



## OUR 2021 IN REVIEW



Season's Greetings!

As we approach the end of another year, we wanted to take a moment to reflect on all the

highlights this year at the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy and look ahead to our plans for 2022.

I am so proud of what our team on the ground has achieved over the last 12 months. Despite the ongoing challenges posed by the pandemic, they have all worked tirelessly to protect the conservancy and its legacy for future generations.

It has been a joy to witness our Mountain Bongo Breeding Programme go from strength to strength. Under the guidance of Dr Robert Aruho - our new Head of Conservancy, we witnessed an unprecedented 15 Bongo births this year. This brings our total number up to 60, a fantastic achievement.

Our long-term fencing project is now 99% complete, promising safety and security for our animals in the long term.

I was also delighted to see us welcome and train many young people on placements at the conservancy to give them practical experience on working with wildlife. They are the future of our work.

Of course, none of our conservancy work would be possible without you. Whether it's protecting endangered animals for future generations or training the next generation on the responsibility they hold, your generous donations make it happen. Thank you!

I couldn't be more excited about what lies ahead, such as the first release of Mountain Bongos to the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary in 2022. The long-term goal of this sanctuary is to rewild the Mountain Bongo species, and we cannot wait to bring you along on this journey with us.

As we say goodbye to 2021, I look forward to what the next year has to offer. A heartfelt Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you, your families and loved ones from all of us at the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy.

Keep yourself and your families safe over the Christmas period.

All the best,  
Nyawira Kariuki  
Chairperson

## Keeping up with the Mountain Bongo

The Mountain Bongo breeding program continues to go from strength to strength.

We've seen a bumper year for bongo births, with a record 15 baby bongos born! Given a Mountain Bongo pregnancy lasts nine months and we have 21 females at the Conservancy, this is an incredible achievement. These new additions bring the total Mountain Bongo population at the Conservancy to 60.

If you are looking for a special present for someone this festive season, why not donate on behalf of your loved ones and buy a present that keeps on giving back?

By providing a much-needed donation, you will be directly contributing towards the upkeep of the

animals and supporting the conservation of endangered species.

To donate, please contact [info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org](mailto:info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org).



## Creating a Safe Space to Re-wild the Mountain Bongo

Excitingly, the Mawingu Mountain Bongo Sanctuary project has reached its final stages. Thanks to our donors' and partners' generosity, 10km of perimeter fence has been completed, helping to create separate paddocks within 776 hectares of pristine bongo habitat.

This new home will play a vital role in rewilding the Mountain Bongo, helping them to re-learn behaviours to survive in their natural habitat without feeding and care from humans. With the long-term aim of re-establishing a healthy wild Mountain Bongo population.

Of course, there have been some big challenges on the way. 23 of them, to be precise! To make the new sanctuary safe for the introduction of the Mountain Bongo, we've had to remove 11 elephants and 12 buffalos from the area. This is to reduce the competition for space and food.

You might be thinking, how can you remove elephants from an area? Firstly, you don't do it alone. We're grateful for the help of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). We used a helicopter supported by ground teams to encourage the animals to move location.

We also set up five hidden cameras at strategic locations around the sanctuary to keep an eye out

for any other predators who need to be relocated. It's paid dividends: we've already captured footage of a leopard hunt.

We plan to release the first few Bongos on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2022. More on this early next year.



## The Latest at the Animal Orphanage

2021 has been a busy one for the orphanage team. Below we look back at some of the more eventful rescues we made.

**The Boy, The Goat and the Baby Gazelle:** A seven-year-old Maasai boy, Sarau, saved a baby gazelle after he spotted it without a mother. 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 took care of the gazelle until it was relocated to the animal orphanage at the Conservancy. But the baby gazelle would not drink goat milk, longing for her adopted mother.

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.



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**With a little help from my friends:** A little

antelope was found trapped in a snare by our lovely neighbours, the William Holden Foundation. Lucky for him, the person who set the trap hadn't yet come back to check it. Although he was scared and had a broken limb, the little one has been nursed back to full health.



**Talk about "odd couples" - Wilber and Nyati:** Since joining the Animal Orphanage as babies, Wilber the Warthog and Nyati the Buffalo have been best friends.

Just like friends do in the animal kingdom, Wilber and Nyati have become fond of play fighting. You can often catch them locking horns in a match which Wilber always seems to win.

Despite both animals now being in separate enclosure, there's no keeping these two apart, with Wilber digging burrows to sneak into Nyati's enclosure!

If you want to support Wilber and Nyati, Ksh 3,908 or USD 35 will buy one day's worth of food for both.

## Education at the Conservancy

Our research and internship programs were recognized and adopted by two of the most prestigious universities in Kenya: The universities of Chuka and Karatina.

All the placements are an excellent opportunity for students to kick start their careers in conservation and learn a little more about the wildlife we have here.

If you know any budding conservationists who like to learn more about the natural world, please ask them to make an application by contacting - [info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org](mailto:info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org).

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

*"I first came to the Conservancy on a field trip, it was then that I decided I wanted to apply for an internship here. During my time at the Conservancy, my favourite activity has been*

feeding the carnivores, especially the cheetahs. Watching how friendly they can be, and how they all feed differently is very interesting." ~ Merab Eliezer Nasimiyu



"I love dealing with and taking care of the critically endangered Mountain Bongo. They are a species with a lot of curiosity and understanding in their character and their social organisation also intrigued me. There are also funny moments at the Conservancy, including when a vervet monkey snatched a visitor's socks and started playing around with them! Luckily, we were able to get them back."  
~ Damaris Ngina

## New Updates at the Conservancy



### A Brand New Membership

We will be introducing a new annual membership option at the Conservancy. You will exclusively become a member of the Animal Orphanage, including free entry all year round to experience the amazing wildlife while in the same breath helping to protect animals.

