FRIENDS OF NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK

NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK NEWS

October 2020

Cover Photo by Anil Kerai

Friends of Nairobi National Park | October 2020 | 17th Edition

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Chairman's Monthly Updates | October 2020

Gareth Jones
Board Chairman
FoNNaP

Greetings to all of you,

The current global reality is still very sobering and is still of great concern to many nations including Kenya.

The economic fallout as a direct result of Covid-19 is impacting the global economy negatively, and many companies in Kenya are struggling to survive, especially in sectors that cater for tourism related income.

We do, however, continue to pray that increased forms of normal life continue to return. As the year 2020 is now in the 4th quarter, we hope the situation improves in the coming months and onwards into 2021.

A Wine, Cheese & Shawarma Sundowner event with a raffle and prizes, is also tentatively being planned and scheduled from 5pm onwards on Saturday 28th November 2020 at Mwiko Gardens in Westlands. The aim of this event is to raise funds for improved signage in the park. Members will receive more information by next week.

The new FoNNaP website is currently under construction and is progressing well. Please bear with us as we transition from the old website to the new website during November 2020. We will be communicating to members to submit photos of the full range of flora & fauna found within the Nairobi National Park, as the new website will have an extensive information database including articles & photos available to members.

The 1000 indigenous trees that were planted near the Cheetah gate in a combined activity with the Tour Operators continue to be watered. It is hoped that the rains will continue into December to minimize watering costs. There are plans to plant more trees during 2021 before the long rains.

As many of you are aware, the Minister of Tourism & Wildlife – CS, Hon Najib Balala, recently appointed a Task Force to investigate the various options and possibilities to link the new Swara Conservancy with the Nairobi National Park. Some of the challenges in opening a wildlife corridor include; 1) finding a viable method to bridge across the Namanga highway; 2) finding a way for the GOK to reach agreement with the local community South of the park. One of our board members, Caroline Patita is on the Task Force and will hopefully be updating the members as soon as possible. The Task Force is scheduled to submit a full report to CS – Hon Najib Balala before the end of December 2020.

The FoNNaP 2021 wildlife calendars (Animals & Birds) are now available. Please contact Janet at the FoNNaP office for your personal requirements.

Please continue to take care out there and stay well! Pray God help us in our actions!!!

Kind regards

Gareth Jones
Chairman

Nairobi National Park Lions in October 2020

By Trish Heather-Hayes

Mpakasi and Kitili are now frequent visitors to the SGR near Mbuni, also seen at the Karen C Dam, the 7-8 murram pits and Mpakasi going as far as No 18b, where he had a slight altercation with the KF7's and was seen off with his tail between his legs by the females. Kitili is very much the head of the Solo and Nala family and has been seen with them at various places from No 8 plains, No 9 and the Athi dam. Mpakasi is being left out of that group a lot of the time.

Mpakasi - photo by Veer Sikand

Kitili - photo by Olga Ercolano

Sirikoi is happily wandering around the No 2 cut grass plains, over to Kingfisher and occasionally meeting up and spending time with Morana and Johari but no mention or sighting of any mating. He is looking fit and healthy and hunting on his own.

Sirikoi with Morana & Johari – by Festus Musili

Johari and Zahara seem to be together, or with Morana, in most areas in the top of the park. Barika, the third sister has not been seen with them for a while, so we hope she is around and well.

Morana is spending more time on her own now or occasionally with Zahara and Johari. Alamaya has been seen hunting alone, leaving Leboia with her 2 sub adult cubs and the 3 Amani subs.

The older of the 2 Amani males, named Lenana, has been branching out on his own, one afternoon seen acting a bit agitated around 2 and 2b then in the evening at Nagoloman dam calling softly. He was back with the family the following day, then seen again on his own around the Ivory site and the road to the KWS Club House. A good looking young male he is growing up to be!

Lenana, looking a bit lost - photo by TH Hayes

The KF7's , Quntai, Leshan and sisters are seemingly hunting well. Chased by buffalo on one occasion recently, which doesn't seem to phase them, they went on to hunt giraffe but failed to make a kill. They are obviously successful with other prey as all are looking fit and healthy. Quntai and Leshan are often by themselves for a day. Finally, the manes on both of them are starting to thicken out! Their sister Naipanoi has always been the most independent of the sisters and often hunts alone. The two sisters, Naserian and Namunyak have been seen chasing warthogs and managed to catch a couple of the unlucky pigs. They seem quite partial to pork.

Chased off - photo by Ofir Drori

Isinya was sitting on the junction of No 2 on an evening, looking either very well fed or pregnant, not sure which, but we will soon know if any cubs are due. She was recorded mating with Sirikoi, but that was in June which would not have resulted in her being pregnant now, so a mystery as to whom the father may be, either Sirikoi or Mpakasi.

Isinya looking well fed or pregnant - by TH Hayes

Serena is pregnant and must be near her time soon. It will be interesting to see who she allows near her cubs as she has mated with each of the three males Mpakasi , Sirikoi and Kitili, but feel that Kitili may have been the favourite.

