



Christmas Edition
NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK NEWS

Crested Eagle by Meetal Mehta

CONTENT

Articles & Section Pages

Chairman's Report by Gareth - 3

Lions in November and December by Trish - 4, 5 & 6

Rescued Baby Zebra amid a Cleanup in Naretunoi Conservancy by Caroline Kibii- 7

Face To Face With Nguruman
The Prime Leopard of Nairobi National Park
by Olga - 8 & 9

Maridadi & Kichaka - by Seyan 13 yrs - 9

The Secretive Snakes of the Nairobi National Park
Forest by Steven Spawls - 10 & 11

Photo of the Month - 12 & 13

The World Record Holders by Sidney Shema - 14 & 15

November Meanderings by Michelle Cairncross - 16 & 17

Birth Of A Giraffe by Sonia Varma - 18

Removal Of Tumour From Zebra By Kws Vet and
Warthog Rescue by Olga- 19

Ostriches In The Park and Wildebeeste Migration
In The Park- 20

Sighting of a Cheetah with 3 Cubs- 24 & 25

Sightings at Nairobi National Park - November and
December- 22 & 23

Kids Column - 24

Corporate Members Recognitions - 25

Chairman's Monthly Updates | Christmas 2020



Gareth Jones
Board Chairman
FoNNaP



Greetings to all of you,

The current global reality is very sobering and is 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 pray that increased forms of normal life continue to return. We hope the situation starts to improve in the coming months and onwards into 2021.

As a direct result of Covid-19 fears, the Wine tasting event scheduled for Saturday 28th November 2020 at Mwiko Gardens in Westlands was cancelled. However, the raffle still stands and the draw is to be held on 15th December, 2020. Financially this year 2020 has also been a difficult year for FoNNaP. Income sources will need to increase in the year 2021 to ensure that FoNNaP can continue to operate meaningfully as a voice for the creatures in the Nairobi National Park who cannot speak. A draft budget proposal is currently being formatted for consideration, including FoNNaP Membership fees also being under review for a possible increase.

Board members have worked with private individuals to draft a new Nairobi National Park printed map. It is expected that the map will be available as from December 2020 after 1000 copies have been printed.

A sub-committee is currently working with KWS on a proposal to refurbish the damaged/missing and tarnished junction signage within the Nairobi National Park. The intention is to do nothing other than maintain and restore the existing infrastructure. It is hoped to get sponsors to fund the project.

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, during December 2020. We will communicate 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.

The Ministry of Tourism & Wildlife, CS Hon Najib Balala, appointed a task force to investigate the various options and possibilities to be able 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. The task force is scheduled to submit a full report to the CS, Hon Najib Balala, before the end of December 2020.

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

Please allow me to wish you all a blessed Christmas and a much better 2021.

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

Kind regards
Gareth Jones
Chairman

Nairobi National Park Lions in November & December 2020

By Trish Heather-Hayes

An active month with sightings mostly in the top half of the park from Ivory Burning Site, the Kingfisher area up to the SGR.

Sirikoi killed a mother and baby zebra at the end of October and by the 1st November was still with the kill, not having shared it with anyone else! He finally moved away from it the following day and went to the Nagoloman dam where he lay for the rest of the day, fat and content. On the 5th he was back near the Rangers camp at 27b and on the 12th had met up with 4 of the KF4's near the Karen dam where they slept for the day. He was next seen on the track between 22 and 21 enjoying the sunshine, before moving to lie in the road at 26C. On the 23rd he was sleeping across the road near the no 3a small bridge, in no hurry to move, condescending finally to get up and saunter off. Going back to the Nagoloman dam on the 24th, he was chased away by a large herd of buffalo and went onto the No 2 cut grass plains where the following day he met up with and started mating with a female, identity not yet known as they were far from the road.



SIRIKOI Credit - Olga Levari Ercolano

Quntai and Leshan had feasted on a large male warthog which seemingly unaware of Quntai was easily caught in the bushes near the ivory site. The following morning they went to drink at Nagoloman dam and spent the whole day asleep not far from the road. On the 5th they had moved over towards the SGR with, most likely, sister Naipanoi in tow but a confirmed id was not made. Next they were at the Karen C dam together now with 3 of the KF7 sisters. On the 12th they caught and killed a young buffalo in the swamp area between Hyena dam and No 4a. Sirikoi helped himself to some left overs the following day while the two younger males headed off towards the rangers post above the Ivory picnic site, only to come back the day after and find little left of

their meal! Leshan, on the following morning, was still in the same place and decided to roll around in front of a mother white rhino and calf, who ignored him. On the 26th both Quntai and Leshan and one of the sisters were together between 27a and 27b and the following day seen in almost the same area again with 3 sisters.



