MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

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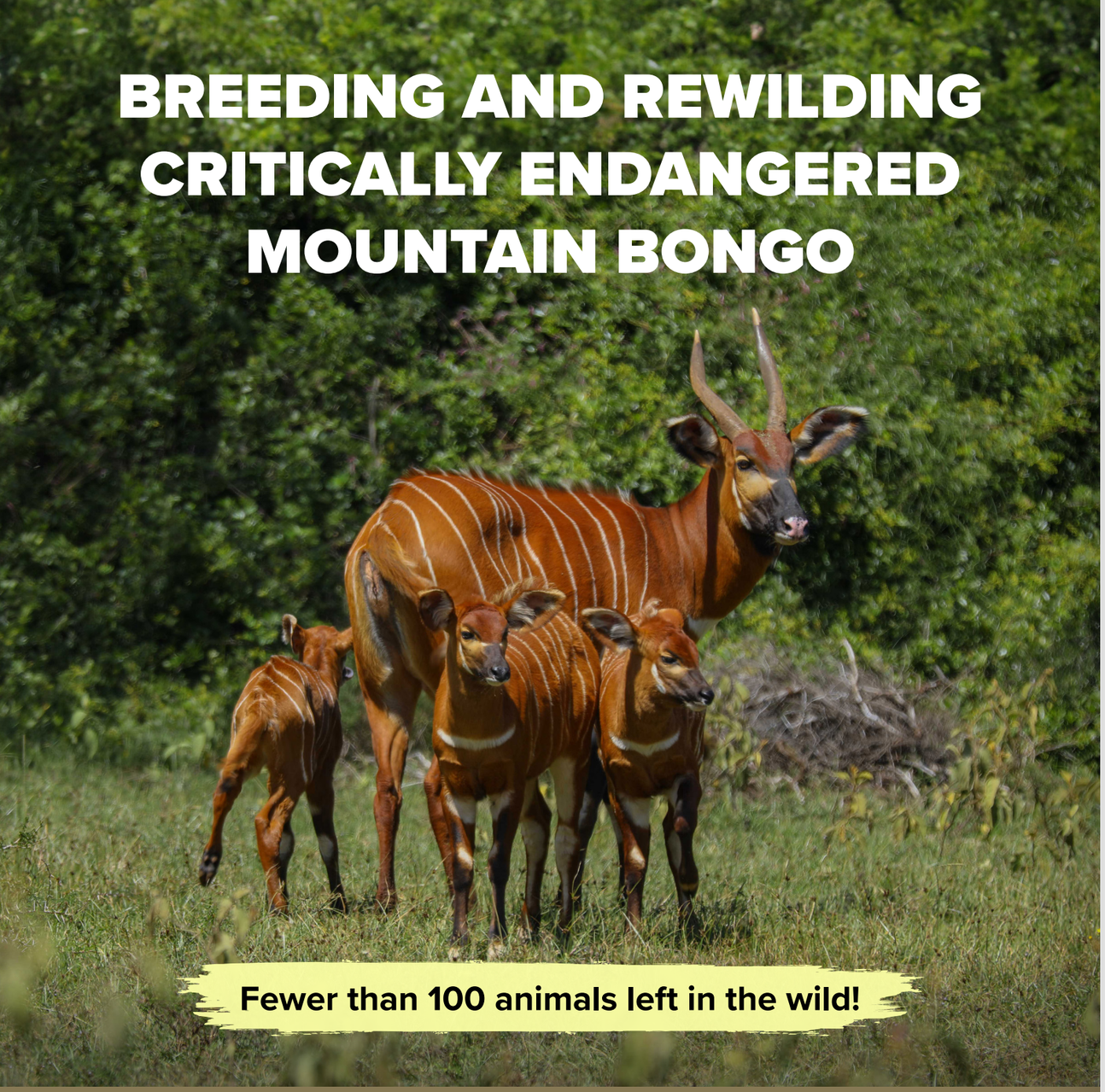
A BEACON OF CONSERVATION

MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY NEWS

Q2 Newsletter 2023 | Issue 7



BREEDING AND REWILDING CRITICALLY ENDANGERED MOUNTAIN BONGO



Fewer than 100 animals left in the wild!

Visit our website for details of the Bongo Breeding and Rewilding program: www.mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org or scan the QR code.