Serena - photo by Vishal Shikotra

Safi and Sidai, the two remaining MF2/3 family, have been conspicuously absent for the month but do frequent the Sosian area and are hopefully still around and well. The same goes for Kemboi, their brother, still not seen now for many months. Has he died/been killed, left the park or just hiding somewhere with his two sisters?

Apart from a few cuts and other wounds, not life threatening, and the occasional sore foot all the lions look in good health. Ticks are still a constant nuisance and will probably increase with the coming rain. As long as the lions are healthy in themselves it shouldn't pose too much of a problem for them, but it is very unsightly seeing them full of big fat grey ticks!!

The total number of lions in the park right now is 33 including the sub adults and also Kemboi Safi and Sidai .

COMMUNITY NEWS
Naretunoi Conservancy Game Count

By Gabriel Grimsditch

South of Nairobi National Park, across the Mbagathi River in Kajiado County, lies a savannah ecosystem that needs to be protected to ensure the survival of our beloved park. It is the dispersal area for Nairobi's animals, where The Wildlife Foundation and the Naretunoi Conservancy are working with local land-owners on conservation lease programmes to keep the land open and free for wildlife movement. The area is coming under increasing pressure from fencing but keeping wildlife dispersal and corridor areas open is critical for healthy wildlife populations in Nairobi National Park.

As part of the conservation efforts by The Wildlife Foundation, bimonthly wildlife counts are being organized to coincide with the KWS counts in the park. The second ever Naretunoi Conservancy wildlife count took place successfully on October 4th. It was an excellent and fun learning experience, and the data are useful in showing how important this land is for wildlife.

The volunteers assembled the day before at The Wildlife Foundation centre and after meeting the Naretunoi rangers, a short briefing, a sunset walk and a delicious dinner, prepared for an early morning rise. At 5am, the volunteers set out to the sounds of bush babies and tree hyraxes. The wider dispersal area was divided into 8 blocks, in a similar fashion to the game counts in the park, and each volunteer vehicle was assigned a block with a ranger to guide it on motorbike. My group was assigned Block 7, and by 6am we were counting animals through the mist. The area is dotted with bomas and cattle grazing, but they share the land and coexist with important wildlife populations. We found almost a hundred Thompson's gazelles grazing in our block as well as several Kori Bustards, a good sign that there are open rangelands for them to roam in. Our most exciting sighting was a pair of ostriches, male and female, displaying courtship behaviour. Ostrich "mating season" runs roughly from May to early October. The female ostrich was holding her wings out from her sides, shaking the tips and bobbing her head low down to the ground. The male was following closely, neck red with excitement. He must have already performed his elaborate courtship dance, and the female was now agreeing to mate.

At the end of the count, we happily headed back to the centre to reconvene with the groups from the other blocks. Each group and the rangers shared their experiences, their data and their GPS tracks. Overall, over one thousand individual animals were counted, an impressive number that further highlights the importance of this area to the wider ecosystem and to Nairobi National Park. The work being carried out by The Wildlife Foundation with the local communities and land-owners is a valuable contribution to the health of Nairobi's wildlife.

Ostrich mating ritual

Kori bustard

Promoting Waste Free Parks

by Caroline Kibii, Founder, Enviro Wild

In the wake of bans on single-use plastics by many countries worldwide, waste management remains a huge challenge.

Parks are biologically rich; they are sanctuaries and havens to many animals and plants. Any slight human error endangers their survival.

For instance, Nairobi National Park is a darling to many, both local and international visitors thirsting for wildlife in their natural habitats. A safari, as it is famously known, the game drive inside the park to view animals and vegetation is gaining a lot of traction, especially due to the ongoing global health crisis. They go for lions, antelopes, giraffes, and birds, to name but a few. The fascination and enthusiasm to sight the king of the jungle is immeasurable. Yet, this feeling can be dimmed by poor waste management.

Wastes are not only unappealing to humans but hinder the natural development of flora and fauna. Waste destroys animal habitats and causes discomfort. Eventually, the animals migrate to safer, secure, and cleaner areas. To promote and ensure the parks' sustainability, every individual must take charge of their waste.

While policies and regulations exist prohibiting people from carrying single-use plastics inside the park, verbally asserting the importance of protecting the parks is crucial. Verbal assertions reaffirm and emphasize the importance of individual responsibility. Consume, generate, and dispose of properly.

Better still, reduce, reuse, and recycle! This is where the Waste-Free Park Initiative currently being implemented at the Nairobi National Park comes in. An initiative designed and implemented by Enviro Wild and its experience, in collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Service. The initiative's main objective is to have a one-on-one interaction with the visitors by demonstrating their role in conserving the park through managing their wastes.

As part of reinforcing the idea, a litter bag with a strong message on the significance of cleaner parks for biological diversity, is provided at no cost. The initiative underscores addressing wastes from the source.

The Royal Cranes

By Gareth Jones

Crane family dawn patrol

We slowly approached a treed area where there was a dam with reeds. As we sat quietly waiting, so a family of grey crowned cranes emerged from the long grass and walked along the edge of the dam, while feeding on aquatic snacks. It was particularly delightful to see that the chicks were still very small and the parent cranes both went to considerable effort to feed them delicious little morsels . Then I thought how amazing it is that these tiny golden brown "fluff-balls" eventually grow much larger and transform into such regal cranes with splendid golden crowns and magnificent markings. We are truly blessed in that the Nairobi National Park has a stable population of these royal cranes, that are rare in many parts of Africa. I have had occasions in previous years when flocks of as many as 50 grey crowned cranes gather together in the park. This social behavior normally takes place outside of breeding season and could be an ideal opportunity for single young birds to find a life mate.

