MT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

NEWS



Global attention for our Fab 5

Keeping up with the
Mountain Bongo

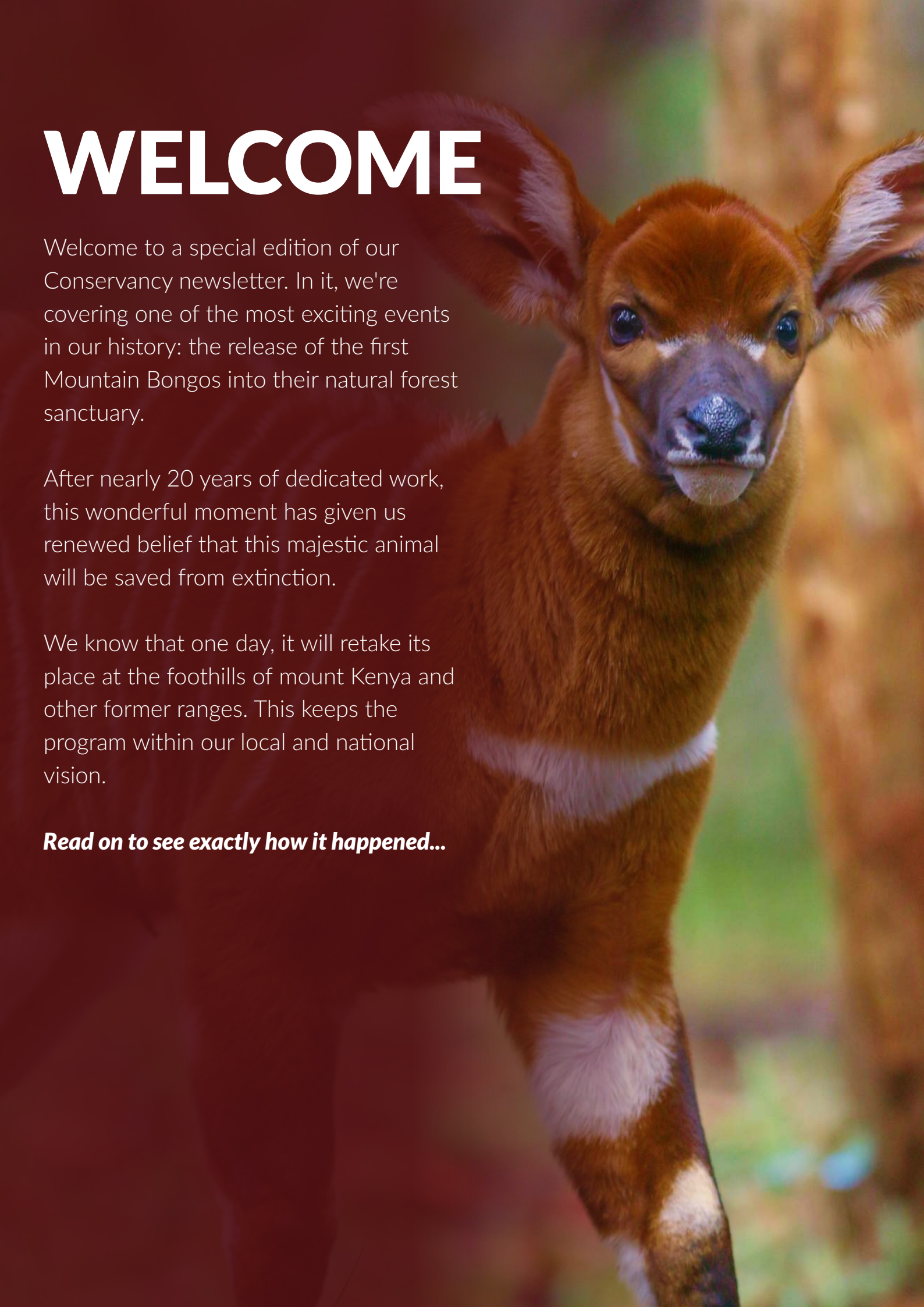
WELCOME

Welcome to a special edition of our Conservancy newsletter. In it, we're covering one of the most exciting events in our history: the release of the first Mountain Bongos into their natural forest sanctuary.

After nearly 20 years of dedicated work, this wonderful moment has given us renewed belief that this majestic animal will be saved from extinction.

We know that one day, it will retake its place at the foothills of mount Kenya and other former ranges. This keeps the program within our local and national vision.

Read on to see exactly how it happened...



On 9th March 2022, 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.

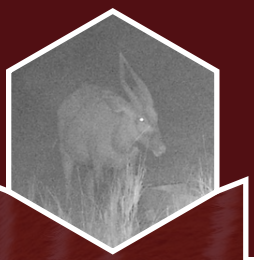


The Conservancy has been on a near-20-year journey with the Mountain Bongo, which started back in 2004 when we rehomed the first animals from zoos in the USA. Since then, and with your incredible support, the team has worked tirelessly to support population growth. The jewel in the crown is the 776-acre 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 in the wild has been driven by human activity, but the release represented the most significant step towards its survival.

Global attention for our Fab Five

The five bongos released were:



Name: Danni
Sex: Female | **DOB:** 11-Jan-11

A mature female, Danni is an elusive and shy Mountain Bongo.



Name: Kavu
Sex: Female | **DOB:** 02-Mar-18

A striking female renowned for her horns and beautiful stripes, Kavu is an effective browser.



Name: Karama
Sex: Male | **DOB:** 12-Jul-14

An alpha male without being overly dominant, Karama is an eligible bachelor ready to sire.



