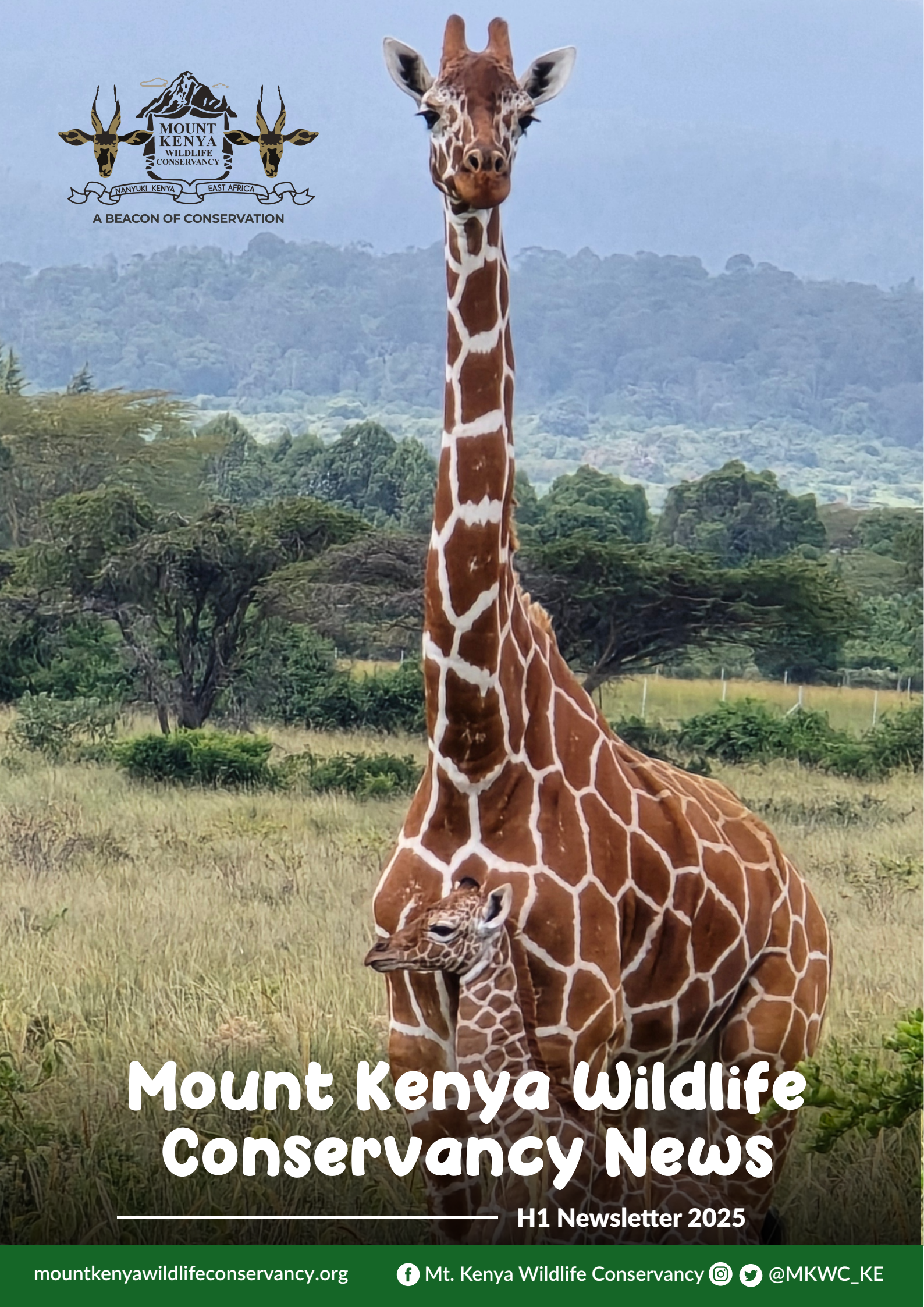
MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

NANYUKI KENYA EAST AFRICA

A BEACON OF CONSERVATION



Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy News

H1 Newsletter 2025

CONTENTS

01
MOUNTAIN BONGO BREEDING & REWILDING PROGRAM UPDATE

02
RESEARCH

03
ANIMAL ORPHANAGE

04
VETERINARY CLINIC

05
CONSERVATION EDUCATION

06
SECURITY SPOTLIGHT

07
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

08
PARTNERSHIPS

Mountain Bongo Breeding & Rewilding Program Update

Our Mountain Bongo Breeding and Rewilding efforts continue to show steady progress with important developments to report; we are at 96 Bongos and the future looks promising!