A few years ago I observed a pair of grey crowned cranes for many weeks. First they made a nest in the middle of a dam and then nursed a batch of eggs in the nest. Every day I waited in anticipation to see if there were any new born chicks. Eventually 3 chicks hatched but the cranes were very protective and kept them covered for some time. Then one fine morning I found the entire family out of the nest and the parents were introducing the royal chicks to succulent aquatic snacks as they hunted. I watched as the parents repeatedly and patiently, gently shared their prey with the chicks. Looking at the tiny fluff-balls their physical appearance did not have any resemblance to their regal parents yet with each breeding season an amazing transformation happens as the tiny plain looking chicks change into magnificent grey crowned cranes. Their beauty and elegance has a definite feel of feathered royalty, and some nations like Uganda have even declared them as their national bird.

Baby crowned crane calling

Crowned crane with chick

On another occasion we arrived at a dam near the Athi basin and quietly observed what was happening around us. We witnessed a mother grey crowned crane protect her 3 tiny chicks. A flock of a least 50 Marabou storks were standing around the dam but one larger aggressive marabou decided to try and get a few quick snacks by walking boldly towards the 3 tiny chicks...but "Mama" crane was in no mood to stand back. in a very aggressive attack making ordinary "kung-fu" look mild, she launched herself at the huge marabou. Naturally the massive marabou beak was way out of her league in a "beak to beak" fight, so she chose to use her lethal talons to attack, totally surprising the invader by repeatedly attacking until the marabou retreated. The rest of the marabou flock stood still as if in silent awe at the daring actions of this brave mother. Then "Daddy" crane calmly rounded up the 3 tiny chicks and the family walked away into the protection of the nearby reeds. It is often said that in the harsh natural world it is "Survival of the fittest" that counts. Indeed they had survived another day!

Grey crowned crane defending against Marabou stork

A few years ago we observed a large flock of approximately 40 cranes walking through the long grass as they approached a clearing. They looked magnificent together in the late afternoon sun. Indeed it is rare to see so many cranes gathered together at the same place. I imagined they were the delegates for the "annual crane conference" with the main agenda to discuss challenges and threats to their lives due to the rapid advancement of mankind. They seemed to be in deep discussion as they walked, with many also seemingly agreeing with the occasional "mahem" sound given almost in unison. The Ugandan representatives were in agreement on most issues but still insisted on being called Crested Cranes due to their elevated National status and proposed that the other cranes in Kenya and elsewhere find ways to get caring humans to elevate their status as well. All too soon it appeared the meeting was over and they all took off together in search of "greener pastures". What a fantastic sight to see, as crested cranes are magnificently created birds and have a sort of royal appeal to them with their golden crowns and markings.

The grey crowned crane (*balearica regulorum)* has 2 sub species , *balearica regulorum gibbericeps* in East Africa, also known as the crested crane in Uganda, and *balearica regulorum regulorum* in South Africa with slightly different markings mainly on the red part of the face. The rarer Black Crowned Crane is also closely related to the Grey Craned Crane.

Seeing Crowned Cranes in the wild is always wonderfully rewarding, as their colours are beautiful and they are interesting to watch. They have a varied diet ranging from grass seeds to insects and lizards and small rodents. Cranes are endangered in many areas, but thank God the Park is a safe breeding haven with a healthy population. It is important that as many dams and water collection points as possible are maintained to ensure that healthy population continues in the future.

Let's hope and pray that these royal cranes will always grace Nairobi National Park.

Crowned cranes & buffalo

Crowned crane chasing a jackal

Cheetahs In The Park

by Olga Levari Ercolano

Cheetah seen at No.13 on 17th October, 2020. Sighting & Photo credits – Adnan Savani

October has been an exciting month for reintroduction of cheetah sightings in the Park. In the past three years, only one elusive male cheetah, whom we named Lukenya, had been seen clearly at distant intervals and very briefly. This cheetah had been introduced by KWS from the Lukenya, Machakos area, where he was misbehaving, thus his name.

Lukenya – male cheetah , November 2017 – photos by Olga Levari Ercolano

Last year, we had information from rangers, that a female cheetah had been seen in the Park in the no.25 plains of the forest area, and that she was with cubs. Unfortunately, we have not seen photos of them, although we have had reliable reports of visitors seeing a cheetah with 3 cubs and spending some time watching them. Currently, rangers confirm there is a cheetah with 2 cubs in the forest area.

In June 2019, Ebrahim Mansoor caught sight of a cheetah in the no.14 area, above Mokoyiet. Due to the distance from the road, he was unable to establish whether it was a male or female. However on comparing markings with other photos of Lukenya, it appears that the cheetah seen by Ebrahim, was in fact Lukenya (the male).

