Mt Kenya Trust protects the integrity of the mountain’s ecosystem for the welfare of all who depend on it. We drive collaborative action for the sustainable management of Mt Kenya’s biodiversity and natural resources, through partnership with Government, communities and civil society.
Ecosystems sustain and fulfill human life and no natural capital is more important than forests. At no time in our history has it been more important to focus on water towers like Mt Kenya. These sites collect, retain and filter fresh water to millions of people. Climate change, increasing populations and the resultant ever-increasing demand for water threaten livelihoods, security and the Kenyan economy as a whole.

Mt Kenya Trust works with Government agencies to protect one of Kenya’s most important natural assets. Now in its 18th year, the Trust employs 40 permanent staff, with 90 percent based in the field. This past year was marked by a significant expansion in our project portfolio, improved monitoring capabilities for our patrol teams and stronger collaboration with all our partners.

The Trust has adopted a five-year strategic plan in order to focus on more defined objectives, including increased community support. Emerging challenges are inevitable, but with a strategy in place we can ensure that we grow and adapt in the right direction.

We have expanded our community projects from tree planting to healthcare, with an added number of environment projects in schools. We have also strengthened the capacity of our field teams to patrol in areas away from their main bases and assist with major elephant research.

Our integrated conservation plan means that social development programmes are run alongside habitat, wildlife security and research interventions. Coupled with our dedicated grassroots approach, this has earned us the respect and commitment of our partners and a growing number of grantees. Upholding these values is at the core of our work ethic, which helps us maintain our crucial relationships with key stakeholders.

As we move forward, we are focused on finding ways to strengthen our financial robustness, to ensure sustainability for our programmes.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Mt Kenya Trust team, we thank our donors, partners and supporters from all over the world, for helping us to protect the majestic lifeline that is Mt Kenya.

Susie Weeks
P.S. Watch our new mountain projects movie at: www.mountkenyatrust.org
Expansion of the forest restoration project in the Karuri area

The 10to4 Mountain Bike Challenge raises over 6.5 million KSh for projects

Over 1000 elephant journeys up and down the Mt Kenya Elephant Corridor

A new team and research project set up for the Imenti Forest area

The Trust installed energy saving stoves in six schools including Naro Moru Primary

‘3 Peaks’ Climbers summited Batian peak raising funds for our Horse Patrol Team

The Joint Wildlife Protection team made a record number of arrests of illegal loggers

Our Community Health project moved into Kirinyaga County

Mt Kenya National Reserve

Mt Kenya National Park

ROUND UP OF 2016
Since the damming report on the destruction of Mt Kenya, released in 1999\(^1\), there has been an ever increasing push for forest regeneration. However, there are still *unsustainable* levels of illegal logging.

Significantly, the largest closed canopy areas are very different to what Mt Kenya boasted in the past. It is estimated that up to 95 per cent of camphor (*Ocotea usembarensis*), mainly extracted in the 1980s and 1990s is gone. Camphor is very difficult to propagate and it will be a challenge to ever restore this species.

Even a brief look at our patrol data shows cedar, podo, olive and the very last remaining camphor being regularly removed for timber and posts. Charcoal is still being heavily produced in kilns. Our teams found over 500 incidents of logging (charcoal bags and kilns, firewood, timber, planks, fence posts, stumps). Furthermore, drought shows the importance of protecting our water sources.

In the April rains, over 15,000 assorted indigenous tree species were planted along the degraded Ontulili River on the NW side of the mountain. Old plantations and abused small scale farming systems cleared the site many years ago and it is alarming to see bare river banks in such a key water catchment area.

**SPOTLIGHT**

Karuri area is a large expanse, close to 3000ha, that once boosted thick canopy cover. Now it is bare grassland, with no forest belt from the edge of the Reserve to the moorland. This whole area is now under indigenous reforestation programme. We planted over 30,000 trees in October and will rapidly scale up from 2018.

