	Wu Chin
Amrit Sang	Dover Maria	Joy Ho Tsu Ting	Petersen Heathur	Yang Yan Sun
Andrew Brawn	Dr Gao Xiaogang	Joy Will	Plessis BJ	Yu Wanying
Andrew Latham	Elaine Henderson	Julie Kurtzman	Pollock	Yvett Hiemstra
Arjun Kohli	Elaine Scholes	Juntong Zhang	Pooja Mulau	Zhang Jiashi
Ayeni Olawale	Elia Makar	Jostein Nordstorm	Poornam Thorup	Zhang Quw
Ayla & Ayan Moodaley	Elisabeth Field	Kabir Chal	Qui Tao - China	Zhao Litng
Barbara Kraishan	Emile Hares	Kasturi Yug Ziann Sauvik	R Blackard	Zhu Jing Rui
Bekey	Emily Poorvin	Khimji Jashovardhan	Rachael And Rob	Zong Zheng Yang
Benji Browne	Enzer David	Kouakou Nzi	Rachel Botsford	
Bhat Rahnath	Fiona	Koo Donnelly	Ravi Goyal	
Bianca Pernd Bspoke Associaton	Fiona Morrison	Lai Jian Guang	Ray And Chris	
Big Daddy	Frank Hofmeister	Lazarchick/John J	Richard Sherwood	
Bobby Browne	Gao Shuang	Leslie Wood	Rivellese Mark	
C Hannold	Garala Tarulatta	Lila	Samantha Bunch	
Carina Assi	George Payerle	Lin Jiaya	Sarvjit Toor	
Carmen Hannold	Gitanjali Gadhiok	Lisa	Shamir	
Catherine Miller	Hellen Goegler	Liu Jun	Shanai Mehta	
Charles Badu Bohten	Honne Deen	Liu Mergmeng	Sharleen Jiwa	
Chen Family	Jacquiline Kauza	Liz & Bill Brister	Sherry Soanes	
Cheryl Wang	James Meisner	Lori Gerlich	Stefano Giulia Lavagna	
Chiu Chee Shong	Jan And Michael Roselman	Lot Judy	Stella & Tabitha Kawamura	
Christopher Craig	Jane Stephan	Manav Mehra	Sunil Danak	
Ckgemba	Janisha Reshna	Margaret Karanja	Suzanne Williams	
Cynthia Benner	Jayden Mony	Mathew Marshall	Tiny Zai Nze	
Dana Resnick	Jean	Michael Horwitz	Tommy O'Hara	
Daniel Yeo	Jeffrey Marvin	Michele Moore	Suzanne Williams	
David Vennet	Jeffrey Schwaneke	Mitesh Gandhi	Victoria Louise Havens	
Deanne Paul	Jim Braswell	Mohsen Salameh Dibaei	Violet O'Hara	
Densmore Margaret	Jin Yi	Mrs Namgya C. Khampa	Vivian & Sunday Golden	
Desirae Jeannotte	Joan & Puglian	Myrna Strauss	Weilin He	
Devika Assi	John Black	Oliver James	Wen Wei	
Dharmesh Dawda	Jonah Adaun	Olivia Fillow	Wen Xiang	

2025 Annual Charity Events



TREK FOR A CAUSE

Save the Mountain Bongo

Mt. Kenya | Lenana Peak

Tuesday 16th - Friday 19th September 2025

Amount: KES.100,000 per person

Email info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org to sign up today

A BEACON OF CONSERVATION

Contact us:
Email: info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org
Tel: +254 (0) 20 233 0097 | +254 (0) 111 235 068
www.mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org

Mt. Kenya Wildlife Conservancy mkwc_ke @MKWC_KE

SCAN HERE TO SIGN-UP



SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE CONSERVANCY

Contact us:
Email: info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org
Phone: +254 20 233 0097
Website: www.mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org

SCAN ME
or visit our website

Mt. Kenya Wildlife Conservancy mkwc_ke @MKWC_KE