MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

NEWS

H1 NEWSLETTER 2022



REWILDING IN THE MAWINGU SANCTUARY

Belief that the Mountain Bongo will be saved from extinction

GLOBAL ATTENTION FOR OUR FABULOUS FIVE

Five Bongos got released to the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary.

First birth of a Mountain Bongo calf at the Sanctuary

CHILDREN ARE THE FUTURE



BREEDING AND REWILDING THE CRITICALLY ENDANGERED MOUNTAIN BONGO FOR RELEASE TO THE WILD

Only 100 animals left in the wild! See the website for details of the Bongo Breeding and Rewilding programme: www.mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org.

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DEAR READER

Welcome to the latest edition of the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy (MKWC) newsletter.

I am thrilled to be sharing a round-up of key news and developments from the last six months, including two of the most exciting events in our history: the release of the first group of Mountain Bongos into their natural forest sanctuary and consequently, the birth of Fanaka, the first baby Mountain Bongo born in the wild at the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary.

These special moments were the culmination of 20 years of hard work which would not have been possible without your continued support and generosity. Thank you.

It has been an especially busy time for the team in Nanyuki. Shortly after the Bongo release, our hotel, the Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club, the hotel within the conservancy threw open its doors to discerning travellers for the first time in over two years.

A special event was held to mark the occasion and was attended by esteemed guests including the Country General Manager Accor Hotels, Mehdi Morad and the Head of the MKWC, Dr Robert Aruho. With travel restrictions gradually easing, we truly hope that we will welcome you to the 5* luxury of the Safari Club in the near future. The hotel is a key supporter of MKWC.

In May 2022, Dalbit Petroleum, a Janus Continental Group company and lead benefactor of the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, marked their company's 20th anniversary by planting over 1,000 trees with us in the Mount Kenya Forest – in an effort to further preserve the Mountain Bongo habitat. This marks a huge step towards achieving our target of planting 5,000 trees by the end of this year.

Of course, none of our conservancy work would be possible without the support of our corporate partners or individual donors, like you. Your generous donations help us protect the biodiversity of Mount Kenya for future generations. Something for which we are so grateful. More information about how you can support our efforts can be found here.

The MKWC team is excited about what lies ahead, including, the release of a further 5 Bongos towards the end of the year. As you know, the long-term goal of this sanctuary is to re-wild the Mountain Bongo species and we are excited to bring you along on this journey with us.

Best wishes,

Nyawira Kariuki
Chairperson MKWC Trust



REWILDING INTO THE MAWINGU SANCTUARY



After nearly 20 years of dedicated work, this momentous occasion has given us a renewed belief that the Mountain Bongo will be saved from extinction. We know that one day an established herd of wild Mountain Bongos will retake their rightful place in the foothills of Mount Kenya.

Read on to see exactly how it happened...

On March 9, under the gaze of the world's media, five Mountain Bongos took their first steps into the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary. With fewer than 100 individuals left in the wild, this marked a historic milestone in the Bongo's fight for survival.

The Conservancy has been on a near-20-year journey with the Mountain Bongos, which started all the way back in 2004 when we re-introduced the first animals from zoos in the USA. Since then, and with your incredible support, the team has worked tirelessly to support population growth. The jewel in the crown has been the establishment of the 776-acre pristine natural forest sanctuary, which will provide the space needed to continue preparing the animals for survival in the wild.







This gentle animal's demise has been driven by several factors including disease and human activity, but the release represented the most significant step yet towards its survival.

GLOBAL ATTENTION FOR OUR FABULOUS FIVE



Five Bongos got released to the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary.

They were:

- **Danni** (female) - A mating female, Danni is an elusive and shy Mountain Bongo.
- **Kavu** (female) - A striking female renowned for her horns and beautiful stripes, Kavu is an effective browser.
- **Karama** (male) - An alpha male without being overly dominant, Karama is an eligible bachelor ready to sire.
- **Hillary** (male) - A sub-adult along with Owingu, Hillary holds a close bond with the two other male Bongos which is critical for all the males' survival.
- **Owingu** (male) - A sub-adult along with Hillary, Owingu holds a close bond with the two other male Bongos which is critical for all the males' survival.