Dear Reader

As we progress into the third quarter of the year, we want to reflect on some of the key milestones from the second quarter. It's been an exciting time at the Conservancy, full of animal rescues, success stories and inspiring initiatives.

Following the historic release of the first ten critically endangered Mountain Bongos last year into the Mawingu Sanctuary, we're pleased to report the herds are adapting well to their new environment in the wild. This is an encouraging step forward which stands testament to the unwavering dedication of our team.

Our animal orphanage has also been bustling with activity, with the exciting release of a group of colobus monkeys back into the wild, a visit from renowned artist Richie Spice, and the exciting arrival of two captivating lioness cubs. This cheeky duo has brought an extra dose of enchantment to the Conservancy and we invite everyone to come and visit, learn about the work we do and fall in love with them.

During quarter two we've also continued our community outreach and education programs. To celebrate Earth Day, we hosted a group of budding conservationists for a memorable tree-planting ceremony, equipping them with the tools and knowledge to protect wildlife habitats for decades to come. These programs are pivotal for inspiring the next generation of conservationists, and we look forward to hosting many more in the coming months.

Of course, none of our conservancy work would be possible without your ongoing support. Your generous financial contributions and commitment keep the Conservancy running. To learn more about how you can continue making a meaningful impact, please turn to page 15 and 16. Together, we can preserve and protect nature's beauty and wildlife for generations to come.

Best wishes,

Nyawira Kariuki
CHAIRPERSON
Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy Trust



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MOUNTAIN BONGO PROGRAM

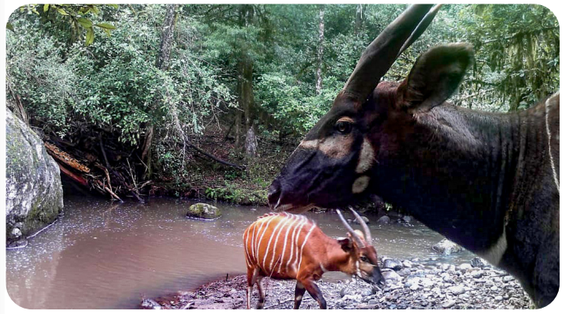
GENERAL UPDATES

LATEST UPDATES ON MOUNTAIN BONGO BREEDING AND REWILDING PROGRAM

Over the past quarter, the team on the ground has worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the world's first Mountain Bongo Breeding and Rewilding Program.

1 BREEDING BREAKTHROUGHS

The Breeding Program will mark an exciting step forward in restoring the population of this critically endangered species. Our dedicated monitoring team have been closely watching the expectant mothers, ensuring their well-being and providing necessary care. Whilst we haven't recorded any Bongo births in quarter two, we have maintained a robust and healthy herd. Mating typically occurs between October to December, with a gestation period of roughly nine months, so we look forward to welcoming some adorable Bongo calves towards the last quarter of this year.



2 COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Our program thrives on collaboration and partnerships with other conservation organizations, wildlife authorities, and research institutions. Together, we share knowledge, exchange expertise, and leverage resources to enhance the impact of our efforts. We're deeply grateful for the support from the Prague Zoological Garden (Prague Zoo) of Czech Republic. They generously donated 10,000 USD towards the Bongo habitat restoration, which will see us plant 1,500 indigenous trees and rejuvenate the Mount Kenya Forest ecosystem.

3 REWILDING SUCCESS STORIES

The ultimate goal of the Mountain Bongo program is to reintroduce captive-bred Bongos into their natural habitat. So, we're thrilled to report that the initial 10 Mountain Bongos released into the Mawingu Sanctuary are thriving. They've seamlessly adapted to their new environment, showcasing natural insticts and behaviors, with the animals released in the second tranche also successfully integrating into the existing Bongo herd. Kalama, one of the 3 males from the initial translocation in March 2022, has become the dominant bull in the herd. And let's not forget about Fanaka, the first Bongo born in the Sanctuary, who is now a year old and has been spotted browsing with the waterbucks-showcasing her wild spirit!







MOUNTAIN BONGO PROGRAM

MEET THE TEAM!

As we share the Mountain Bongo Program's progress, we would also like to shine a spotlight on the dedicated individuals who are driving its success on the ground. In this quarter's feature, we had the privilege of interviewing Humphrey and Andrew, two integral members of the team. Let's hear what they had to share.

