MOUNT KENYA TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT

2019
Vision
The integrity of the Mount Kenya ecosystem for the welfare of all who depend on it.

Mission
To drive collaborative action for the sustainable management of Mount Kenya’s biodiversity and natural resources, through partnership with government, communities and civil society.

Values
Trust, integrity, partnership, dedication and teamwork.
FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR:

2019 has been quite a journey and like the phoenix from the ashes, we rose brighter and stronger!

Fires detected from late February raged until early May. A combination of high winds and dry conditions meant weeks of intense and dangerous fire-fighting with rapidly changing conditions. Resources poured in from all over the country and world and the support was unfounded. Helicopters doused flames from dawn until dusk, rations were distributed daily to fire-fighters on the ground and equipment was donated from far and wide.

Since then, we have professionally trained 60 firefighters into elite firefighting squads to be called upon whenever a fire emerges on Mt Kenya or the Aberdares National Park and Reserve. Alongside air support, these teams can be mobilized and used to strategically fight a fire efficiently and safely.

Nearly a quarter of a million trees have been planted on the mountain this year by our dream forest restoration team. The programme has grown in capacity and size each year. The team take care of the entire process from seed collection, germination, transport, planting to monitoring; ensuring every seedling is cared for until it has reached maturity.

Members of our management team have travelled to the UK, South Africa, Nepal and our beautiful Kenyan coast to learn, share and fundraise. This exposure is invaluable for our team members as they exchange ideas and join other conservationists in the field in other regions of the world. It reminds our team that our work is not carried out in isolation, that we are part of a greater movement to protect the world’s biodiversity.

Human-elephant conflict mitigation continues with surveillance, habitat protection and research. The Aberdares and Mt Kenya host Kenya’s highest elephant population densities in the country. These populations are flanked by Kenya’s most densely populated rural areas of small-scale farmers and large scale horticulture, tea and arable farms. In Kenya’s National Elephant Action Plan, this region boasts the second largest elephant range in the country, only slightly smaller than Tsavo.

Our team is central to the mountain protection work that we do, and everything is driven by a passion in each one of us. From the essential ranger boots on the ground to our diverse strengths as resource and community project managers, our team is central to the mountain protection work and everything is driven by a passion in each one of us.

Thank you for your support,

Susie Weeks
Executive Director
**Camping patrols**
Hotspot areas are reached via mobile patrols. These are coordinated alongside KWS and KFS to home in on illegal activities in regions that have been reported. Our teams are fully equipped with camping and mobile equipment to keep them out in the field for over a week. This also means teams can regularly comb further away from their bases and increases our coverage of unpatrolled areas.

**Community Health Outreach Project**
Now covering four counties around the mountain (Embu, Kirinyaga, Meru and Tharaka Nithi), the team are out on mobile outreaches for two weeks of the month. Our Community Health Volunteers are based in their own villages and spread healthcare awareness through door-to-door services, supported by the Ministry of Health. Last year we reached over 50,000 patients with family planning, HIV care and basic health services.

**Fire**
Fires are a natural occurrence on the mountain but with increased human activities, these occurrences and severity of the flames reach uncontrollable levels. In 2019, the mountain moorlands were ablaze with fires that raged from February until the rains in early May. Thousands of dollars and hours of time were spent battling the spread.

**Ranger base**
MKT operates four ranger teams from four different bases on the mountain slopes. This includes the Joint Wildlife Protection Team (based at Ruthumbi), Imenti Patrol Team (based in Imenti), Marania Wildlife Guards (based at Marania) and the Horse Patrol Team (based at Kisima farm).

**Tree planting**
Indigenous tree planting on the mountain reforests areas that have been cleared in the past through settlement or fire. Over 1.5 million trees have been planted so far using either an enrichment or the KFS Trees Establishment Livelihood Improvement Scheme. Working closely with the Community Forest Associations, we plant twice a year when the rains come (March and October). In 2019, we planted nearly 250,000 trees on the mountain, grown from seed in our community tree nurseries.
One-way Elephant Gates
Two elephant gates were installed that, as far as we know, has never been tried before anywhere in the world. The gates allow elephants outside of the fence line to move into, but not out of, the Reserve. Reducing human wildlife conflict is the key by reducing crop raiding by elephants or individuals being trapped outside the Reserve. When something taller than human/cattle walks past the censor, the double gates are triggered to open. Bull elephants, along with families are now using the entry.

Mt Kenya Ecosystem boundary
PEOPLE
Healthcare, environmental education.