Quntai Credit - Olga Levari Ercolano



Leshan Credit - Trish H Hayes

Kitili and Mpakasi together on some days and on their own on other days have been mainly up around the SGR part of the park. On the morning of the 5th Kitili was seen mating with Safi at 14b but that didn't seem to last too long. On the 8th he was alone near the valley between 9-10 but caught the scent of another, or others (probably the MF Solo family), and moved off back to towards the SGR near No 8, seemingly with a purpose, even at times running, watched by a large herd of zebra and other game. We lost him after a while across the plains so didn't get to find out what the rush was all about. He was still in that area the following day but alone. Met up again with Solo, Nala and the 5 large cubs on the No 8 plains after a few days.



Kitili Credit Trish H Hayes

Mpakasi started mating with Isinya around the 6th and stayed with her until the 15th. One morning they were confronted by Solo and family near the Mbuni area and were chased off, most likely because Isinya is not one of their family. They had a parting of the ways on the 16th at SGR after 18B. Mpakasi headed off towards 14 across the valley and Isinya went her own way, after calling, in the direction of 18. Mpakasi has stayed around the 7-8 area and also down to 14, sometimes walking with Kitili or on his own.



Mpakasi and Isinya at the SGR Credit Trish H Hayes



Isinya, a couple of days after the mating, was seen with her sister Naisenya back at the SGR between Nos 7-8. They stayed around the area for a couple of days relaxing.



Isinya and Naisenya at the SGR Credit - Hitesh Kaitan Kerai

The KF4 family have been splitting up, with Alamaya and the two young males subs and one female sub sleeping the day away at Karen C dam, while 4 others on the same day were up in the forest near 25d. One of the young sub males, now named Lenana was with his brother (as yet unnamed) branching out on their own near No. 7 and heading towards the SGR, later seen lying in the shade of one of the pillars.



Lenana and brother Credit - Edwin Abade

Alamaya was seen together with one of the young Sub females on the 2nd under a shrub between 28a and 28B. The young female was extremely thin and the vets were notified. They are still searching for her, as are other visitors in order to assess and treat her if necessary.

Nairobi National Park Lions in November & December 2020

Continuation...



Alamaya and young sub adult female looking thin. Credit Anil Kerai

Solo and family not so frequently seen this month, one appearance at the SGR between the 7-8 murrum pits when they were seen stalking zebra down into the valley by Mbuni... and then way down on the athi pipeline road above the dam.

Namunyak, one of the KF7s females seems to enjoy her own company and has been seen in various areas alone between 2 and the SGR near Mbuni.



Namunyak Credit - Hanain

Serena was last seen, heavily pregnant, near No 14, maybe by now she may well have produced her cubs and we hope to see them towards the end of December. This will be her 2nd litter, the first not having survived very long but no idea why, as happens so often, they just disappear one by one. Let's hope she is more successful this time around.

Morana is being her usual solitary self again, moving on one day towards the 22 -30 plains with another young female, possibly one of her daughters, but then after a few days seen hunting on her own around Hyena dam. Two of her daughters Johari and Zahara have been seen together on a couple of occasions but no sighting has been made of the third daughter Barika for a couple of months now. We hope she is still around.

Safi has reappeared having been out of sight for 2 months. She is mating with Kitili near No 14 as we end this month... Maybe by March/April we may see cubs from Serena, Isinya and Safi.



Safi and Kitili. Credit - Trish H Hayes



Happy Holidays !

Rescued Baby Zebra amid a Cleanup in Naretunoi Conservancy

by Caroline Kibii



Pollution in protected areas is a major problem threatening the prosperity of biodiversity. The challenge intensifies in areas where heavy human traffic is witnessed. It is worse during this era of a global pandemic that has grounded many to domestic tourism.

Judging from a cleanup exercise at Naretunoi Conservancy in early November 2020, some tourists and explorers dispose of their wastes irresponsibly.

The cleanup activity was spearheaded by the Young Muslim Association and The Wildlife Foundation and attracted members of various organizations like FONNAP, Kean, Envirowild, and Sisters of YMA.

A considerable percentage of the waste collected was single-use in nature, such as plastic water and soda bottles, alcohol cans, and sweet and crisps wrappings. Most of these wastes were found dumped along the walking trails, an indication that the users intentionally disposed of there.



Similarly, a lot of solid waste was deposited along the river banks, indicating that they might have travelled from far.

While cleanup activities are integral to keeping protected areas clean, they are not sustainable in the long run. Therefore, it is important to strengthen awareness on the dangers of poor waste disposal, potential harm occasioned by single-use plastics to marine ecology and wildlife, and strict implementation of the existing policies.

Developing a positive attitude towards conservation will help reduce the usage and poor disposal of single-use plastics.



Towards the end of the day's activities, a stranded baby zebra was rescued with the help of the area chief, The Wildlife Foundation Center, and KWS rangers present. It was not immediately established why the baby zebra was alone for many hours.