Humphrey



1 PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND WHAT YOU DO AT THE MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

My name is Humphrey Kinyua and currently I am the Bongo Program Assistant. I'm deeply passionate about these animals and releasing them back into their original habitat, where they can roam freely once more.

2 CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT THE MOUNTAIN BONGO BREEDING AND REWILDING PROGRAM AT MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY?

This program began in 2004 with the repatriation of 18 Mountain Bongos from the US. From here, we initiated the rewilding program, which commenced fully last year when the first 10 Bongos were successfully reintroduced back into the wild.

3 WHAT MEASURES DO YOU TAKE TO PREPARE A SELECTED BONGO FOR RELEASE INTO THE WILD (MAWINGU SANCTUARY), AND HOW DO YOU MONITOR THEIR PROGRESS AFTER RELEASE?

We take many factors into account. Adaptability in the wild is a crucial factor; we seek individuals who can find food independently, as heavy feed supplementation is reduced. Robust health is a must, alongside age considerations. They can't be too old or too young. Genetic diversity is paramount – no relation to existing Bongos in the sanctuary is allowed.

Our monitoring techniques combine physical observation and cutting-edge technology. Daily accountability is a priority, so we ensure every Bongo is counted daily using at least one of these methods. We meticulously track their behaviour and activity patterns, from when they drink from a river to when they browse and how vigilant they become.

4 CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ANY SUCCESSFUL BONGO RELEASES AND HOW THOSE INDIVIDUALS HAVE ADAPTED TO LIFE IN THE WILD?

Two successful translocations to the sanctuary have occurred, alongside a milestone birth in the Sanctuary! All the individuals have adapted well to their new environment, utilizing the entire first partition of the Sanctuary. Encouragingly, we've also seen a lot of interspecific and intraspecific interactions, a key component of rewilding, as these diverse species come together and co-exist for the first time.

5 WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE BONGO BREEDING AND REWILDING PROGRAM, AND WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST REWARDING ABOUT YOUR WORK WITH THE BONGOS?

Critically endangered species have always held a special place in my heart, so I jumped at the chance to intern at Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy with the Mountain Bongo Program. The most rewarding part of my work is monitoring a Bongo mother from mating to birth. Seeing a calf being born fills me with hope for the future of a species which has been pushed to the brink of extinction.

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MOUNTAIN BONGO PROGRAM

Andrew



1 PLEASE INTRODUCE YOURSELF AND WHAT YOU DO AT THE MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

I am Andrew Mwendwa Mulani, a passionate animal keeper and guide.

2 HOW DO YOU ENSURE THE HEALTH AND WELFARE OF THE ANIMALS IN THE BREEDING AND REWILDING PROGRAM?

Daily monitoring of their behavior and trends is paramount, as it allows us to spot and treat signs of illness earlier. Through the unwavering commitment and vigilance of our team, we do our best to ensure a thriving environment for these creatures.

3 HOW DO YOU MEASURE THE SUCCESS OF THE BONGO BREEDING AND REWILDING PROGRAM?

It's simple: by comparing the number of Bongos born to the number of deaths. If the natality cases are higher than the mortality cases, the program is on track and successful. We also measure success by the number of calves successfully raised with minimal intervention and how they adapt to new habitats like the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary.

4 CAN YOU TELL US ABOUT ANY SUCCESSFUL BONGO RELEASES AND HOW THOSE INDIVIDUALS HAVE ADAPTED TO LIFE IN THE WILD?

The first individual that comes to mind is Kavu. I'm especially proud of how she's managed to adapt to the Mawingu Sanctuary. She become the first Bongo to give birth and successfully raise her calf, Fanaka, despite a leopard lurking in the sanctuary. Witnessing their incredible bond showcases the indomitable spirit and resilience of these remarkable creatures.

5 WHAT INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME INVOLVED IN THE BONGO BREEDING AND REWILDING PROGRAM, AND WHAT DO YOU FIND MOST REWARDING ABOUT YOUR WORK WITH THE BONGOS?

After joining the program as an intern, I knew conservation was the right career path for me. Being part of the only Bongo rewilding program in the whole world fills me with immense pride. Seeing the population grow keeps me motivated to wake up each day and help build the best future possible for them.