WILDLIFE
Elephant Corridor, fence construction, one-way elephant gates, on site human-wildlife conflict mitigation, fence maintenance, habitat protection, snare removal, elephant surveys.

WATER
Assistance to Water Resource Users Associations including riparian land restoration and sensitization.

FORESTS
Indigenous tree planting, woodlots, tree nurseries

RANGERS
Joint Wildlife Ranger Team, Imenti Patrol, Horse Patrol, Marania Wildlife Team, Ragati Patrol, Fencers.
OUR PROJECTS IN 2019

2,872 Patrons - 60% foot patrols

60 night patrols - Covered nearly 34,000 kilometres on foot, vehicle & horseback.

People in the Reserve: 396
Illegal shelters: 14
Nearly 4,000 grazing livestock.

20,000 hectares moorland fire
50 arrests, over 100 verbal warnings

Snares: 62 wire, 150 string, 23 cable, 1 pit trap, 7 tree snares.

250,000 TREES PLANTED
at 6 sites (Imenti, Karuri, Ontulili, Kabura, Marania & Nyambene).

LOGGING
130 charcoal kilns destroyed
182 bags of charcoal confiscated
635 fence posts
320 firewood bundles
over 220 timber planks
65 stumps

Over 33,000 people access to HEALTH SERVICES
including family planning, HIV testing & counselling, cancer screening & curative care.
Early in 2019, fires engulfed the moorlands & threatened to destroy the entire ecosystem. The MKT team & partners fought fires for over three months.
Between February and April 2019, Mount Kenya had a series of devastating fires. Although fires are a regular occurrence, the combined effects of exceptionally high winds and temperatures reduced many moorland areas to ashes, threatening vast tracts of forest and burning some forest fringes.

Single fires turned to multiple blazes, spreading as they leapt great distances with the ever-changing wind directions igniting new areas. A WhatsApp group established some time ago was the main communication to help the stakeholders to coordinate responses.

The Kenya Wildlife Service Deputy Warden Mount Kenya managed the teams at the incident base level, while the MKT and Rhino Ark (RA) coordinated logistics from the command centre at Nanyuki Civil Airstrip, planning with and providing support to the firefighting teams.

With no dedicated fire fighting funding in place, MKT and RA started to raise emergency support to cover the costs of rations, equipment, fuel, vehicle hire and aircraft for early morning reccees. All of the rangers put themselves in great danger to save our mountain. The commitment from Tropic Air was immense and without them, we would have lost the battle. The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust sent a helicopter with a bambi bucket as the rangers worked day in, day out to suppress the flames on the ground.

"All of the rangers put themselves in great danger to save our mountain."

The rangers and volunteers fighting the fires were overwhelmed, tall flames in high moorland heather were nearly impossible to tackle. At this point, funds were raised to hire aircraft to help move teams to the most remote areas and drop or spray water where it was possible for teams on the ground to work with them. Reaching most of the fires by vehicle was almost impossible in the upper moorlands, steep valleys, tarns and craggy outcrops preventing vehicles from moving over much of this vast area. The costs ran into tens of millions of shillings and the generosity of the Kenyan and international community was staggering. This allowed aircraft to keep flying and fed hundreds of people every day for several months. Vehicles were hired, food, sleeping bags and equipment was delivered daily by an incredible network of individuals and companies from all over the country. At the same time, fires on the Aberdares National Park were tackled.

Further aerial support was later provided by KWS, KFS and the Kenya Defence Force to assist. Although 25,000 hectares of moorland was burnt, there is no doubt that without the superhuman efforts of everyone involved, vast sections of irreplaceable ancient forest would have been lost.

Thanks to our many supporters we were subsequently able to train sixty firefighters equipped with fire-fighting equipment and safety gear. The training took place in December with trainers from Working with Fires and partners are now working on fire prevention plans.
Ways to make a difference

Subscribe to the mailing list.

Donate your time.

Become a monthly supporter.

Make a one-time contribution.

Tag us on social media.

With Gratitude

MKT is grateful to the partners, individuals, trusts and charities locally and from around the world who supported our efforts in 2019. Thank you for believing in our work. While we cannot acknowledge everyone individually here, please know we are thankful for your generosity and depend entirely on your support to conserve our great mountain.

BATIAN ($50,000+)
- Minara Foundation • CHASE Africa
- International Tree Foundation
- Friends of the Nairobi Sailing and Sub Aqua Club • Friends of Environment Conservation Trust

LENANA ($10,000+)
- European Outdoor Conservation Association • Thin Green Line Foundation • Elephant Cooperation • BATUK • International Elephant Foundation • Anonymous • Safarilink • Dormans • Tusk Trust.