The first 10 members will receive a 10% discount on their membership, so be on the lookout!

**\*All proceed will go towards our conservation efforts.**

### Photography Competition Summary

We held our first ever photography competition themed 'The Mountain Bongo Habitat' in partnership with [Nikon Kenya](#), [Fairmont Kenya](#), [The Hub Karen](#) and [Kenya Wildlife Service](#) (KWS) and the [Kenya Forest Service](#) (KFS).

With the aim of raising awareness of the critically endangered Mountain Bongo and their unique water towers habitat. In total, we received 118 entries.

The selection of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> best photos and the top 10 of the 'People's Choice Awards' was carried out by our judges Gurcharan Roopra, Dileep Anthikad, Phillippe Cauviere and Mehdi Morad.

See the winning photo's below.

The superb prizes up for grabs were:

- **Gold:** 2 night stay at Fairmount Mara Safari Club
- **Silver:** Nikon Z50 camera
- **Bronze:** 2 night stay at Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy
- **People's Choice Award:** Shopping vouchers worth Ksh 40,000 for 5 different outlets at The Hub Karen

### MORE ABOUT THE COMPETITION



## Christmas at The Conservancy

From a brand-new petting zoo to festive photo booths and our beautiful tree, there are so many reasons for the entire family to come down and visit the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy this Christmas. We look forward to welcoming you over the festive period!

We have a range of exciting activities planned for the Christmas period, including a very special visit from Father Christmas! If you're able to make it down, we'd love for you to join us.

We're open daily from 10:00am – 4:00pm.

Activities	Rates
	Resident - Ksh 1,000

<b>Animal Orphanage</b>	Non – Residents – Ksh 1,500	
	Children (6 – 12 years) – 50% of the adult rate	
<b>Horse Riding</b>	30mins	Ksh 1,000
	1hr	Ksh 2,000
	2hrs	Ksh 3,000
<b>Biking</b>	1hr	Ksh 1,000 per person
	1hr 30mins	Ksh 1,500 per person
	2hrs	Ksh 500 per person
<b>Photo Booth</b>	Free	
<b>Petting Zoo</b>		
<b>Painting</b>		
<b>Christmas colouring</b>		
<b>Fun activities with Santa on 25<sup>th</sup> December 2021</b>		

## Donations and Gifts

### 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	What it includes?
<b>One time donation of \$100</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fostering of one orphaned animal for one year from the chosen start date</li> <li>• You'll receive a certificate with the animal's photo, identifying you as the foster parent</li> <li>• Updates on the animal's welfare</li> </ul>
<b>One time donation of \$200</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt one animal in our care for two years from the chosen start date</li> <li>• You'll receive a certificate with the animal's photo, identifying you as the foster parent</li> <li>• You'll receive updates on the animal's welfare</li> </ul>
<b>One time donation of \$500</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• You'll become the lifelong guardian of your chosen animal</li> <li>• You will get to name the animal</li> <li>• You'll receive a guardian angel certificate</li> <li>• You'll also receive a detailed history, general information, and updates</li> </ul>

To find out more about animal adoptions contact, [info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org](mailto:info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org).

## Delightful Donations

It's that time of the year where we desperately try and think of unique gifts to surprise and delight our loved ones.

### Don't be stressed, we've got gifts that give twice!

Not only do our exclusive range of gifts make the perfect present, but they also help fund our vital work. We have gifts inspired by our flagship Mountain Bongo program. Here you can spoil the people you care about most while helping us care for wildlife at the same time.

Item	Size	Price (USD)	Price (Ksh)
<b>Benji the Brave Bongo Plush toys</b>	Small – 15cm	11	1,200
	Large – 30cm	17	1,800
<b>Mountain Bongo Plush Toys</b>	Small – 15cm	11	1,200
	Large – 30cm	18	1900
<b>Compliment cards – The Young Big Six</b>	Set of 6	5	500
<b>Key rings</b>	Pcs	5	500

**\*100% of the profits go directly to our conservation efforts.**

And for for any wrap-avoiders out there, you could make a one-off or monthly donation on behalf of someone else. A prefect gift for that lover of all things conservation and wildlife!

As a non –profit entity, we rely on donations from friends to carry out our conservation programs. The fruits of your support will be evident in the soon to be reached highlight – release of the Mountain Bongo to their ancestral habitat; Mount Kenya.

Our commitment and responsibility are to see that every penny you so kindly donate is spent towards the intended purpose. To donate, you can do a direct transfer to our bank account details below:

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**"

OR

**Mpesa – Buy Goods – Till No - 837749**

## A Big Thank You!



**Trunks up to our Patron**, who spearheaded the tree planting event at *Plantation 1M* adjacent to the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy three years ago. That was in keeping with the government's ambitious plans to increase national forest cover to 15% from the meagre 5.3% recorded in 2013.

It's been only three years and the results of his initiative are visible - elephants are enjoying their rightful space.

**Hats off to Dalbit and the William Holden Foundation** for their generous donation towards the Mountain Bongo Breeding Program at the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy.

**Hands down to you, our friends and donors (both corporate and individuals), for your support.** By supporting us, you became part of the Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy family, which works towards preventing extinction of wildlife species. We celebrate your support of our mission.

**Our mailing address is:**

Mount Kenya Wildlife Conservancy  
P.O Box 288 - 10400 Nanyuki, Kenya  
Tel: +254 20 233 0097

**Email:** [info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org](mailto:info@mountkenyawildlifeconservancy.org)

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