Name: Hillary
Sex: Male | **DOB:** 28-Dec-18

A sub-adult male along with Owingo, Hillary holds a close bond with the two other male bongos, which is critical for all the males' survival.



Name: Owingo
Sex: Male | **DOB:** 24-Jun-19

A timid sub-adult male with a distinct last stripe at the tail base that resembles the letter 'O'.

Cameras looking to catch a glimpse of the release descended to 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!

As we all well know, our 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.

Check out some of the articles from **The Guardian, BBC, Voice of America, France24, Nation** and **Reuters** below















To mark this momentous occasion, the **Hon. Najib Balala,** Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife for the Government of Kenya, officially opened the sanctuary alongside Kenya Wildlife Service, Kenya Forest Service, and our very own Dr Robert Aruho, the Head of Conservancy at Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy. It still seems too good to be true, but we know that none of this would have been possible without your continued generosity and support.

Thank you.





Planning for long-term success

The Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary will play a vital role in re-establishing a wild Mountain Bongo population. Acting as a space where the animals can learn how to feed and survive on their own, without the threat of predators or competitors for space.

From this moment on, 10 bongos will be released into the sanctuary in groups of 5 every six months. It is estimated that by 2025 the sanctuary will have 50-70 fully rewilded Mountain Bongos.

The positive impact that the re-wilding of the Mountain Bongo has, and their eventual survival in the wild, depends on the support of local communities. It's for this reason we've set up community conservation, education, and empowerment programmes to create awareness.





The children are the future

The longevity of conservation will require equipping and training the younger generations. MKWC has created and integrated lessons focusing on the restoration of the mountain bongo.

We host over 20,000 students annually and support over 30 students on 6-month internships. To continue education to carry on the conservation legacy, the following support is needed:

Cost of sponsoring one class of students to visit MKWC		
Fees	**Number of students/teachers**	**Total cost for all students**
Student lunch	50	$100
Conservation fee	50	$150
Transport – bus hire	n/a	$1,000
Teacher's lunch	4	$5
Educational materials		
Description	**Quantity**	**Total cost**
Bird field Guidebook	4	$200
Plant Guidebook	4	$200
Mammal	4	$200



Protecting our Forests

MKWC employ local community groups to plant and take care of seedlings in the forest. So far, 3,000 community members have planted over 35,000 indigenous tree species.

To support the planting of 5,000 more trees the following support is needed:

Forest restoration		
Description	**Quantity**	**Total cost**
Seedlings	5,000	$10,000
Cost of planting	5,000	$25,000
Total cost		$35,000

In other news

Keeping up with the Mountain Bongo

We've already started this year off on a positive note, with the addition of four baby bongos to the family. Bringing the total number of bongos under our care to 64.

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 4 new additions, we now have 15 bongos awaiting a Guardian Angel, could this be you?

Adopting a bongo means not only are you helping to care for the calves but you're also funding the continuation of our Mountain Bongo Breeding programme. Please see the end of the newsletter for the various adoption options.

Bongo Birthday Party



On 4th February 2022 we celebrated Eldama's second birthday.

For those who might not know, Eldama is a special case at the Conservancy. Two days after birth our team noticed that her mother's udder had no milk; meaning that Eldama couldn't feed.

After consultation with Kenya Wildlife Service, the mother was given supplements to boost milk production and the conservancy team fed Eldama with a milk replacer.

Now two years on, Eldama has grown into a beautiful sub-adult. Her nickname has become 'timekeeper' because she is always the first to show up at the feeding station!

Children are the future

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

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

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



"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."

Andrew Mwendwa Mulani

"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."

Humphrey Kinyua Karingithi



THE WILD IS CALLING



Horse Riding Rates

30 mins - KES 1,000
1 hour - KES 2,000
2 hours - KES 3,000

Animal Orphanage Rates

Citizens - KES 1,000
Residents - KES 1,500
Non-residents - KES 2,000
Children (6-12 yrs) - 50% Adult Rate

Conservancy Private Tour(Game Drive within the Conservancy)

3 hours - KES 5,000 Min 2 pax

Mountain Bike Riding Rates

1 hour - KES 2,000
2 hours - KES 4,500
3 hours - KES 6,000

Donations

Mobile Money

MpesaTill No: 837749
Account Name: Mount Kenya Game Ranch

Cheque

Enclose your cheque and mail it to:
Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy
P.O. Box 288 – 10400 Nanyuki Kenya

Direct Bank Transfer

Account Name: Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy
Bank: ABSA Bank
Swift Code: BARCKENX
Bank Code: 03
Branch Code: 190
Account No: 0227651199

info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org
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Tripadvisor Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy

Adopt a Baby Bongo

We have our latest four bongos up for adoption!

Adopting these Bongos not only means you are helping the care for calves but you're also funding the continuation of our Mountain Bongo Breeding program.

The following options are available.

Donation Price	One time donation of $100	One time donation of $200	One time donation of $500
What it includes	• Fostering of one orphaned animal for one year • You'll receive a certificate with the animal's photo, identifying you as the foster parent • Updates on the animal's welfare	• 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 • You'll receive a guardian angel certificate • You'll also receive a detailed history, general information, and updates.



Souvenirs

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

100% of profits go directly to our conservation efforts.

Item	Size	Price (USD)	Price (KSH)
Benji the Brave Bongo Plush toys	Small – 15cm	11.00	1200.00
	Large – 30cm	17.00	1800.00
Mountain Bongo Plush Toys	Small – 15cm	11.00	1200.00
	Large – 30cm	18.00	1900.00
Compliment cards – the young big six	Set of 6	5.00	500.00
Key rings	Pcs	5.00	500.00