NELION ($25,000+)
- Timafloir • Tropic Air • Tusk Trust via the Safaricom Marathon
- Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
- Hugh Sloane • Zurich Zoo
- Disney: Reverse the Decline
- World Conservation Society • Rapid Response Facility.

CORYNTHON (<$10,000 & IN KIND)
- The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
- The Rufford Foundation • Bunson Travel • Gill Tree • Nick Hornby • Humphrey Carey • The Grasshopper Club • Cookwell Jikos • Mountain Club of Kenya • Kisima Farm • Marania Farm • Ol Donyo Farm
- Steve Strong • Friends of Africa International • Anna Judson

• Nikki Barlow • Zoe Wardley
• Camille Bently • Gill Tree • HP Carey • David Rogers • The Ashendene Trust • J Tremlett • Tom & Sarah Van Oss

10TO4:
Title sponsors - Tropic Air
- Dormans • Braeburn Schools
- Bayer • Rift Valley Adventures
- Borana Conservancy • Mountain Oil • Mawingu • Tropical Heat
- Born Free • Auto Express • Fly 540 • CBA • Highlands • Browns
- BATUK • AAR • Borana Lodge
- Ngare Ndare Forest Trust • Gras Savoye • Raka Cheese • Tambuzi Farm • Sirai House • Fairmount
- Mt Kenya Safari Club • Ol Donyo Farm • Marania Farm • Billy Norris Safaris • Kisima Farm • Sieku
- Glamping • Gundua Foundation • Rusty Nail Catering • Royal African Safaris • KWS and KFS • Arijiju
- Footprints massage • Lewa Wildlife Conservancy • Savage Wilderness
- Tassia • The Bikeshop • Laragai House • Il Ngwesi • Pelican signs
- Altitude Horseride
ACTIVITY SUMMARY

INCOME

101,305,620 KSH
(100% donations)

Breakdown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>KSh</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Direct project costs:</td>
<td>89,455,120 (88%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indirect costs:</td>
<td>11,850,500 (12%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WAYS OF GIVING

MKT offers a range of options to support our mountain conservation work. To learn more, visit our website at

www.mountkenyatrust.org

E: info@mountkenyatrust.org
T: +254 718 235 936

MKT is registered under the UK Charity Commission number 1175321. Contributions may qualify for Gift Aid. Please go to VirginGivingMoney to support MKT in the UK or contact the

uk@mountkenyatrust.org
Bigger, better, stronger, faster and with even more on offer, the 10to4 Mountain Bike Challenge is MKT’s premier fundraising event. Held in February every year, we have taken a look back through the archives, to see how the event has developed and grown. From a few keen cyclists eager to take on the mountain trails, the event now stands strong on the Kenyan and international calendar as one adventure weekend not to be missed! Find out more at www.10to4.org

2002 – The 10to4 started with 26 riders and raised just over $400. The event finished at Il Ngwezi. Who knew the 10to4 would grow into the popular family event it is today!

2002 – The 10to4 started with 26 riders and raised just over $400. The event finished at Il Ngwezi. Who knew the 10to4 would grow into the popular family event it is today!

2010 – With joint title sponsors Land Rover and JW Seagon, the event raised $20,000. David Kinjah and Joyce Nyaruru took the title leads. This was our very first 2-day event.

2011 – Land Rover sponsored the event again and $20,000 was raised.

2012 – Unable to find a title sponsor, we pushed ahead with a DIY event to save on event costs. Participants self-navigated in pairs. We held just one gruelling ‘Hardcore’ event with 24 participants.

2014 – Around $32,000 was raised. Once again, the Safari Simbaz reigned.

2015 – $41,000 raised.

2016 – $66,000 raised. Kinjah once again took the men’s title.

2017 – Around $61,000 raised. Davidson Kamau took the men’s overall title and we welcomed 250 participants!

2018 – Tropic Air took over title sponsorship and extra sponsors were added, raising a total of $49,000 and bringing in $20,000 raised.

2019 – With a full revamp of the Extreme event taking place on Borana Conservancy giving competitors a brand new challenge, the event was hailed as a super success with 83,000 US$ raised.

2020 – The year of mud! Now eight events covering over 300km of mountain and savannah terrain and 400+ participants from around Kenya and the world. Over $100,000 raised.

2021 – After months of COVID-19 restrictions around the world, plans are tentatively underway for a socially distanced, 2021 outdoor event.

Check out the website www.10to4.org for updates and we hope to see you there!