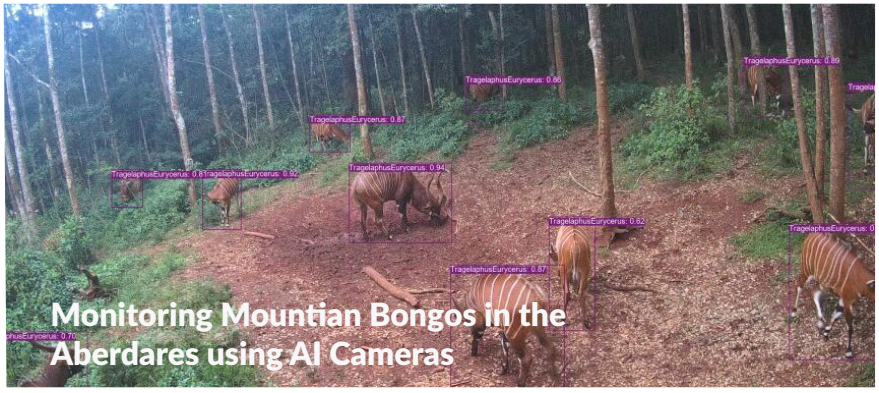
This year, seven births have been registered (3 in the sanctuary and 4 in the conservancy) , bringing hope for the continued growth of the critically endangered Mountain Bongo population.

we completed the successful trapping and translocation of a leopard in the Mawingu Mountain bongo sanctuary, wild area, improving safety for the bongos.





AI Camera



Monitoring Mountian Bongos in the Aberdares using AI Cameras

Research

Advanced Monitoring with AI Cameras

We have received five additional AI cameras, bringing our total to 15. These non-invasive tools enhance our ability to monitor the critically endangered Mountain Bongo across a wider area without disrupting their natural behavior. With expanded coverage, we can collect more comprehensive data on Bongo movements in the sanctuary and presence in the wild, which supports informed, science-based conservation actions.

Five-Year Approval from KWS

We secured a five-year approval from the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to continue monitoring Mountain Bongos in Aberdares using AI cameras.

Increased Camera Coverage

To strengthen our Mountain Bongo monitoring efforts within the sanctuary, we procured 20 additional trail cameras. These cameras are particularly useful in areas with limited or no network coverage, where AI cameras cannot function effectively. Together with our existing AI camera network, these tools allow us to expand our surveillance footprint and improve the accuracy of Bongo tracking across diverse terrains.

New Weather Station Installed

Thanks to our partnership with the Kenya Space Agency, we have installed our second weather station at the Conservancy. This addition will support long-term environmental monitoring and enhance our climate-responsive conservation strategies.

Habitat Restoration

346. 81 acres is where invasive species such as *Sodom Apple (Solanum incanum) and Wire Grass (Aristida)* have been manually successfully uprooted and other trials are also in progress.

Animal Orphanage

About Nderitu

Welcome Home, Nderitu

In April, a male white rhino calf was successfully relocated from Nairobi Safari Walk to his new home, Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy (MKWC).

Born on 29th April 2024, Nderitu's story began in Meru National Park, where he lived under the watchful eye of his mother, Jeniffer. Sadly, she passed away from natural causes, leaving Nderitu orphaned at just six months old.

He was rescued and taken to Nairobi Safari Walk, where a devoted team stepped in to provide the care and support he urgently needed. Day by day, he grew stronger, both physically and emotionally, thanks to the dedicated care and feeding he received.

We are incredibly proud to welcome him to the MKWC family, where he will continue to receive the specialized attention and protection he needs to thrive. We extend our sincere gratitude to all the teams involved in making this relocation a success.



Male white Rhino calf, Nderitu

Other animal Rescues

This period, in partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service and the local community, saw a number of other successful animal rescues and new admissions to our Animal Orphanage. Among the rescues were, one young male duiker, two cranes, two hyena cubs and one impala. These efforts reflect our continued commitment to wildlife welfare and rehabilitation.

Animal Releases

Two buffaloes, one ostrich, and an adult male bushbuck were released back into the wild. These releases mark important milestones in our rehabilitation program and are a testament to the dedicated care provided by our animal welfare team.



Release of two buffalos

New Veterinary Clinic

Construction of our Wildlife Veterinary Clinic is well underway. Once completed, the clinic will provide essential treatment and care for injured and rescued wildlife, support our Mountain Bongo breeding and rewilding programs, and offer hands-on learning experiences for veterinary students and professionals.