Cheetah at No.14 (Lukenya) - June 2019 – sighting & photo by Ebrahim Mansoor

On 9th October, this year, Elizaban Kinuthia, Emakoko guide, whilst out with his guests came across a female cheetah with 4 bouncy, fluffy cubs running on the road, in the no.14 area. Imagine the excitement and elation among the NNP enthusiasts. One of his/Emakoko clients, Kim Weisbrodt, was only just able to capture a rather blurred photo which shows the cheetah and 2 cubs. Another photo shows 4 cubs bouncing along the road, but the photo is also not very clear.

Cheetah & cubs at no.14 – photo by Kim Weisbrodt - Emakoko guest

Cheetah cubs running along the road at 14 photo by Kim Weisbrodt

On 12th October 2020, the cheetah mum and four cubs were seen again in the no.10 area by Vishal Shikotra and Sonia Varma, but they were unable to get clear photos since the cheetahs were very shy and moving at speed in the tall grass. Vishal did share his photos with us showing the cheetahs in the grass, but he was unable to capture sharp images.

On 13th October, 2020, a cheetah was seen near no.13, by Adnan Savani. Again the cheetah seemed very shy and was hiding among the bushes. Adnan was not able to get a clear photo of the face, but his photo at the top of this article clearly shows an adult cheetah.

Again, on 30th October, 2020, a tour driver saw the mum and four cubs at no.6 SGR below Mbuni at the broken bridge area. On contacting the tour driver in the evening, he said that he did not have any photos, but his guests took many photos, however, unfortunately, they were leaving the country the next morning and he had no way of connecting with them for copies of the photos. So, once again, we have no good photos.

Hopefully, there will be more sightings of this beautiful cheetah family and we shall soon be able to bring you some good, clear photos and further news.

Photo of the Month

By Sonia Varma

Batman & Sosian

Elapids In Nairobi National Park

By Stephen Spawls (stevespawls@hotmail.com)

After the vipers, the elapids are probably the world's most dangerous group of snakes. The family Elapidae includes the mambas, cobras, the King Cobra, the sea snakes and most Australian snakes including the Taipan. All have short fangs at the front of the upper jaw. Most elapids are highly dangerous, some with a fast acting nerve poison that causes rapid paralysis, other have tissue-destroying venoms (notably the spitting cobras). However, some have relatively weak venoms and are innocuous. Over 380 species of elapid are known, 42 are found in Africa, 12 species are known from Kenya. In Nairobi National Park, three species are recorded so far.

The most innocuous is the little East African Garter Snake, *Elapsoidea loveridgei* (African garter snakes should not be confused with the harmless American garter snakes, *Thamnophis)*. East African Garter Snakes are widespread in the highlands of Kenya, and also on Mt Marsabit, but do not occur in the lowlands. They live in holes, but emerge and hunt on the ground, especially in the rainy season, they often eat other snakes. Almost all African garter snakes are vividly banded when juveniles but the bands fade as they grow. The East African Garter Snake is an exception; the bands remain visible in adulthood in most specimens. Garter snakes are fairly common throughout the park and most suburbs of Nairobi, provided some gardens and open spaces remain, but they are secretive and rarely seen, unless flooded out of their holes in the rains. Although they are reluctant to bite, a few bites are recorded every year, causing pain and swelling. However, no-one has ever been killed by an African garter snake, their venom is weak and no antivenom is produced for their bite. Two main colour phases occur in Nairobi, one with pinkish bands, the other with white bands. The only other garter snake in Kenya is the Usambara Garter Snake, *Elapsoidea nigra*, a denizen of the Eastern Arc Mountains in Tanzania that just reaches the Shimba Hills.

East African Garter snake, red-banded phase

East African Garter snake, white-banded phase

The other two elapids known from the park are the Black-necked Spitting Cobra, *Naja nigricollis*, and the Egyptian Cobra, *Naja haje*. Both grow large, the spitting cobra to 1.8 m (and larger elsewhere), the Egyptian Cobra to 2.7 m. The Black-necked Spitting Cobra is one of Africa's most dangerous snakes; it is widespread throughout the savannas of tropical Africa and is the cause of much pain and suffering. As well as biting (it has a cytotoxic venom, causing a horrible shallow necrosis), it can spit venom in defence to 2m or more, the venom is squirted out of a forward-pointing hole in the fang and aimed at the eyes. Unusually, the use of venom for spitting is the only situation where snake venoms have a defensive purpose; most dangerous snakes use their venom to subdue their prey. Spitting probably evolved for defence against predatory birds such as ground hornbills and secretary birds, since spitting cobras appear in the fossil record at least 15 million years ago, before hominins. The venom does no harm on the skin but is terribly painful in the eyes, and needs to be washed out with lots of water. Someone who has been spat stumbles away and the snake escapes. In the suburbs of Nairobi, Black-necked Spitting Cobras tend to be active at night, when humanity is asleep, but in undisturbed areas they may be active by day. I have seen a few in the park, often near water sources. The Nairobi Spitting Cobras are usually copper-coloured, with a red or pink neck band, and the juveniles are pinkish (as seen in Anthony Child's picture), elsewhere they may be black, grey or brown.