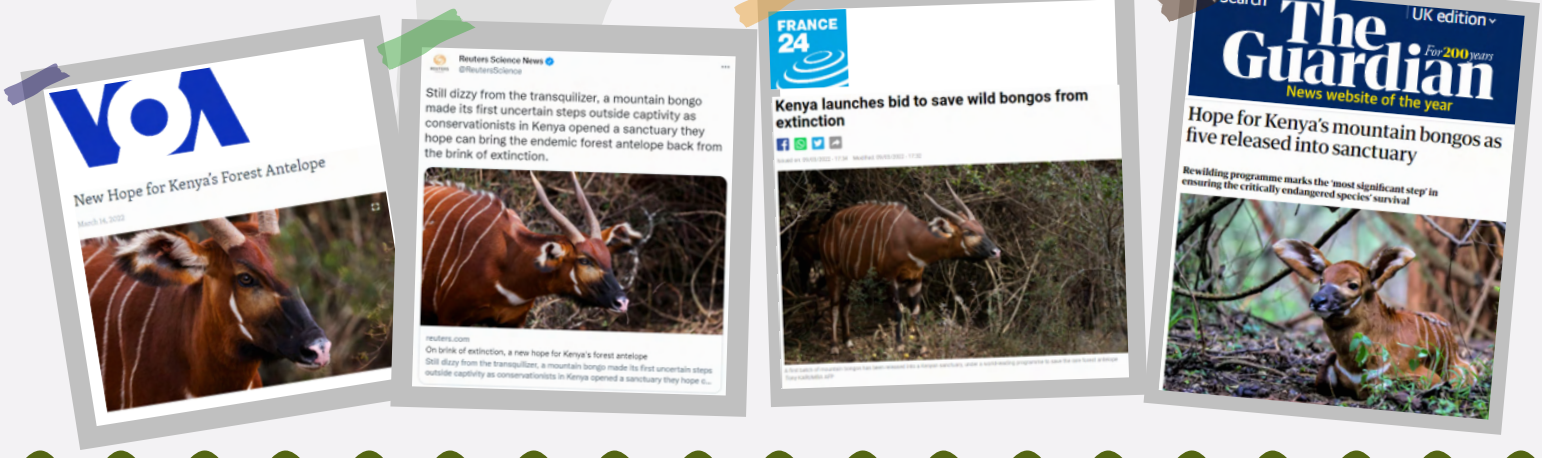
Media teams, fellow conservationists and our partners at KWS and KFS, all looking to catch a glimpse of the release, descended into the Conservancy for the big day. In the following hours, news articles appeared all over the globe, from the UK to the US, Korea to Qatar and even Portugal, Brazil, China and Malaysia!