Five women nursery groups are supported by tree seedling sales: Gatinka Tumaini, Mwanzo mwema, Ontulili, Kirigo Ontulili, and Wamiti. The groups grow indigenous seedlings which are then bought by the Trust for reforestation.

‘The tree nursery has turned out to be a great success and many women can now afford to pay school fees and feed their families. From the income, we bought 1.5 acres as a group,’ Lucy Njagi, Wamiti women nursery group.

This year, we set up the MKT tree nursery at the Turaco Farm office, with around 50,000 seedlings now being grown for the local community and forest projects.
Elephants are important to the future of Kenya. Not only for conservation, they are a national treasure - a flagship species whose habitats are integral to the survival of countless others. They are revered by the rest of the world and their presence attracts income from tourism. But they also bring conflict. Outside of protected areas clashes between people and elephants are becoming more common and intense, risking life and livelihood.

Two factors will determine the future of elephants in Kenya: hunting or poaching and competition for land. Successful conservation of elephants should focus not directly on the species but on the wider biodiversity goals of the country as a whole.
THE IVORY MARKET

There are roughly half a million elephants left in the wild and Mt Kenya is home to around 2,500 of them. Between 2008 and 2012, there was upsurge in poaching within the Laikipia-Samburu and Tsavo ecosystems. Dedicated leadership from the KWS Senior Warden helped track down poaching gangs and with improved law enforcement, policies, awareness campaigns and increased penalties, the poaching rate has consequently dropped.

A growing Asian middle class and the rise of sophisticated cartels coupled with corruption all contribute to an insatiable ivory market. In April 2016, the Kenyan government set ablaze eleven pyres of ivory, the biggest burn in history. The message was clear – we want a future for elephants in our country. Of course, the burn represented only a fraction of ivory that has been trafficked or stockpiled. Much more slips through the net.

Mt Kenya’s elephants have endured well. A survey on the mountain in 2016 found that the population has remained stable since 2011 - a positive result on a continent where numbers have plummeted so rapidly. The study by Dr VanLeeuwe used dung density to show elephant abundance by estimates of defecation rates to surface area. This indirect method is necessary in low visibility tropical forests where an aerial count would be difficult.

LOOSING TRACK

The second issue facing elephants today is competition for land. Increasing fragmentation and isolation of populations gives rise to conflict hotspots (see Imenti Insight) because elephants continue to disperse using ancient migration routes. Seasonality dictates their movement for food, mates and minerals. This puts people and animals at risk.

One way to help mitigate this is by wildlife corridors. The Mt Kenya Elephant Corridor, opened in 2011, is the only safe passageway that links the mountain to the Laikipia-Samburu elephants (6,400 individuals). Fourteen kilometers long, it covers an area of approximately 480ha. The corridor crosses two roads: the busy A2 Nanyuki-Meru tarmac road and the soon to be tarmacked D481. Last year, over 1000 elephant journeys were recorded and it is increasingly being used as a new habitat, where individuals stop to browse, feed and rest. Other wildlife using this route include leopard and wild dog.

With the success of the first, further corridors are being planned. The Thego forest is an old migration point from which elephant move to and from the Aberdares Range. Elephants still move between the forest, Sangare Ranch and Nyeri Forest but the complete route to the Aberdares has been severed. As roads and settlements have grown, Human Elephant Conflict (HEC) has escalated. The Mountain Conservation Stakeholders see this as a priority site for corridor development, with reduced HEC and food security at the heart of this reasoning. Plans for the link are advanced.

IMENTI INSIGHT

For many decades, the Imenti Forest Reserve has suffered from excessive habitat destruction and degradation. A report on the status of Mt Kenya ecosystems, published in 1999, revealed: ‘The natural forest of the Lower Imenti is mostly decimated, with more than 90 per cent of the tree canopy having been removed to provide land for crops, in particular potatoes, maize and beans.’ The state of the land remains similar to date.