The clinic will focus on two main functions: the management of clinical cases within the animal orphanage and the improvement of Mountain Bongo health. Any support towards equipping the clinic with state-of-the-art veterinary equipment is highly appreciated as we work together to give wildlife the care they deserve.



Wildlife Veterinary Clinic

Conservation Education

7,225 Students

of all ages were successfully hosted, reflecting a significant increase from the 2,922 students hosted during the same period last year.

Internships and Student attachments

- **3 Local interns**
- **6 international interns**
- **5 students currently undertaking their academic attachments with us**

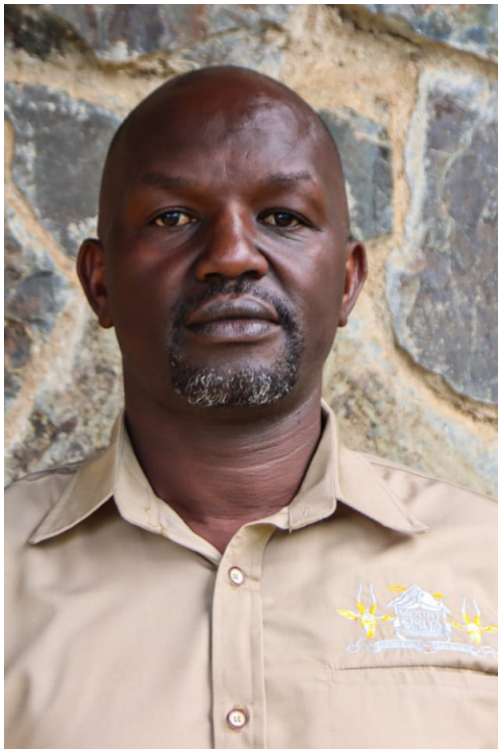
In March, we conducted an **outreach program within the Kirinyaga-Nyeri circuit**, reaching **35 schools** - 4 private and 31 public primary schools. Through this initiative, we engaged **3,544 students and 74 teachers.**

Conservation Volunteers

- **6 local Volunteers**
- **26 international volunteers**



Security Spotlight



Ronald Masibo
Security Manager

1

Q: What is the overall role of the security team at Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy?

At Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, the security team plays a critical role in safeguarding not just wildlife, but also our staff, visitors, and infrastructure. Our responsibilities span across anti-poaching patrols, human-wildlife conflict resolution, and ensuring the safety of endangered species like the mountain bongo. We work day and night to create a secure environment where both wildlife and people can coexist in harmony. Our work is not just about guarding — it's about protecting a legacy.

2

Q: What does a typical day look like for the team?

Every day begins early. Our 40-strong ranger unit gears up for patrols across different zones within and around the conservancy. Some monitor key areas for poaching threats, others check fence integrity, while others are stationed at observation posts. There's constant communication, team coordination, and readiness to respond to any alerts — whether it's a potential poaching incident, human encroachment, or a distressed animal. No two days are ever the same, but every day carries the same mission: protect, preserve, respond.

3

Q: What technologies are used to support your operations, and how has it changed the way security is managed at the conservancy?

Technology has transformed how we operate. Tools like Earth Ranger allow us to track real-time movement of animals, patrol routes, and incident reports, making our response faster and more data-driven. Cameras placed in strategic locations provide vital surveillance, especially at night, while our communication systems ensure the entire team stays connected across large distances. This integration of technology helps us stay ahead of threats and work smarter, not just harder.

4

Q: What motivates you or your team to do this work every day?

It's passion — not just for wildlife, but for the land, the legacy, and the lives that depend on it. Many of our rangers come from communities around the mountain, and for them, this isn't just a job — it's a calling. Knowing that the survival of a critically endangered species like the mountain bongo rests in our hands gives us purpose. Every step we take on patrol is a step toward giving future generations a chance to see these animals in the wild

5

Q: Can you share a memorable or impactful moment from your work in the field?

In 2016, one of our mountain bongos escaped from the conservancy. It could have been a disaster — this is one of the world's most endangered antelopes. But something beautiful happened. Local community members spotted the animal and immediately alerted us. Working hand in hand with Kenya Wildlife Service and our rangers, we were able to safely track, rescue, and return it to safety. That moment reminded us that conservation is a shared responsibility. It's not just about fences and rangers; it's about trust, collaboration, and heart.