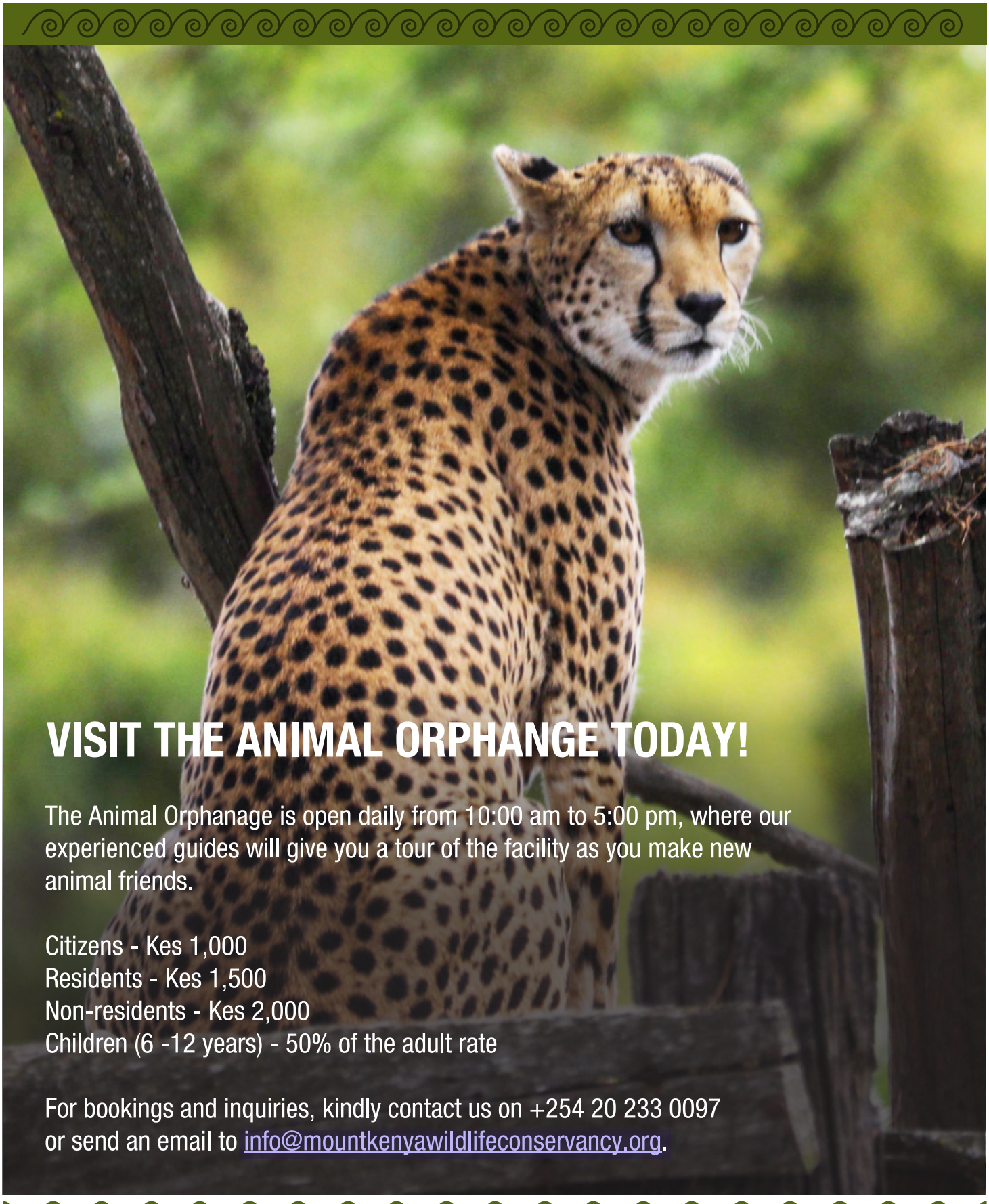
From this first release onwards, 10 Mountain Bongos will be released each year into the sanctuary, in groups of five every six months. It is estimated that by 2025 the sanctuary will have 50-70 fully rewilded Mountain Bongos.

As we all know, the Mountain Bongos can be a little camera shy. But the fab five did a great job strutting their stuff and putting on a show for the whole world to see.

Preparing Mountain Bongos for release into the Mawingu Sanctuary requires a huge amount of dedication and expertise's from our team at the conservancy. If you want to help fund the preparation of the next 5 Bongos to be released, you can find details at the end of this newsletter.

Check out some of the articles from The Guardian, Voice of America, France24 and Reuters.





VISIT THE ANIMAL ORPHANGE TODAY!

The Animal Orphanage is open daily from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, where our experienced guides will give you a tour of the facility as you make new animal friends.

Citizens - Kes 1,000
Residents - Kes 1,500
Non-residents - Kes 2,000
Children (6 -12 years) - 50% of the adult rate

For bookings and inquiries, kindly contact us on +254 20 233 0097 or send an email to info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org.