Despite this, Dr VanLeeuwe 2016 survey found that the majority of Mt Kenya’s elephants were concentrated in this area – an unusual finding. With more human activity this typically means less elephants and vice versa. The HEC is intense. Between 2014 and 2016, nine people and nine elephants were killed.

Starting in January 2017, the US Fish and Wildlife, along with the Wildlife Conservation Society and MKT, are undertaking a two-year project on security and research. The funding allows for a fulltime ranger team and elephant density surveys along with feasibility studies for elephant corridors. One collared elephant is still moving between Imenti and the Samburu ecosystem further north, with community narratives suggesting many more.

OTHER TACTICS

Well constructed and maintained fences are another modern day solution to reducing HEC. In 2001, MKT began constructing two strand fences on the western side of the mountain and these have improved safety and income for the local community. We continue to assist with the maintenance of these fences to this day.

In 2012, Rhino Ark (RA), KWS and KFS began the Mt Kenya Comprehensive Fence Project to upgrade the entire boundary. This ‘total’ game proof fence prevents human contact with a number of wildlife species and limits human access with manned gates. To date, 190 km of fenceline has been constructed. Eventually the project will upgrade the older fences along the western edge too.

Fences have other significant long-term benefits including improving forest cover and increased land values for farmers living adjacent. Over time this means more robust habitats with increased biodiversity, better catchment capabilities and improved carbon sinks. An independent study commissioned by RA in 2011 revealed that the Aberdares fence increased forest cover by over 20 per cent in a 5-year period, while a 47 per cent increase in exotic plantations found outside the fenced area. Fences reduce the amount of livestock brought into the forests, giving open areas a chance to regenerate.
LEADING THE MOVEMENT
A summary of our patrol teams findings for the year.

Almost 14,000km by foot, horseback or vehicle through the Park & Reserve

Over 1,800 hours of Patrols

6 PATROL TEAMS:
JOINT WILDLIFE PROTECTION TEAM ~ MARANIA WILDLIFE GUARDS ~ HORSE PATROL TEAM ~ CORRIDOR FENCERS NARO MORU FENCERS ~ IMENTI PATROL

On the Mountain we have

32 ARRESTS
FOR LOGGING & POACHING

FOUND 515 INCIDENTS
of indigenous trees logged for firewood, charcoal kilns, timber, planks

17 FIRES FOUGHT

DESTROYED 283 SNARES
to trap wildlife including wires, cables, pit, string varieties

19 ILLEGAL
shelters or camps found & destroyed

300 FENCE BREAKAGES
by animal, human, trees or vehicles

OVER 3000 UNPERMITTED cows, sheep, goats discovered

Rangers often work for little reward, risking their lives to protect the mountains remaining wildlife and fragile ecosystems. Around the world a ranger is killed, on average, every three days – often violently at the hands of criminals.

‘The rangers are at the core of this business of protecting this mountain,’ says Simon Gitau, Assistant Director Mountain Conservation Area, Kenya Wildlife Service.

This year, we attended the World Ranger Conference in Colorado with funding support from the Lala Salama Project and US AID. A unique experience to meet the network of ranger and conservation professionals from parks and conservancies across the globe and share experiences.
Rising, unplanned population growth creates economic and environmental crises. In Africa, 24.2% of women of reproductive age have an unmet need for modern contraception. An estimated 225 million women in developing countries would like to delay or stop childbearing but are not using any method of contraception.

(WHO, 2016)

Established in May 2014, the Community Health Service Project (CHSP) offers integrated medical services to those living on the slopes of Mt Kenya. So far, we have reached almost 40,000 clients with HIV testing and counselling, family planning, cancer screening and curative care.

The project covers three of the six mountain counties: Embu, Kirinyaga and Meru.

Informed women are able to make choices on their family size and spacing of their children. This goes a long way to alleviate poverty, securing futures and reducing pressure on environmental resources.