Stakeholder Engagement

Towards Recovery: Contributing to the 2025–2030 Mountain Bongo Action Plan

We were honored to join key conservation stakeholders at the National Bongo Task Force Stakeholder Workshop held from June 24–25 at Esiankiki Resort, Nanyuki.

Together, we contributed to the development of the second edition of the National Recovery and Action Plan (2025–2030) for the critically endangered Mountain Bongo.

We are proud to play an active role in the efforts to recover this iconic species.





Association of Zoos and Aquariums (AZA) Mid-Year Meeting Showcasing Bongo Recovery

In March, our Head of Conservancy, Dr. Robert Aruho, spoke at the AZA 2025 Mid-Year Meeting in Palm Springs, California. He shared key milestones from the Mountain Bongo Recovery Program, including the birth of wild-born bongos and the use of AI-enabled monitoring in rewilding efforts.

The session highlighted the power of collaboration between zoos and in-situ partners in achieving our goal of 750 mountain bongos in the wild by 2050.

Partnerships

A Shared Commitment to Wildlife and Communities



Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy and I&M Foundation Launch Habitat Restoration Project

On 7th July 2025, Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, in partnership with I&M Foundation, officially launched a habitat restoration initiative aimed at restoring 15 acres of land. The project involves planting 10,000 trees to enhance biodiversity and support environmental sustainability in the region.



Rugged smartphones from Folly Farm Adventure Park & Zoo

Folly Farm Adventure Park & Zoo

Rugged smartphones donated by Folly Farm Adventure Park & Zoo are used by our Wildlife, Research, and Security departments to complement our existing conservation tools, including Earth Ranger.

Strengthening Monitoring & Research for Mountain Bongo Recovery - In Partnership with Zoo Praha

We are actively implementing a Monitoring & Research Project to strengthen data collection and support the management of recently reintroduced Mountain Bongos in the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary—particularly in areas where AI cameras have limited coverage.

The project is already enhancing our technological capacity—rangers have begun using rugged smartphones equipped with EarthRanger for real-time data collection, and high-resolution trail cameras have been deployed across key locations in the sanctuary.

Through ongoing monitoring of bongo movements, behavior, and health, coupled with targeted laboratory research, the initiative is generating critical insights to inform adaptive conservation strategies. We are deeply grateful for the support that continues to drive this vital work forward.



Trail Cameras from Zoo Praha

Individual Donors & Donation processes

Join Our Circle of Impact: Recognizing Our Individual Donors (January–June 2025)

Angela Kohl
Barbara Nichols
Bob & Cathy Lamour
Crez Philippe
Davide Ronchi
Dr. Sobhag K Haria
Elani and Emile Kapila
Emma & Clare Cuncliffe
Evidsibia
Felista Wambui
Frank Hofmeister
Gloria S Stewart
Hu Yang
Isadora Rios
John & Lynda Rettick
Joseph Howell Magondu
Karen Sotallaro
Leif Christian Herum
Lisa Jacques
Mark Baibal
Mike Smith
Mirke Sluites
Monther Alschebani
Mr Fred Browne
Mr Fred Browne
Mrs Naomi Ngondu
Patience Moyo
Philip R Pietras
Pramit Mehta
Samuel
Sarah Nkuchia Kyalo and Felix Kyalo
Stephen Curtin
Suchitra Karan
Susan Koff
Suyash and Sajel
The Weya's
Tom & Cheryl Linton
Tour Operators Expedition Society
Yin Shengjie
Zheng Ting & Zheo Sirui

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.

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**

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.

Want to make a difference? Join us as a volunteer, sponsor a rescued animal, or support our education and reforestation initiatives. For more information, write to us at info@mountkenyawildlife.org or click on the website: mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org

Follow us on social media

Mt. Kenya Wildlife Conservancy @MKWC_KE

Keep up with our daily stories, behind-the-scenes work, and conservation wins!

MKWC in the News

Media Outlet: People Daily

Build partnerships to protect endangered wildlife

By Mbugua Ng'ang'a

Kenya has a unique wildlife heritage that, though celebrated globally, faces great risks due to human activities that put communities and wild animals at loggerheads. As a result, rare species such as the mountain bongo face the real and present danger of extinction unless urgent action is taken now to ensure they are bred in a controlled environment before they are rewilded.

To make this possible, it is crucial for public institutions, such as the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Kenya Forestry Service to partner with investors and Kenyans of goodwill to ensure that endangered species are protected and those facing extinction are replenished through targeted interventions.