FANAKA THE FIRST MOUNTAIN BONGO TO BE BORN IN THE WILD THANKS TO OUR PROGRAM!



Just months after the opening of the Mawingu Sanctuary, we are delighted to announce the first birth of a Mountain Bongo calf at the Sanctuary.

The calf has been named **Fanaka**, meaning '***achievement***' in Swahili.. Fanaka was first spotted on Tuesday, 12th July 2022, by our very own Dr Robert. Since then, she has been photographed and is believed to be doing well, staying close to her mother.

We hope the birth of baby Fanaka will bring a smile to the faces of Kenyans and animal lovers around the world. The birth of an animal that sits on the brink of extinction is a genuine watershed moment that we should all celebrate and cherish.

If you wish to learn more about how to support the MKWC's efforts to protect the Mountain Bongo, please visit our website here.

The team caught up with Dr Robert to get his first-hand account of what it was like to see baby Fanaka for the first time:



Dr. Robert Aruho - Head of Conservancy

"I spent many hours and sleepless nights tracking Fanaka's mother Kavu when she went into the forest to give birth.

I eventually picked up not one, but two sets of footprints, one of which was a lot smaller than the other.

After tracking the footprints deeper into the forest and over a cliff, I finally laid eyes on the new born calf. My heart almost skipped a beat, and I was tingling with joy. The calf gave me a small stare, carefully flapping the ears. I was overjoyed and my fingers were shaking.

Getting a glimpse of baby Fanaka has meant that the last 20 years of blood, sweat and tears were all worth it. I could not be prouder of the team at MKWC and more thankful to all our of supporters, including the government of Kenya, KFS and KWS.

In other news...

KEEPING UP WITH THE MOUNTAIN BONGO

So far this year we have seen the addition of nine baby Bongos to the family! Bringing the total number of Bongos under our care to 69.

Mountain Bongos are very secretive when they give birth, hiding their calves in the bushes and only going to them early in the morning and late at night. Can you spot the baby Bongo hiding in the image below?

With nine new baby Bongos, we have got space for you to become a guardian angel. Not only would you be taking care of a new baby, but you would be supporting our Breeding and Rewilding program. Find out more information at the end of this newsletter.



ANIMAL ORPHANAGE

The Animal Orphanage has seen a bumper few months, with an increase in visitors, topping numbers seen in previous years.



On 2nd April, the Animal Orphanage was blessed with the birth of a colobus monkey, to the proud new mum, Asha. This has brought the total number of colobus monkeys at the Animal Orphanage to 11.

Did you know that baby colobus monkeys are born white with a pink face? The striking colour difference between infants and adults helps promote behaviour called "aunting" or "alloparenting". This is where other females in the troop help to raise the infant; it really does take a village!

CONSERVATION STARTS FROM THE GROUND UP



As a valued donor of the conservancy, you will know that conservation must start from the ground up. Protecting and enriching the local environment is essential to ensuring animals can thrive.

As part of our tree planting initiative, one of our leading donors, Dalbit International, joined us on the 23rd of May to plant over 1,000 trees to celebrate their 20th Birthday. Teams from Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, community members and students from Nanyuki Garrison Primary School, all played their part and got stuck into some digging.

This marks a huge step towards achieving the target of 5,000 trees that we are aiming to plant this year. If you would like to support the tree planting initiative as an individual or as an organization, you can get in touch with us on



MOUNT KENYA SAFARI CLUB RE-OPENS

The iconic Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club, the stunning manor house which sits within the MKWC, threw open its doors for guests for the first time in almost two years.

Dr Robert and other esteemed guests from across Kenya came to the hotel to celebrate opening day, which was marked by champagne, cocktails and a party which lasted all night!





CONSERVATION EDUCATION

Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy has set up community conservation education and empowerment programmes to create awareness on the plight of the Mountain Bongo and sustainable natural resource management, motivating our youth and the community to become future conservationists.

MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

NANYUKI KENYA EAST AFRICA

CHILDREN ARE THE FUTURE

Each quarter, we have internship students join the Conservancy to kickstart their careers in conservation.

We asked a few of our budding conservationists about their time here.



1 Andrew Mwendwa Mulani

"I joined Mt Kenya Wildlife Conservancy as it's the most successful Breeding site and Research centre for the critically endangered Mountain Bongo. This was my best option to build my career as a wildlife conservationist and ecologist."

2 Humphrey Kinyua Karingithi

"I've enjoyed waking up every day and going to see the Mountain Bongos, watching the calves grow from the day they're born. It's always been a dream of mine to work with a critically endangered species and Mt. Kenya Wildlife Conservancy has provided the opportunity to do so."

If you know any budding conservationists who would like to take part in our quarterly internships programme, they can apply at: info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.com

ADOPT AN ANIMAL

We have several animals under our care up for adoption!

The exclusive one time Mountain Bongo adoption of US$ 1,500 not only means you are helping the care for the animal but you're also funding the continuation of our Mountain Bongo Breeding program.

The following options are available.

Donation Amount	One-time donation of $100	One-time donation of $200	One-time donation of $500	One-time donation of $1,500 (exclusive to Bongo adoption) Individual or Corporate
What it includes	• Fostering of one animal of choice for one year. • You'll receive a certificate with the animal's photo, identifying you as the foster parent.	• Adopt one animal in our care for two years. • You'll receive a certificate with the animal's photo, identifying you as the foster parent. • You'll receive updates on the animal's welfare.	• You'll become the lifelong guardian of your chosen animal. • You will get to name the animal (if not already named) • You'll receive a certificate with the animal's photo identifying you as the foster parent. • You'll also receive a detailed history, general information and updates on the animal's welfare.	• You'll become a lifelong guardian of your chosen animal. • You will get to name the animal. • You'll receive a certificate with the mounted animal's photo identifying you as the foster parent • You'll also receive a detailed history, general information and updates on the animal's welfare. • Exclusive Bongo tracking experience on every visit to the Conservancy for the individual foster parent max 2 pax.

Adoptions range from a period of 12 months up to a lifetime from the chosen start date. To find out more about animal adoptions contact info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org.

SOUVENIRS

For those wanting to remember their trip to the conservancy, we have souvenirs of our flagship bongo programme.