Trek for the Bongos 2023

We're excited to announce that the Trek for the Bongos 2023 edition is just around the corner!

Last year's inaugural event was a big triumph, as Eli Roimen, member of the leadership team at Janus Continental Group (JCG), summited Mount Kenya not once, not twice, but three times in just three days. His efforts raised awareness and crucial funds for the Mountain Bongo Program.

Follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and LinkedIn to catch all the exciting updates on how you can join in and support this extraordinary cause.



ANIMAL ORPHANAGE

ANIMAL RESCUES

May saw an exciting new addition to the MKWC Animal Orphanage: Two lioness sister cubs.



The Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) decided to place the cubs within the Mount Kenya Animal Orphanage, where they have already started to benefit from the expert care of a dedicated team of animal keepers and wildlife veterinarians. The Conservancy's exceptional animal orphanage meets the required animal welfare standards to host these majestic siblings.

We warmly invite everyone to come and experience the magic of these captivating cubs. Visitors will have the rare opportunity to see, learn, and interact with the cubs as they rest and play, deepening their bond with wildlife and learning more about conservation through a guided tour.

We hope that their presence here, as real live ambassadors of the wild, will inspire visitors to promote their co-existence in the wild as part of our shared heritage.

"We're thrilled to welcome these two energetic sister cubs, and are deeply grateful to Kenya Wildlife Services for choosing the orphanage at Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy as their refuge. By offering the chance to engage with these cubs, we hope to equip visitors with the tools and motivation to protect these animals for decades to come."



Dr. Robert Aruho
HEAD OF THE MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

ANIMAL ORPHANAGE

ANIMAL RELEASES



After months of dedicated care and rehabilitation, we're thrilled to announce we've successfully released a group of colobus monkeys into their natural habitat in the wild! This is a momentous milestone for the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy Animal Orphanage in our rewilding mission and is a testament to the tireless commitment of our team.

Together, we have given these energetic primates a second chance at life in their rightful home. A big shout-out to Dr Edel, the dedicated on-ground vet at the Conservancy and Kibet, the head of the Wildlife team, who helped make this achievement possible.

CELEBRITY VISIT TO THE ANIMAL ORPHANAGE



In May, we hosted the renowned artist, Richie Spice, at the Animal Orphanage as part of his Nanyuki tour. It was an exciting time for everyone involved! Richie Spice and his entourage experienced heart-warming encounters with the animals while getting to understand the crucial role that the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy plays in the conservation of wildlife, with emphasis on the critically endangered Mountain Bongo.

Can you guess which mesmerising animal captured his attention? Share your answers by responding to this email. Correct guesses will earn you well-deserved bragging rights in our next edition of the quarterly Newsletter.



CONSERVATION EDUCATION

CELEBRATING WORLD EARTH DAY 2023

Conservation is a collective effort, and we believe in engaging and empowering future generations. Through various outreach programs and educational initiatives, we've been raising awareness about the importance of conservation and fostering a sense of ownership among students. We are grateful for the continuous support and active participation of educators, community members and ultimately students who are passionate about preserving nature's beauty.

To celebrate Earth Day, we hosted a group of budding conservationists and their teachers from Lions School, Embu in a tree-planting ceremony at the Conservancy. Joined by the team from the Fairmont Mount Kenya Safari Club, we planted 30 trees right next to one of the Bongo breeding paddocks. This activity was led by Mophene, also known as "Teacher Green", as her students fondly call her.







HEAD TEACHERS EXPERIENCE THE ANIMAL ORPHANAGE

In April, we had the privilege of hosting a group of Head Teachers from the Rift Valley region at the Animal Orphanage. It was a truly inspiring and educational experience for everyone involved. Let's take a deeper dive into the impactful time we spent together:

1. Our experienced animal keepers guided the Head Teachers through the Orphanage, offering in-depth knowledge about the various species and their conservation status. The Head Teachers had the opportunity to witness first-hand the work we do in caring for the orphaned animals.

2. We explored ideas for areas of collaboration, such as educational tours of the facility and a school outreach program for schools that may not be able to physically visit the Animal Orphanage. The aim of engaging with the Headteachers is to develop long-term partnerships that will promote conservation education and inspire the next generation of conservationists.