And this is where corporate citizens, individuals and business leaders can plug in through philanthropic initiatives. The Treasury can also make a major contribution by giving tax incentives to individuals and organisations that take up such worthy causes that will ensure that Kenya's unique wildlife offerings are protected for posterity. That is why organisations such as the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy ought to be studied as a benchmark on how public-private partnerships can create synergy in wildlife conservation efforts.

It would be lamentable to allow rare species found within our borders to become extinct under our watch, yet part of our responsibility as citizens is to be custodians of the wealth that our forebears bestowed on us. We must, therefore, demonstrate that we are true and worthy custodians of our heritage, not just by paying lip service to the important work that needs to be done but also by rolling up our sleeves and putting in the work.

Countries like Rwanda have made commendable strides in this direction with the work done in conserving the mountain gorilla, which have put the country on the world tourism work, earning Rwanda top dollar as a result. There is nothing stopping us in Kenya from learning from such success stories to restore our environmental heritage and rally people from across the globe to support such efforts either through tourism or philanthropy.

While at it, it would also pay great dividends to teach young Kenyans about the value of conserving the environment and inculcating in them the values of stewardship so that they too can become custodians of our national heritage. This can be done through school trips and education tours, congresses, essay writing competitions and other activities that engage the young. Having said that, it is worth highlighting that public institutions such as the National Museums of Kenya are partnering with private sector players, such as the Tafaria Castle and Centre for the Arts, to achieve this noble goal.

And since the Ministry of Tourism has embarked on an ambitious campaign to ramp up the numbers of local and foreign tourist arrivals, it ought to be at the forefront of supporting such initiatives. With the ongoing budgeting cycle coming to the final stages, it will be critical for the ministry to ensure that it puts its mouth where its money is by lobbying the National Assembly to allocate sufficient funding to support such undertakings. The donor community can also be roped in to support community-based programmes. Commendably, this is happening in parts of Laikipia County and there is nothing to stop other regions across the country from borrowing a leaf so that they too can help in diversifying the quality and variety of tourism offerings.

The mountain bongo conservation programme is just one example of what has and can be done. But it would be great if the model can be replicated with other species as well.



Rare species such as the mountain bongo face the real and present danger of extinction unless urgent action is taken now. PHOTO/KWS

The writer is the Editor-in-Chief of The Nairobi Law Monthly and Nairobi Business Monthly; Mbugua@nairobi-lawmonthly.com

Link: **https://media.reelanalytics.net/player/index.php?country=KE&storyid=331724380&encryptid=k34z5qtwjhvsb81r60fp2xmg7nydc9**

Media Outlet: Business Now

How Mt Kenya Wildlife Conservancy has integrated technology in endangered wildlife monitoring, protection

May 14, 2025 / business now

Artificial intelligence (AI) cameras has been a game changer in the monitoring and protection of the endangered **Mountain Bongos** and other vulnerable wildlife.

When **Mt Kenya Wildlife Conservancy** embarked on an adventure of installing AI cameras through a collaboration with **Chester Zoo** in April 2024, no one knew the results would be this magnificent. *"We shifted from the use of traditional trail cameras to AI because the Mountain Bongo is difficult to monitor. It is a very shy antelope. Antelopes are shy, but the Mountain Bongo is the shyest,"* says **Mt Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, Head of Conservancy, Dr Robert Aruho.**

Researchers say the Mountain Bongo is very difficult to monitor due to its elusive nature. But is very key due to their low numbers that prompted the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List to list it as among species at a very high risk of global extinction. It is believed there are less than 60 Mountain Bongos in the wild across the globe.

The **Mt Kenya Wildlife Conservancy** has installed AI technology in monitoring and protection of the Mountain Bongo to ensure timely interventions to safeguard their future.

"Integrating AI cameras and real-time monitoring systems allows the conservation teams to gather invaluable data on the species' behavior, health, and movements, providing critical insights to enhance management and protection efforts," reads a social media post by **Mt Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, Patron, Humprey Kariuki.**

He says the AI cameras helps reduce human interference of the wild animals in their natural habitats.

Mt Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, Head of Conservancy, Dr Robert Aruho

What's next

The **Head of Conservancy at the Mt Kenya Wildlife Conservancy** says they are currently working on integrating more features in the AI cameras to detect frail or animals in distress in efforts to enhance monitoring and protection of wildlife.