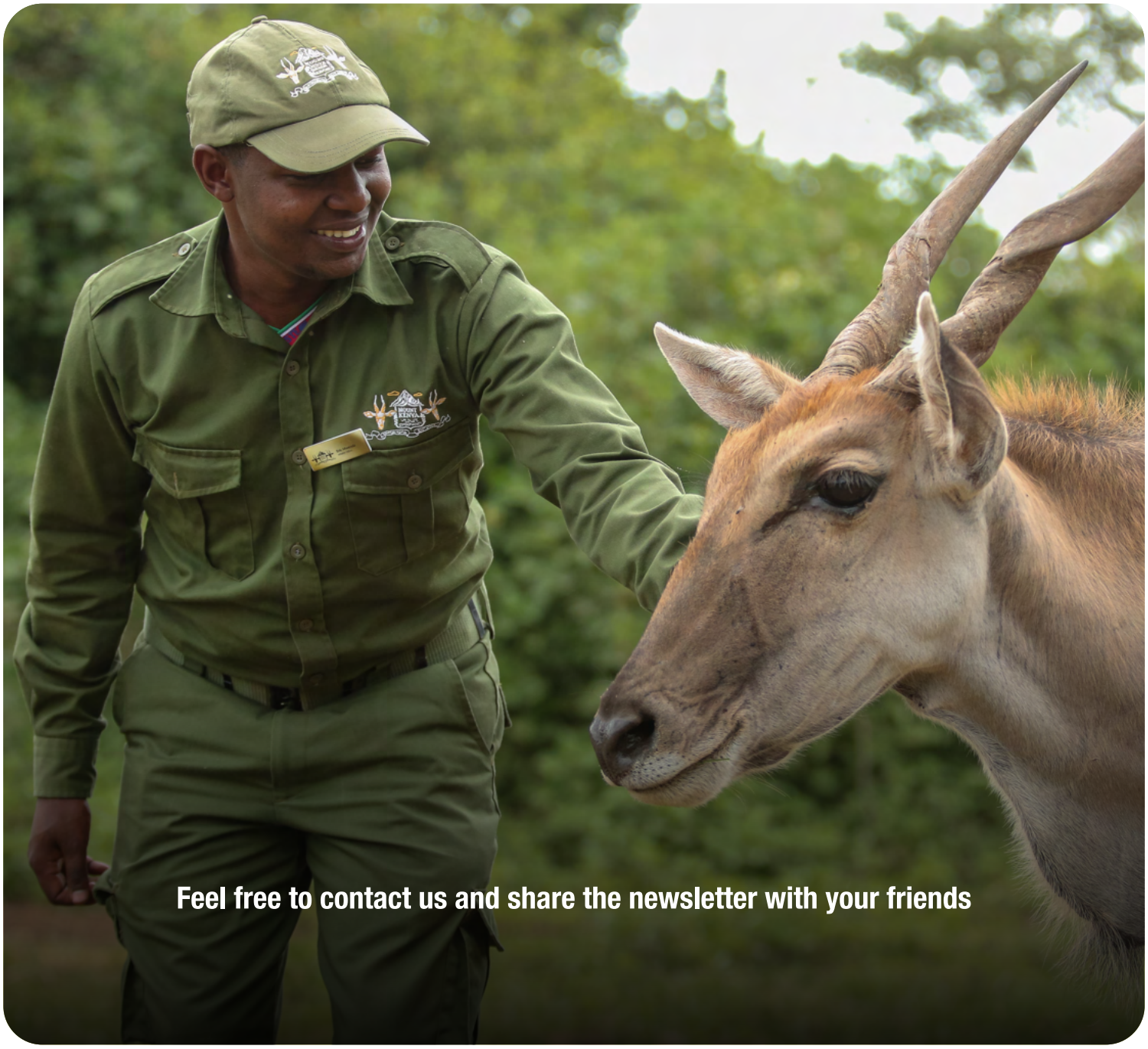
Item	Size	Price (USD)	Price (KSH)
Benji the Brave Bongo Plush toys	Small – 15cm	11.00	1,200.00
	Large – 30cm	17.00	1,800.00
Mountain Bongo Plush toys	Small – 15cm	11.00	1,200.00
	Large – 30cm	18.00	1,900.00
Compliment cards – the young big six	Set of 6	5.00	500.00
Benji the Brave Bongo Plush toys	Pieces	5.00	500.00

As always, we have loads of activities at the animal orphanage, making the perfect outing for a family day out!

ACTIVITIES PRICE LIST

Prices and activities are subject to change.

Animal Orphanage	Citizens	Kes 1,000.00
	Residents	Kes 1,500.00
	Non-residents	Kes 2,000.00
	Children (6-12 years)	50% of the adult rate
Conservancy Private Tour (*Game drive within the Conservancy*)	3 hrs	Kes 5,000 (Min – 2 pax)
Bird walk	1 hr	Kes 1,000
Nature walk	3 hrs	Kes 2,000
Bongo Tracking – (*To include feeding*)	3 hrs	US $ 100
Birthday Package		
Transform your birthday party into a wild day by celebrating at the '**Home of the Mountain Bongo**'. (*For up to 15 guests*). Venue: **Kimani Boma** To Include: • Tour of the Animal Orphanage with a 10% discount for the adult guests • Horse riding for 1 hour for 2 guests. • Table, tablecloths and seats. • Recognition on our social media pages.		Kes 20,000



MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY
NANYUKI KENYA EAST AFRICA

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