3. We are incredibly grateful to the Head Teachers that made time to pass by the Animal Orphanage. Their commitment to shaping young minds and fostering a sense of environmental responsibility is truly commendable. Together, we can empower the next generation to become champions of wildlife conservation and ensure a sustainable future for our natural heritage.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

We were thrilled to take part in the World Environment Day 2023 event organized by the Governor, Laikipia County.

With the theme of "**Beat Plastic Pollution**" the event aimed to raise awareness, inspire action, and highlight the importance of sustainable practices. Here's a glimpse of our involvement and the impactful collaborations that took place:

- As part of the event, we took part in a community cleanup drive in the Majengo area. Participants including Government Officials from Laikipia County, local residents, students, and businesses, actively participated in the cleanup efforts. Together, we not only helped to remove plastic waste from surrounding areas but also sparked conversations with community members about the importance of responsible waste disposal.

- After this, we all headed to the Nanyuki Vocational Training centre to plant indigenous trees, coming together to build a more sustainable ecosystem.



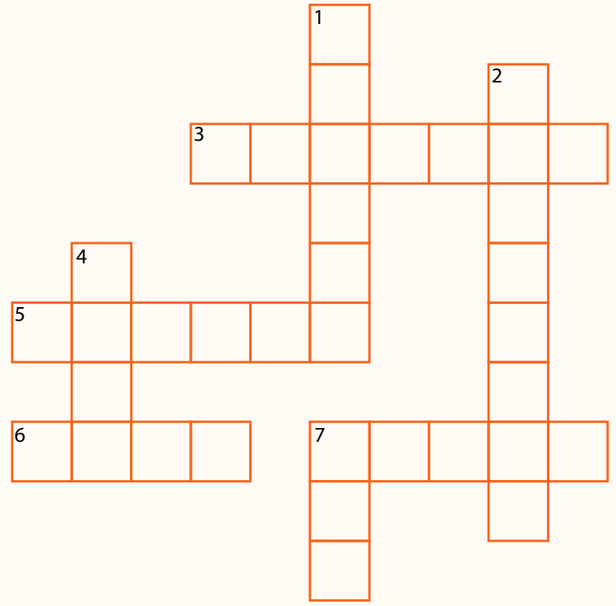
- Experts from various fields came together to exchange ideas, strategies, and success stories, fostering spirit of collaboration and knowledge sharing. Key topics included the impact of plastic pollution on local ecosystems, innovative recycling initiatives, policy advocacy for effective waste management and community education on environmental care and protection.

The event was a resounding success, with participants coming together to address the urgent issue of plastic pollution. As we reflect on this impactful event, we remain dedicated to implementing sustainable practices, and continuing our efforts to beat plastic pollution, not just on World Environment Day, but every day.





KIDS SECTION



Across

3. What type of monkeys did we release into the wild?
5. I'm the first baby Bongo born in the Sanctuary.
6. What month comes after June?
7. How many times did Eli summit Mount Kenya?

Down

1. I'm the dominant bull in the Bongo herd.
2. I am a Bongo breeding and rewilding program assistant.
4. I'm Andrew's favourite Bongo and Fanaka's mother.
7. How many lioness cubs did we welcome at the Orphanage?



ACTIVITIES AT THE MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

Our gates remain open for you and your families and friends to visit us. The Animal Orphanage is open daily from 10.00 am to 5.00 pm, while various activities in the Conservancy are available up until 7.00 pm on select days.

We are located 10 kms (approx. 6 miles) away from Nanyuki town centre, a 3-hour drive (or a 30-minute flight) from Nairobi. If you would like to book an activity in advance or if you have any questions, please reach out to us on info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org or on +254 (0) 20 233 0097. Accommodation for overnight trips is available at a fee upon request.

We have lots of activities at the Animal Orphanage, making it a perfect outing for a family day out!



MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY RATES AS OF JUNE 2023
RATES IN KES (Unless indicated otherwise)

ACTIVITY		EA CITIZEN		RESIDENT		NON-RESIDENT	
		ADULT	CHILD	ADULT	CHILD	ADULT	CHILD
ANIMAL ORPHANAGE ENTRY FEE	ADULT (>12 YEARS) CHILD (6-12 YEARS)	1,000	500	2,000	1,000	USD 30	USD 15
Guided Conservancy Tour Single Entry that gives the guest access to the free-range area of the Conservancy grounds (excluding the Bongo paddocks) Available daily from 9am-6pm. Prior booking of at least 1 day required.	Inclusive of: ▶ 3-hour guided Game Drive within the Conservancy (Min 2 pax)	5,000					

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 the Mountain Bongo themed plush toys! 100% of profits go directly to our conservation efforts.



GET INVOLVED

If you would like to leave your mark at the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, there are several ways to do so.

ADOPT AN ANIMAL

Annual to lifelong foster care of an animal of your choice with varying naming rights dependent on value of donation. The foster parent is entitled to updates on the animal's welfare and a certificate of recognition. Please note that there is a lot of love to go around and that sometimes the animals may have more than one foster parent.

One time Donation Amount	$100	$200	$500	$1,500
Open to	Individuals, couples and families			Individuals, couples, families and organizations
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.	▶ Fostering of one animal of choice 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'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).



PLANT A TREE OR LEAVE A DONATION

GET INVOLVED ACTIVITIES
(in KES, unless indicated)

Activity		Rate
Tree Planting Play a part in habitat conservation and restoration by planting or adopting a tree to be planted by community members within the Mount Kenya eco system	**Rate for two seedlings and planting** Open to individuals, couples, families and organizations	1,000
Donations We invite our visitors to leave a mark at the Animal Orphanage. We put up tiles in honour of all our donors. These tiles are specially hand printed and permanently mounted at the Animal Orphanage 'Wall of Sponsors'	Bush Baby Tile	$100
	Green Tile	$200
	Golden Tile	$500
	Platinum Tile	$1,000
	Wildlife Guardian	$10,000





RECOGNIZING OUR SUPPORTERS, ADOPTIVE PARENTS, DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

We would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all the incredible individuals who have played a pivotal role in the success of the Conservancy. Without the unwavering support and contributions from our generous donors, passionate supporters, devoted adoptive parents, and dedicated volunteers, our efforts to conserve and protect nature's beauty would not be possible. Your commitment and involvement have made a profound impact, fostering a brighter future for Mount Kenya's wildlife and ecosystems. We are immensely grateful for your continued support and partnership on this important journey. Together, we are making a difference.

Here are our supporters so far for the year 2023:

- Amanda Jolly
- Anil Mohan Kamat
- Ava & Tali
- Bhanji Family
- Candace & Larry Hardee
- Carol Cain
- Chi Ying
- Clark Jensen
- Coral Wachter
- Cui Li
- Cynthia & John Peacock
- Dalbit Petroleum Limited
- David Frinton
- David Groves
- De Chabaneix
- Debra Stein
- Douglas Thoenton
- Dr Deepak Garg & Family
- Frank Alatorre
- R N Scoon
- Ravi Kumar Kohli
- Reena Mandaliya Patel
- Rena
- Reshma & Nipul Tanna
- Rushda and Jamal
- Fred Brownie
- Fredrick Brownie
- G M Masoodi
- Gallesio Lorenzo
- Girish
- Gladcova Marianna
- Granger & Christopher
- Hiba & Ishaku
- Ishan Mehta
- Jane Salland
- Jay Joshi
- Jobar Ali
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- Justin Arcelaschi
- Kamil Derucki
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- Kelly B
- Kelly Ertler
- Salma Omar
- Santosh Padden
- Shetal
- Simon Andrews
- Simon Farmer
- Steve
- Sultan Alqasimi
- Kenneth Gliedman
- Koo Donnelly
- Koo Donnelly
- Laura Albano
- Leon Cake
- Li Weijin
- Liam Odonnell
- Lin Tianhang
- Mary & Steven Swig
- Mount Kenya Safari Club
- Mutisya & Jeneffer Ndunda
- Nilesh Patel
- Nirav Shah
- Nishant Shalima
- Patel
- Paul Rigby
- Prague Zoological Garden
- Praveen Rengaraj
- Tania Libertad
- The Scotts Family
- Tony Newton
- Tunde & Martin
- Victoria Huntington
- Tamara Kent

If you would like to participate in making a difference in the work we do, please get in touch with us at info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org. There are several contribution options to suit how you would like to leave a legacy at the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy.