MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY

NEWS

KEEPING UP WITH THE MOUNTAIN BONGO

The Bongos are on the move

AMAZING STORIES FROM THE CONSERVANCY



CROSSWORD & PUZZLES

A wild lense

MKWC & NIKON PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

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Welcome

Dear All,

In the last three months our team has been working tirelessly to make sure we deliver the best for the animals under our care. Even in these strange times, we've been coming up with brand new ways to highlight the work of the conservancy and the amazing animals who make it all possible.

We've had lots of reasons to celebrate. It's been a bumper quarter for bongo births, with the addition of four new baby bongos to the herd (read on to find out how you could be the one to name them!) We've also seen an amazing and unlikely relationship flourish between a baby gazelle and a goat which she has raised as her own. Read 'Sarau's story' for more details.

Since January 2021, we've introduced new special rates for residents and children at the animal orphanage. In June, we were also delighted to welcome the state broadcaster, Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC) and their presenter Purity Museo to the conservancy for three days; a trip which will etched in our memories.

In August, we are launching the world's first Mountain Bongo Photography competition in collaboration with Nikon Kenya, Fairmont Kenya and The Hub Karen. If you are interested in participating, please follow us on Facebook, Instagram or Twitter for updates.

Over the past year, the Conservancy has been greatly impacted by the drop in international tourists visiting Kenya. However, we are delighted to see the Kenyan residents in greater numbers and showing their support to our conservation efforts. With international tourism levels unlikely to return to normal for the next couple of years, direct donations towards our conservation efforts would be greatly appreciated, as always.

As people who have already shown the generosity to donate to our work here at Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, you will know how important wildlife and biodiversity is to our wellbeing. We are all part of an ecosystem which, for everyone's benefit, we must protect.

I believe that if we can rekindle our natural affection for the world in which we live, we can all find the energy and generosity needed to protect it.

Information on how you can support our projects further can be found on page 9, or you can email us at info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org to find out more.

Nyawira Kariuki

CHAIRPERSON



Keeping up with the Mountain Bongo

THE BONGOS ARE ON THE MOVE!

Over the past few months, the number of Mountain Bongos in the McKeand Paddock has increased to twenty. While it is great news that our Mountain Bongo Breeding Programme is such a success, we want to ensure that all our Bongos have enough space to flourish.

To give space for the population to grow, we've relocated four Bongos from the McKeand Paddock to the Lower Forests Paddock. We're sure they'll be happy in their new home.

THE HERD WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

In May and June, we had not one, not two, but four baby Bongos born!

It can be difficult to keep a close eye on new baby Bongos, with their mothers being very protective of their young. However, we're confident all the little ones are doing well and are in good health. With a number of other Bongos also pregnant, we've got our fingers crossed that we will have some more babies by the end of September. The four new births have brought the total number of Bongos under our care up to 52.

With so many new additions to our herd, we thought you'd like to know what happens in the first few weeks after a Mountain Bongo is born:

1.
A few days before a new baby Bongo arrives the mother moves away from the rest of the herd to find a fairly concealed spot.

2.
One to two days after the baby arrives, if the mother feels safe, she will come out to feed before quickly returning to feed the baby.

3.
After two to three days the mother will introduce the new baby to the herd. The occasion results in lots of excitement from the whole herd, with them sniffing the baby as a way of introducing themselves.

4.
Once the baby is introduced to the herd, the mother and baby then happily live with their family. Although, if the mother feels overwhelmed or worried for her calf they might go back into the bushes for a few days.

As a drive to support our breeding programme at the conservancy, we are giving you the chance to name a baby Bongo. One of the four babies has already been adopted and given the name of Namaste, could you be the next person to name a baby Bongo?

By donating, you'll have the opportunity to become a guardian angel or foster parent, supporting in providing for their veterinary care, food as well as wilderness adaption training. The following options are available.

One time donation of $100	One time donation of $200	One time donation of $500
• 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 animals 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.

For more information, email info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org.

Home is where the sanctuary lies: Update on the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary

The fence construction of the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary is almost complete. Thanks to your continued generosity and support, we have completed over 80% of the fencing and partitioning and expect the fencing to be complete by August.