Freshly captured Nairobi Black-necked Spitting Cobra

Juvenile Spitting Cobra – credit Anthony Childs

The Egyptian Cobra is a larger, rarer snake, and within the park is largely confined to the southeast. When Arthur Loveridge (the first curator of the Nairobi museum, forerunner of the National Museum) wrote his classic 1946 paper on the snakes of the Nairobi district, Egyptian Cobras were unknown from the city. But in 1966, I collected a juvenile at my school, St Mary's. According to James Ashe, then curator of Nairobi Snake Park, this was the first Nairobi record. The Egyptian Cobras of Nairobi are usually brown or rufous above, with a yellow underside, the yellow sometimes extending up the flanks. They are very dangerous snakes, with fast-acting neurotoxic venom; a bite from one is a medical emergency. They try to avoid confrontation, but if cornered will rear and spread a broad hood. I have seen them very occasionally in the park, mostly near the Hippo Pools, and they often trouble chicken farmers around Athi River town, as they are notorious fowl run raiders. Egyptian Cobras have a sporadic distribution in Kenya, from Nairobi and Naivasha south to Amboseli, with sporadic records from the west of Samburu National Reserve, and near Mt Elgon.

Egyptian Cobra

Black Mamba – credit Johan Marais

Kenya's most notorious elapid is the highly venomous Black Mamba, *Dendroaspis polylepis*, which may reach 3.5 m (possibly more) in length. It is not black, but grey or olive, as you can see in Johan Marais's picture. Usually a snake of lower altitude, it has never been recorded within the confines of the park. However, there is a Black Mamba in the National Museum labeled from Karen, although it is possible it was accidentally transported there as a stowaway in a vehicle. There is also a museum specimen from Lukenya Hill. Recently a Black mamba was filmed at Lewa, on Laikipia, at an altitude of over 1700 m, indicating they sometimes move to high altitude. So Black Mambas might be in the park, especially along the Mbagathi Gorge, where hyrax and squirrels (their favoured food) are found. Keep your eyes open for a long grey or olive snake in a tree; if you see one, photograph it and send the picture to the National Museum!

What Does Nairobi National Park Mean To Kenya

By Adarsh Nagda, 11 years

Not every country is blessed with a natural resource like wildlife. Kenya, with its equatorial climate, perfect for wildlife, has made national parks its primary source of funds. An untouched Eden lies only a 20-minute drive from the capital city. With over 500 species of animals and birds, Nairobi National Park is a true feast for your eyes. Situated just 7 kilometres from Nairobi city, the park is the only national park on our earth, that is found within a capital city. The tall skyscrapers can be seen from almost any point from the park. It was Kenya's first national park and gives a sense of pride to Nairobi and its resident. Given it was established in 1946 and has still been preserved, shows that it can be sustained and treated like a showcase with a city growing all around it.

Nairobi National Park is a major park, diverse enough to support huge populations of lions, rhinos, giraffes, buffaloes and so many other large animals. The park is 117 kilometres square and is fenced on 3 sides. The south side is not fenced and acts as a wildlife corridor where animals move during the wet season to Kitengela Plains and beyond all the way to Mt. Kilimanjaro!

The free roaming wildlife and beautiful sceneries at the park provide a great opportunity for photographers to take spectacular images with Nairobi's skyscrapers providing a great background. Tourists travel from all around the globe to visit this unique national park.
Nairobi National Park is a very relaxing place. It lies within easy reach of millions, including tourists and business visitors from all around the world.

The green space serves as the capital's lungs, giving it oxygen and reducing pollutants. The animals in the park bring diversity to our lives, the open spaces and grasslands provide a home for migratory and resident birds.

Without the support from organisations such as FONNAP and KWS, doing its best to preserve its gem, our future generations might not have access to this wonderful place.

The Nairobi Park Patrol Service

By Trish Heather-Hayes

The KWS/FoNNaP Park Patrol, as it is now known, having changed from the Voluntary Patrol Service, is a partnership between FoNNaP and KWS for patrolling in the park.

The members of the Patrol are all volunteers and must also be members of FoNNaP.

The duties of the patrollers consist of:

Reporting time of entry and exit on the Whatsapp chat and also in the registry book at Main Gate and East Gate. A Patroller can choose any day of the week on which to patrol.

Reporting on the state of the roads, the flora and the fauna, visiting and reporting on the state of the picnic sites/toilets and clearing any trash found there and along all the roads. Reporting any damage to any of the signs in the parks, reporting any injured animals, helping those that have lost their way in the park and reporting any complaints a visitor may have. Responding to any questions visitors may have. Stopping all off-road driving and explaining to the offenders what they are doing wrong, and the same to those visitors getting out of their vehicles anywhere other than at a picnic site or Hippo Pools, so generally keeping an eye on behavior of all visitors anywhere in the park, especially those at special sightings (lions mainly).