"We believe it can work because once you train the module to understand how, say, a normal elephant walks, then tomorrow it can actually pick up an abnormal elephant. So any change [in the normal behavior], this AI camera should be able to pick up and will be able to show you where this elephant is, because you will have a specific camera deployed in that area," says **Dr Aruho.**

Link: **https://businessnow.co.ke/how-mt-kenya-wildlife-conservancy-has-integrated-technology-in-endangered-wildlife-monitoring-protection/**

Media Outlet: Business Today

TOURISM

Why you should visit Mt Kenya Wildlife Conservancy for Mountain Bongo experience

May 14, 2025 / business now

Kenya should aggressively market the **Mountain Bongos** as a unique tourist product since it is only in the country that the endangered species are found in their natural habitats.

Mt Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, Head of Conservancy, Dr.Robert Aruho believes Kenya should emulate other countries that fully take advantage of their unique tourist products.

"When you think about chimpanzees, it is Uganda and Rwanda that comes to mind because of the aggressive marketing that the two countries have done over the years. And since the Mountain Bongos are a Kenya exclusive, I think Kenya should position itself more as the to go to destination for Mountain Bongos," says **Dr Aruho.**

The **Mountain Bongo** is a critically endangered species that is listed on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List at high risk of global extinction.

It is believed there are less than 100 Mountain Bongos in the wild. *"I think the numbers [of Mountain Bongos] are between 27 and 52,"* he said.

In addition, there are more than 700 Mountain Bongos in zoos and similar institutions across the USA and Europe.

However, the Mountain Bongos in Kenya offer tourists a unique experience of viewing them in their natural habitats. At places like the Mt Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, technology has been employed to ensure you don't spend the entire day tracing the shy and secretive wild animals.

"We are using AI (Artificial Intelligence) [cameras] in the Mountain Bongo monitoring," **Dr Aruho** says. This means a tourist who is keen on viewing the Mountain Bongo will be directed to the specific location where the heard is.

Link: **https://businessnow.co.ke/why-you-should-visit-mt-kenya-wildlife-conservancy-for-mountain-bongo-experience/**

Media Outlet: People Dailv

Build partnerships to protect endangered wildlife

Kenya has a unique wildlife heritage that, though celebrated globally, faces great risks due to human activities that put communities and wild animals at loggerheads. As a result, rare species such as the mountain bongo face the real and present danger of extinction unless urgent action is taken now to ensure they are bred in a controlled environment before they are rewilded.

To make this possible, it is crucial for public institutions, such as the Kenya Wildlife Service and the Kenya Forestry Service to partner with investors and Kenyans of goodwill to ensure that endangered species are protected and those facing extinction are replenished through targeted interventions.

Link: **https://peopledaily.digital/insights/build-partnerships-to-protect-endangered-wildlife**

Media Outlet: The Nairobi Law Monthly



CONSERVATION

Where Artificial Intelligence protects mountain bongos from becoming extinct

Link: **https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PwISg8b1yWrGFyhjiWJiB-PgvE71zTtk/view**

Media Outlet: KBC Business



Link: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QY9i23rwjWk**

Media Outlet: NTV



Link: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwM172lxFr0**

Media Outlet: KTN Home



Link: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaTAlcny8v8**

Media Outlet: KBC Business *(On Youtube)*



Link: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QY9i23rwjWk**



Media Outlet: The Star

How AI technology helps in monitoring and protecting wildlife in Kenya's park

The cameras are not passive observers—they recognise specific species, track their movement

In the shadows of Africa's second-highest mountain, a technological transformation is taking place that could redefine the future of wildlife conservation in Kenya.

At the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy (MKWC) in Nanyuki, Laikipia County, conservationists are harnessing the power of artificial intelligence to protect endangered species—especially the critically endangered Mountain Bongo.

Link: **https://www.the-star.co.ke/news/2025-05-13-how-ai-is-giving-endangered-species-a-fighting-chance**

Media Outlet: NTV *(On Youtube)*



Link: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwM172lxFr0**

Media Outlet: KTN Home *(On Youtube)*



Link: **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kaTAlcny8v8**



Giving is now easier than ever! Visit our website and use the new Donate Button to support our work in real time. Every contribution, no matter the size, helps us protect endangered species and their habitats.

Your Visit

For those who would like to remember their trip to Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy with a souvenir, we have a gift shop with a variety of items for you to choose from. Some of our best sellers are Mountain Bongo themed plush toys! 100% of profits go directly to our conservation efforts.

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



MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

NANYUKI KENYA EAST AFRICA

A BEACON OF CONSERVATION



Thank you for being part of our journey. Together, we are creating a future where communities and wildlife thrive in harmony.

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