We are installing Elephant and Baboon protection around the perimeter to avoid them accessing the sanctuary as well as gabions and culverts to enable the smooth flow of streams and run off water.

This new home for the Mountain Bongo will play a vital role in the rewilding process. By keeping out large herds of animals such as elephants and buffaloes, the bongo population is able to thrive due to reducing the competition against other animals for space and food. By creating a wild space that is safe for the Mountain Bongo, we are getting closer towards our goal to provide the National Bongo Task Force with animals ready for reintroduction to their indigenous ranges.

You can be part of this amazing journey by contributing towards the costs of the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary.

Your donation will go a long way.

Size of fencing	Donation Price USD	Donation Price Ksh
1 metre	$38	Ksh4,100
5 metres	$190	Ksh21,000
10 metres	$380	Ksh41,000

Please refer to page 9 for details on how to directly make your donation.

An Amazing Story from the Animal Orphanage



One day, Sarau, a seven-year-old Maasai boy, came across one of his family's goats, whose young had sadly passed away. Being too far away from home, Sarau began rounding up the rest of the herd. In the process, he suddenly spotted another baby.



The Gazelle and the Boy

Unable to find the mother and with the baby looking so weak, Sarau tried to have the baby suckle on a goat who had just given birth. And as if by magic, the baby suckled perfectly. Sarau's day was made!

Arriving home to his waiting parents, Sarau retold his story. When he went to show the animals to them, his father noticed it was not a kid goat, but rather a baby gazelle. For the next few months Sarau took care of the mother goat and baby gazelle, and the goat came to raise the gazelle as her own.

After a few months, the gazelle was relocated to the Animal Orphanage at Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy.

After the baby gazelle arrived in our care, she would not drink goat milk, longing for her adopted mother and Sarau. After visiting Sarau and his family, they agreed to let the goat come and live at the animal sanctuary.

As soon as the goat arrived, there was an emotional reunion with both immediately recognising each other. Since that day, the conservancy has been treated with this daily sight of an amazing love between a gazelle and a goat.

Our keepers named the Gazelle, Ol-Mutonyi, after the area that he was rescued from - Ol Mutonyi in Laikipia. But we're keen to change the name. Could you help and become her guardian angel? For details of how to adopt or support her please go to page 9 or contact info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org



The Gazelle and the Goat

Easter at the Animal Orphanage



Over the Easter weekend, we hosted a range of fun activities for families. This included our first-ever egg painting which turned out to be a treat. Although this is a tradition in the Western culture, it is relatively unknown in Kenya.

To get into the Easter spirit further, we set up a rabbit petting zone where visitors could come and say 'hi' to these furry friends.

Although Nairobi was placed under a lockdown for the Easter weekend, we still welcomed 69 visitors to take part in the special activities.

A wild lense – MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY AND NIKON PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION – THE MOUNTAIN BONGO HABITAT



In the coming days, the conservancy, in collaboration with Nikon Kenya will be launching the world's first-ever mountain bongo photography competition. The aim of the competition is to raise awareness of the critically endangered mountain bongo, and their precious water towers habitat.

There will be a range of prizes from Nikon, Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy, Fairmount and The Hub Karen. Full details on the competition will be announced shortly, please follow us on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter, or our website info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org.

Education Programme

Over the course of the pandemic, our education programme has been greatly affected, with schools unable to visit.

However, we have had two Wildlife Conservation and Management students from Chuka University join us at the conservancy for a two-month placement. These placements are a fantastic opportunity for the students to gain first-hand experience of wildlife and conservation management which will help to kick-start their careers in conservation. You'll find interviews with our interns below.

MEET OUR INTERNS:



Phillis Njeri Bari

"I've really enjoyed my time at the conservancy, I've had an amazing opportunity to work closely with the Mountain Bongo and other endangered animals.

One of the most interesting things I saw at the conservancy was the incredible and unusual relationships that can be built between different species in the animal orphanage. Such as, a strong bond between a male gazelle and a lama, to the extent that the gazelle would go to the lama for protection in case there was any danger. This was something I'd never seen before, but really goes to show how valuable a place like the animal orphanage is."