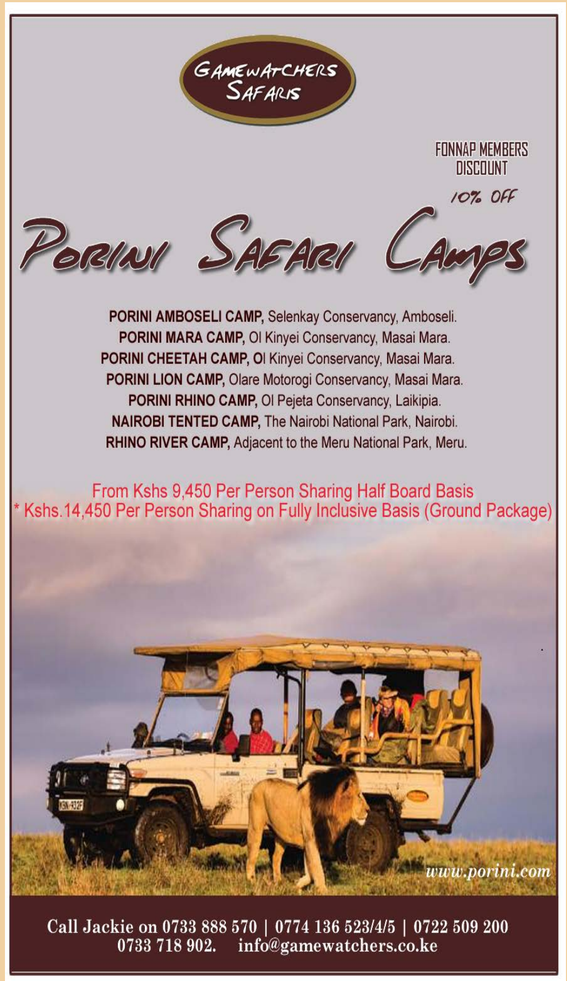
If, as can happen, a visitor is rude and abusive to a patroller, (who must strive to be polite at all times) a call for assistance can be made to the KWS patrol on duty to help with the situation.

The Terms Of Reference is given out to the applicants to read and agree to, giving the duties and rules each one is expected to follow. A patrol insignia and ID card is issued to each patroller. Currently, there are 17 patrollers. It had been suggested, during the exceptionally heavy traffic experienced in Covid lockdown, to have 20 patrollers, however 17 were appointed. Effective from January there will be 15 patrollers from FoNNaP.

The Patrollers agree to do a minimum of one day in the park, for which they receive free entry for themselves and their vehicle. Passengers are allowed, but must pay their own park entry fees. The Patroller is also welcome to patrol any other day of the week but has to pay the normal entry fee for that day. Apart from the one free entry a week, no other reimbursements for fuel or damage to a vehicle is given. This is a totally voluntary commitment which is taken seriously.

All the patrollers are on a Whatsapp chat together with the Senior Warden, Deputy Senior Warden, Tourism Warden and the Warden in Charge of the ticket revenue. All reports from Patrollers are therefore seen by them immediately on the chat, so that they can be acted upon. KWS also have one to three vehicles patrolling the park, especially at the weekends.

The review of the Patrollers will come up at the end of the year and any member of FoNNaP can apply to be on the group. These names will be vetted by the Admins and the applicants notified. Any patroller found not giving the minimum of one day a week for patrol, unless of course if sick or travelling, will be cautioned and not accepted back after review. Any misconduct from any Patroller will result in them being taken off the group immediately.



Zebra Rescue By KWS VET TEAM In Collaboration With FoNNap/KWS Park Patrol

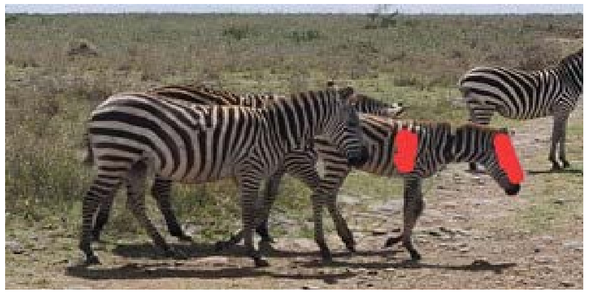
by Olga Levari Ercolano

Zebra foal with barbed wire snare around her neck seen at No.10 on 21st October 2020 by Edwin Abade, whilst on patrol in the Athi Basin

On 21st October, 2020, whilst on Patrol duty in the No.10 area of Athi Basin, Edwin Abade came across a young zebra foal with a wire snare attached to her neck. The foal was grazing with her mother and a herd of zebra. Edwin reported the incident to the KWS team, who mobilized a search, but did not find her. The next day, the zebras had moved on and there were no reports of sightings.

On 23rd October, whilst on a game drive, Kush Nakar came across the zebra between the SGR and no.7. He reported to the group who then relayed the information to KWS. Based on the information provided by Kush and the joint KWS/FoNNaP Park Patrol team, the KWS vets were mobilized, the zebra was located by the KWS Security Patrol team, treated by Dr. Rono and the snare removed, on the morning of 24th October, 2020.