‘It is satisfying at the end of the day to know that you have made a step ahead to better people’s futures. A happy and healthy community is a happy and a healthy nation,’ says Delphin Mukira, CHSP Officer. ‘The project is a direct touch to the community and we hope we can reach many more people. We receive lots of suggestions and invitations to visit new areas in the region.’

MY STORY

Karimi is 34 and married with eight children. From Embu County, she lives with her children in a two roomed house. With approximately $25 per month earned by selling firewood or picking tea, she can barely feed her large family and her financial instability has greatly affected her children’s education. Her 16-year old first born dropped out of school and her other children are in and out.

Karimi once used family planning but she could not afford the travel, around $2, to her nearest dispensary. Due to her situation, she must prioritise feeding her family. Insufficient information on other different contraceptives methods limited her choice of contraception.

She met one of our Community Health Workers at a tea buying centre. After consultation on the different methods available, she chose a five-year contraceptive plan and was grateful as this helped her plan for her family and save cost and time.
SUSTAINABLE SCHOOLS

Conservation education is the process of influencing people’s attitudes, emotions, knowledge and behaviour about wildlife and wild places.

‘By teaching students the connection between their own life and the environment, their outlook will expand to include protecting the natural environment. This change in attitude will be seen in the next generation around the mountain.’

Humphrey Munene, Field Coordinator.

WOODLOTS
Three schools Nkiria, Ngusishi and Naromoru, each set aside half an acre of land to establish a woodlot. The students grew the seedlings and planted one each to look after until maturity. After a couple of years, these will provide fuel for the school’s kitchen and feeding programmes. The woodlot will offer financial saving for the school and will reduce the pressure on external provisions of firewood from the protected forest.

TREE NURSERIES
We have built three tree nurseries for the school environmental clubs to manage. Indigenous and exotic seedlings collected and grown from seed are sold to members of the community or to the Trust for reforestation on the mountain. With the proceeds, one school bought a new gate.

JIKOS
Five 200-litre industrial sized energy saving stoves were donated to different schools to reduce their use of firewood. Advantages include less pressure on the natural forest resources, healthier working kitchens, money saving and a reduction of trees cut on community land.

Ntirimiti Day Secondary School borders the Marania forest and has continually relied on the forest for the supply of firewood for the kitchen. Lunch is cooked for 120 day pupils and supper for the 60 pupils who board. The traditional way of cooking over a fire has large energy losses and high wood fuel costs, along with the health hazards of smoke inhalation. The school administration built a small extension onto the kitchen to accommodate the new jiko.

ENVIRONMENTAL FILMS
This programme targets children and the adult communities living next to the Mt Kenya forest boundary. This year, we visited primary and secondary schools in Kirinyaga, Meru and Nyeri Counties (over 2000 students) to show the film ‘Running Dry’. The film describes Mt Kenya as a vital water tower and highlights the pressure on water resources and threats due to deforestation, pollution and the abuse of water reserves or sources. Environmental booklets and questionnaires were given out to boost knowledge on ecology.
The MKT is grateful to many individuals, foundations, Trusts and businesses from around the world who supported our efforts in 2016. We have run for 17 years 100% on donations and with your generosity have helped to secure the people, wildlife and forest around the mountain. Thank you for being our valued partners in Mt Kenya conservation.

**THANK YOU DONORS**

**BATIAN ($50,000+)**
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- International Tree Foundation

**NELION ($10,000+)**
- Fly540 (10to4 Title Sponsor)
- The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust
- The Woodcock Family Trust
- Elephant Cooperation
- CHASE Africa
- Disney Conservation Fund
- Tusk Trust
- International Elephant Foundation
- Eden Wildlife Trust
- Timaflor
- The Thin Green Line
- Zurich Zoo
- BATUK – 10to4
- Tropic Air – 10to4

**LENANA (<$10,000) **
- Jim Butterfield
- Annabel Pope
- Bunson Travel
- Marania Farm
- Kisima Farm
- Lewa Wildlife Conservancy
- Safarilink
- The Rufford Foundation
- Ol Donyo Farm
- Steve Strong
- Emily Marston
- Cookswell Jikos
- The Equine Dentists
- Mountain Clubs of Kenya
- Gordie & Felicia Church
- One Stop
- Claudia Kaiser