Gloria Jelimo

"One of my favourite activities while at the conservancy was feeding the primates, including the colobus monkey, sykes monkey, baboon and the patass monkey. I also learnt that when baboons feed, they pocket some of the food in their cheeks, which was very amusing to watch.

After spending time at a place committed to the restoration of the endangered Mountain Bongo, I'm now more excited than ever to pursue a career in conservation and hopefully helping to save the great Mountain Bongo."

A Visit from the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation

We were pleased to be able to host Purity Museo and her team from the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation to produce two exciting features of the conservancy. The first feature focused on the importance of the animal orphanage at giving injured and orphaned animals a second chance at life, while featuring an interview with Dr. Robert Aruho.

The second feature focused on the critically endangered Mountain Bongo, educating the viewers about the important work that goes on at the conservancy to see them brought out of the endangered species category.



Across	Down
1. Painting what activity was popular during Easter activites 3. The number of baby Bongos born 5. The name of the boy who found a goat and a gazelle 7. Who are the Conservancy partnering with for a photography competition	2. The name of one of our interns 4. When will the sanctuary fencing be complete 6. What animal could you pet at the Easter activities

How to Support the Conservancy

Your support is invaluable and allows us to continue to save the critically endangered Mountain Bongo from extinction. Get your friends and family a gift while supporting the conservancy!

Item	Size	Rates (USD)	Rates (Ksh)
Benji the Brave Bongo Plush toys	Small – 15cm	$12	Ksh1,200
	Large – 30cm	$17	Ksh1,800
Mountain Bongo Plush Toys	Small – 15cm	$12	Ksh1,200
	Large – 30cm	$18	Ksh1,900
Compliment cards – the young big six	Set of 6	$5	Ksh500
Key rings	Pcs	$5	Ksh500

Item	Daily cost (USD)	Daily cost (Ksh)	Monthly cost (USD)	Monthly cost (Ksh)
A day's worth of milk for Shujaa, the Thomson's Gazelle	$1.34	Ksh150	$40.2	Ksh4,500
A day's worth of food for Three-Paws, the Leopard	$3.59	Ksh400	$107.7	Ksh12,000
A day's worth of food for 1 Sykes Monkey	$0.09	Ksh100	$26.5	Ksh3,000
Fencing Costs				
Contribution for a 5m Mountain Bongo Sanctuary fencing	$190	Ksh21,200		

Size of fencing	Donation Price USD	Donation Price Ksh
1 metre	$38	Ksh4,100
5 metres	$190	Ksh21,000
10 metres	$380	Ksh41,000



Membership to Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy

By becoming a member of Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy for **$50 per year**, you will receive a membership certificate and a subscription to these quarterly newsletters. For a small commitment, you can keep up to date with the latest developments and additions to the conservancy.

BECOME A FOSTER PARENT OR A GUARDIAN ANGEL FROM $100 (OR KSH 10,000)

We encourage our friends to remain involved in particular animals' lives by becoming their foster parent or guardian angel. The donation to become their guardian angel or foster parent will help to pay for their veterinary services, food as well as wilderness adaption training.

One time donation of $100	One time donation of $200	One time donation of $500
• 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 animals 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.



To donate, you can do a direct transfer to our bank account, details below, or through

Mpesa - Buy Goods - Till no. - 837749

We will then send you an official tax exemption receipt. It is our commitment and responsibility to see that every penny you so kindly donate is spent towards the intended purpose.

Our account is:

- **Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy**
- Barclays Bank **- Nanyuki Branch**
- Swift code: **BARCKENX**
- Bank code: **03**
- Branch code: **190**
- Account No.: **0227651199**

Make sure you reference your name and the word "**Donation**".

We thank you very much in advance for your generous donation. We are and will forever remain grateful.

CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Across: 1. Egg 3. Four 5. Sarau 7. Nikon

Down: 2. Gloria 4. August 6. Rabbit

MOUNT KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY
NANYUKI KENYA EAST AFRICA

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