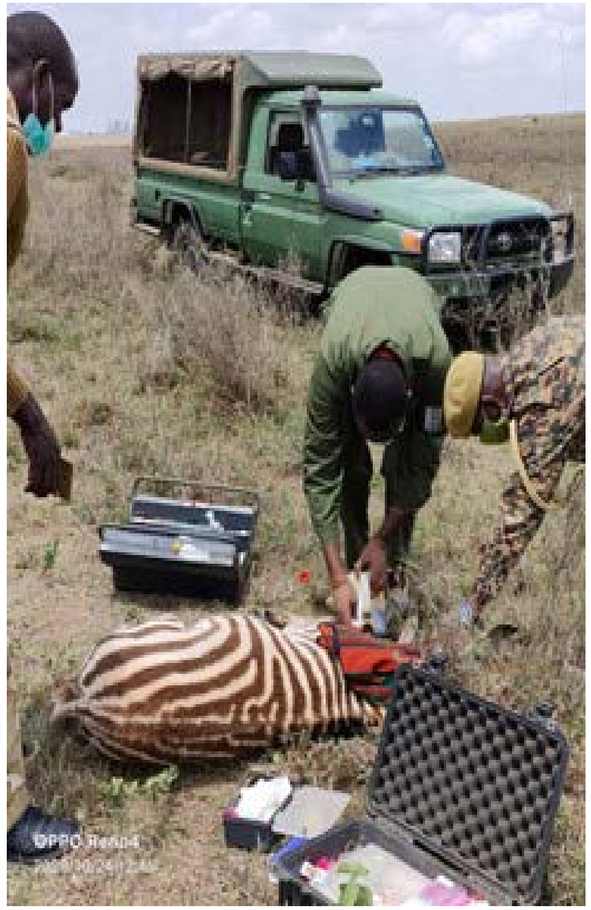
Zebra foal with mum seen on 23rd October 2020 by Kush Nakar between no.7 and SGR, 100 metres from the SGR.



Zebra foal with mum and herd located prior to treatment

Report by Dr. Rono of KWS Veterinary Team

"A zebra foal, female, had a loose barbed wire snare on its neck and lacerations on its front legs. It was immobilized to remove the snare and treat the infected wounds. The treatment was successful and the foal joined its mother and the rest of the herd. It is expected to make a complete recovery"



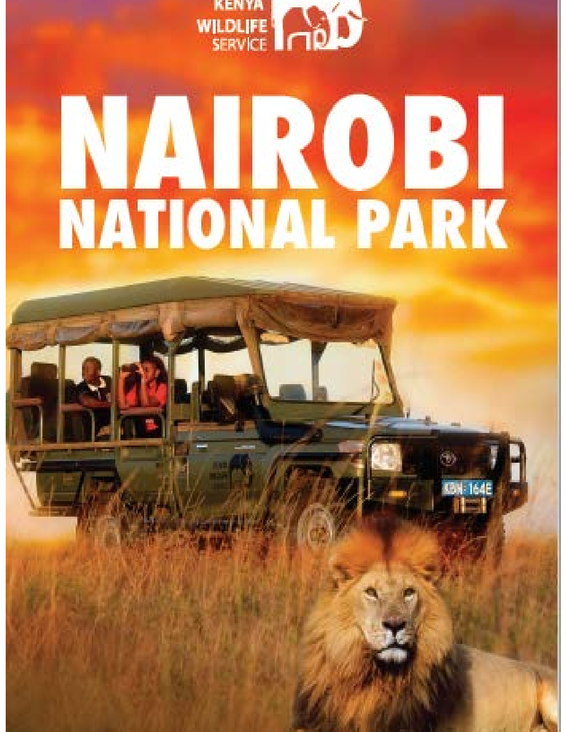
Dr Rono, KWS Vet and team, removing the wire snare and administering treatment to the zebra foal on the morning of 24th October

The mother and herd were waiting, not far from where the foal was being treated. Once the snare had been removed and treatment completed, the foal joined her mother.

We are grateful to the KWS team and all concerned for a job well done in saving the zebra's life. May she grow to be a big healthy zebra roaming the plains with her herd and produce many more zebras.

Thank you Kian Shah for submitting some really nice designs for the new Fonnap stickers.
Congratulations we have chosen 3 of your designs to be part of the new Fonnap sticker collection for 2020 and 2021

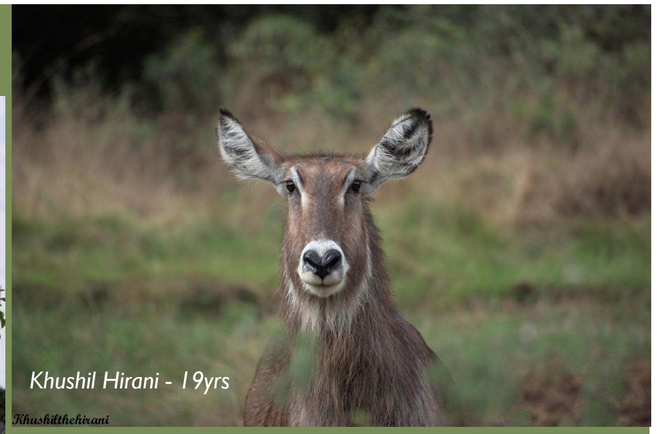
We will credit you for the designs on all the stickers with your designs