- Maggie & Tim Hobbs
- Sparky & Celia Behrens

**10to4 Sponsors**
- Highlands Water
- Braeburn Schools
- Remote Medical
- The Born Free Foundation (Kenya)
- Flamingo
- Timaflor
- Commercial Bank of Africa
- Mascor
- Xado EA
- Browns Cheese, Dormans, CMS, Express Automation
- Gras Savoye
- Kenya Treks
- Kongoni Camp
- Rift Valley Adventures
- Trout Tree
- Mt Kenya Bicycles
- Bikes & Outdoor Adventures
- Tropical Heat
- Kitengela
- Matbrone
- Shimano
- Equinox Flowers
- Huduma Services Limited
- Laikipia Wildlife Forum
- Laikipia Wilderness
- One Stop
- Saab
- African Ascents
- Azimuth, Gundua, Kisima Flowers
- Kisima Flour
- Marania Farm
- Ol Donyo Farm
- Mawingu Networks
- Raka Cheese
- Savage Wilderness
- Sirai House
- Tambaizi
- Uhuru Flowers
- Borana Conservancy

**THANK YOU for in particular to the following people for their time!**
- Morten Jensen
- Charlie Morison
- Daniel Nicolle
- Nancy Balfour
- Hilde VanLeeuwe
- Olly Keeble
- Martin Dyer
- Michael Spencer

**THREE PEAKS SUPPORTERS**
- One Stop Nanyuki
- Joost & Janet de Willebois
- Rutundu Log Cabins
- Alise, Andrew & Jo
- Pamphillion, Atti Pye,
- Berenika, Bob Smith,
- Charles Carr, Charlie Dixon, Charlie Griffs,
- Charlie Morrison, Christene
- Campbell Clause, Christine
- Bowen, Colin Burgess,
- Dave Spindler, David & Diny
- Lawman, David & Nicola
- Fettes, Diana & David
- Basham, Ed Hough, Felicity
- Bland, Fick & Freddie Pelly,
- Geoff & Tracey Thompson,
- George & Lucilla, George
- Streatfield, Helen Torbut
- Baker, Henry & Susie Pelly,
- Henry Gibbon, Huw Jenkins
- & family, J & D Archer, Jake
- Zarins, James & Imo Mabey,
- Jamie Manuel, Tropic Air
- Kenya, Jean & Ross Braun,
- John & Josephine D, Jophie
- Clarke, John & Penny
- Horsey, Cinnabar Green,
- Joss Craig, Kate Royds,
- Katherine Sheen, Leen, Liz
- Roberts, Betty Dunn, Lorna
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- Palmer, Markus Bindermann,
- Megan Gibbon, Melanie
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- Mili Waithagu, Mindy
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- Nichola & David Fettes,
- Olivia Kennaway, Pam &
- John Walker, Patrick & Liz
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- Fraser, Philip & Jean
- Jackson, Pop, Ro & Colin
- Clarkson, Robert Gardener,
- Ros & Ant, Sarah & David,
- Sarah George, Sarah Orr,
- Sten Potgeiter, Stogdales,
- Tim & Maggie Hobbs, Tim &
- Shiela Gibbon, Tony & Susan
- Church, Tony Cully-Foster,
- Tony Frenzo, Warwick, The
- Wolpe Family, Zanna Roysd.
David Njenga, Kenya Forest Service: 'One of our most successful achievements together has been the establishment of an indigenous forest at Karuri with birds and wildlife returning.'

Henry Pomeroy, CHASE Africa: 'MKT work is reaching marginalised communities, offering them a better future, as well as protecting Mt Kenya.'

Peter Kamau, Community Farmer: 'Elephants would come at night, between 11pm and 3am. People tried to push them away but they always came back. When the MKT two strand fence was built in 2006, it greatly reduced human wildlife conflict.'

Simon Gitau, Kenya Wildlife Service: 'If we don’t have rangers on this mountain monitoring the movement of wildlife, then the poachers will have a free ranging area to up their game and very soon elephants will be history.'

Lucy Njagi, Wamiti Kambevo Women Nursery Group: 'Widowed with children in primary and secondary school, the tree nursery project boosted my income, as farming was not reliable as the only source. I now have a better understanding about conservation and the benefits of forest rehabilitation.'

Sarah Watson, Tusk Trust: 'MKT is an efficient and effective community-led conservation organisation that benefits both people and wildlife. Their work to protect one of Kenya’s key water towers and ensure its connectivity to key neighbouring wildlife areas is critical for the sustainable existence of the wildlife and people of northern Kenya.'
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

December 31, 2016

ASSETS
Kenya Shillings
- Current assets: 14,896,829
- Investments & long term assets: 1,724,559
- Furniture and Equipment: 6,276,509

TOTAL ASSETS: 22,897,897

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS
- Liabilities: 298,490

TOTAL LIABILITIES 298,490

n/b. 5,000,000 KSh is retained funds for the USFWS project commitment Jan - Dec 2018.

To review the entire FY2016 financial audit as well as prior year audits please visit:
www.mountkenyatrust.org

ACTIVITY SUMMARY

REVENUE
57,621,970
(100% donations)

EXPENSES
52,584,138

Breakdown
- Project Costs 38,025,034
- Office/meetings/fundraising 2,055,120
- Salaries 7,609,372
- Professional/bank/legal fees 3,117,716
- Medical & insurance 926,219
- Training 850,676

52,584,138
WAYS TO HELP

We are 100% donor funded and rely on individuals, partners and organisations from Kenya and around the world.

Every donation we receive is an investment in the future of Mt Kenya.

There are lots of ways you can help by visiting www.mountkenyatrust.org

1. Make a donation to one of our projects.
2. Visit our Mt Kenya Trust tree nursery at Turaco Farm, Nanyuki.
3. Sign up for the 10to4 Ultimate Mountain Bike Safari (16th - 18th February 2018).
4. Join our mailing list
5. Take part in next year’s 3 peak climb (March 2018).
6. Send contributions to emergency firefighting via mpesa to +254 798 674 166
7. If you live in the US, donations to Mt Kenya Rangers can be made via The Lala Salama project.
8. Like us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram
9. Volunteer your time or expertise.

Contact: info@mountkenyatrust.org

EVENTS

10to4 ULTIMATE MOUNTAIN BIKE SAFARI

A series of races designed for all ages, fitness, and abilities takes place on the 16th – 18th February 2018. Last year, more than 400 people from 11 countries including Britain, Germany, The Netherlands, Canada, South Africa, and Kenya took part and raised tens of thousands of dollars. Go to www.10to4.org for more details. Entries open in October 2017.

‘The 10to4 is a lifeline for everyone and the MKT helps to protect it for our future generations,’ Don Smith, Fly 540 CEO and 10to4 Title Sponsor.

“The 10to4 has established itself as one of Kenya’s best-kept secrets on the adventure tourism calendar,” Susie Weeks, Mount Kenya Trust’s Executive Officer.

‘Where else can you mountain bike through a herd of elephants?!’ Rebecca Katz, second place in the Epic 10to4 race.

THREE PEAKS CHALLENGE

Climbing Mt Kenya is a stunning and adventurous expedition in a unique landscape of volcanic, snowcapped peaks, rolling moorlands and thick indigenous forest. Mt Kenya (5,199m) consists of three summits: Point Lenana (4,985m) accessible to any strong hill walker, Batian (5,199m) and Nelion (5,188m) which are both a challenge for the rock climber.

Join us next year for the three peak challenge, guided and supported by African Ascents. Choose your peak and get training and fundraising!


Register your interest here: info@mountkenyatrust.org