Sightings at Nairobi National Park | October 2020

Junior Photos

Fareed Gulamhusein - 15yrs


Khushil Hirani - 19yrs

Dheer Savla - 8 yrs

Seyan Hirani - 13yrs

Hemini Hirani - 10 yrs

Sumaiya Yakub - 16yrs

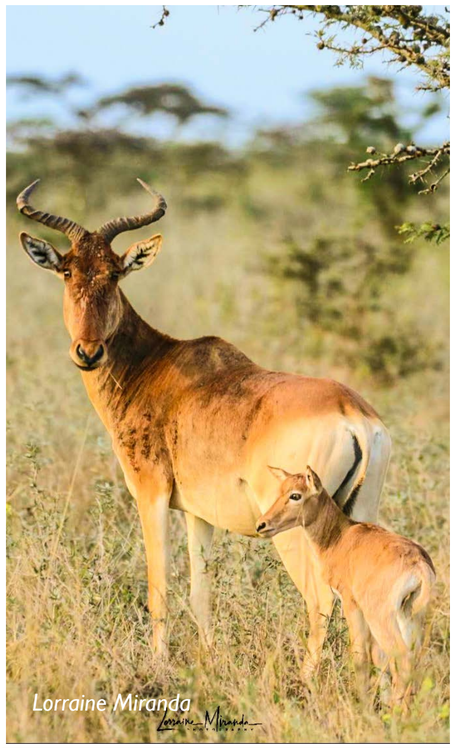
Please send photos to newsletter@fonnap.org to be featured in the NNP sightings column

Vishal Shikotra

Ofir Drory

Yash Kerai

Hemali Varsani

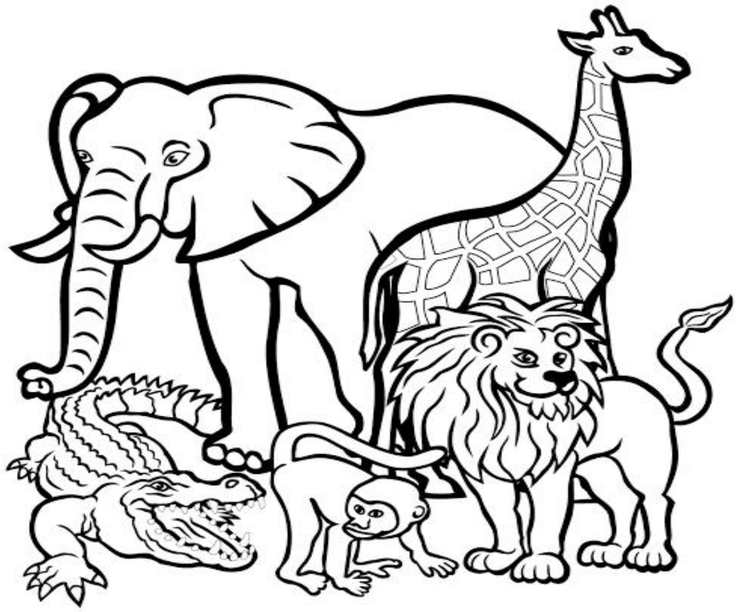

Lorraine Miranda

Ebrahim Najmi

Edwin Abade

Mike Blake Designs

FoNNaP
Kids Column



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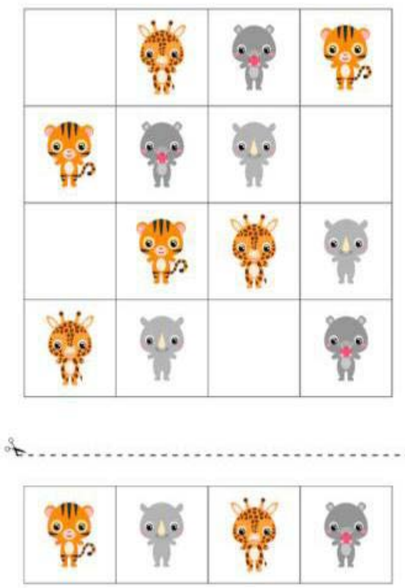
Sudoku - Wild animals

Carefully cut out the animals. Place each animal in a square so that no row or column has the same animal.



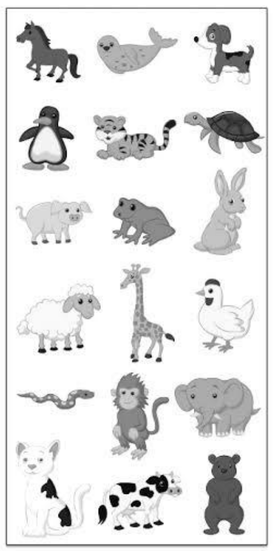
Animals

Write the name of the animal in the place they belong.

Farm animals

Zoo animals

Pet animals



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the hub karen

Thika Cloth Mills Limited

FORTHCOMING EVENTS, 2020

November 21 – Lone Tree Replanting Event
(details to be advised)

November 28th, 2020 – Wine, Cheese & Shawarma Sundowner
at Mwiko Gardens, Westlands from 5pm onwards.
Fund raising event for improved signage in the Park

December 6th – KWS-FoNNaP Game Count

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gayefern08@gmail.com

Sirikoi by Ebrahim Najmi

Friends of Nairobi National Park

FoNNaP is a non-profit membership society founded in 1995, dedicated to assisting the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to nurture and protect biodiversity within Nairobi National Park, and the broader ecosystem to which the park belongs.

Join today and be a Friend of the Park!

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