Writer is an Environmentalist and Founder of Enviro Wild

Face To Face With Nguruman The Prime Leopard of Nairobi National Park

By Olga Levari Ercolano



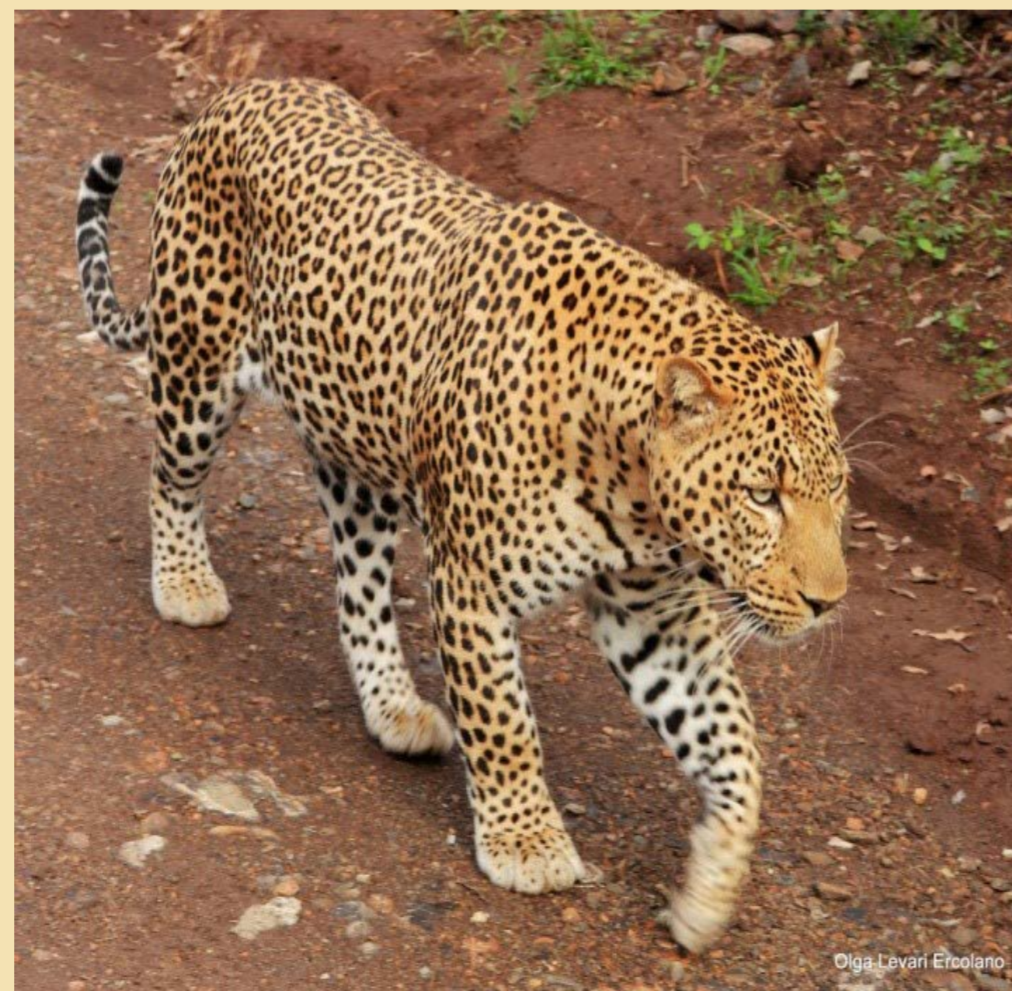
Olga Levari Ercolano

On Sunday, 29th November, 2020, after a full day in the Park and spending the most part of the morning on Patrol and keeping an eye on behaviour around Kitili and Safi, lions mating just above the Mokoyiet picnic site, my goal was to spend the afternoon in the forest and search for a leopard. At 2pm, I parked my car at Impala picnic site at the Observation Point in the forest and relaxed for two hours. At around 4pm, I decided to take a circuit to 25d (Nairobi Tented Camp junction) and on to the new road at 23C in the Nagolomon forest. Between Impala and 25d, I had the pleasure of seeing two beautiful black rhinos, curiously watching and on the alert, trotting around the open plain. I then proceeded to 23c, driving very slowly, looking through the thick bush and forest and half way along, at an opening in the thicket, with a pool of water and rocks, near an “s” bend, I observed a large warthog moving back and forth and being very agitated by something he could see above in the forest. My immediate thought was, “it must be a predator – lion, leopard or hyena”. I was praying for a leopard. So I carried on up to the bend in the road and as I turned into it, my wildest dream came true. Sitting in the middle of the road was none other than the Mighty Nguruman, himself, in all his splendour. I was alone, face to face with Nguruman. My heart was racing with excitement. I told myself to calm down and get some good photos. Such chance encounters do not happen often.

I stopped the car at a good distance from him, so that I could get a video of him walking towards me, should he decide to walk my way, which he did.

When he saw me, he got up, stretched and yawned like

good cats do, walked a bit, went towards the bush on the right and scratched at something, then walked straight towards my car and alongside it. In doing so, he rubbed his body along my side of the car and rubbed his neck on my bumper, in keeping with cat’s desires of satisfying an itch on his neck. It was too close for me to photograph with my camera and I did not think of picking up my mobile phone to immortalize that moment. Nevertheless, I did get a super video of him, as well as a few good photos. I am sharing some photos here. He then continued on his journey through the forest.

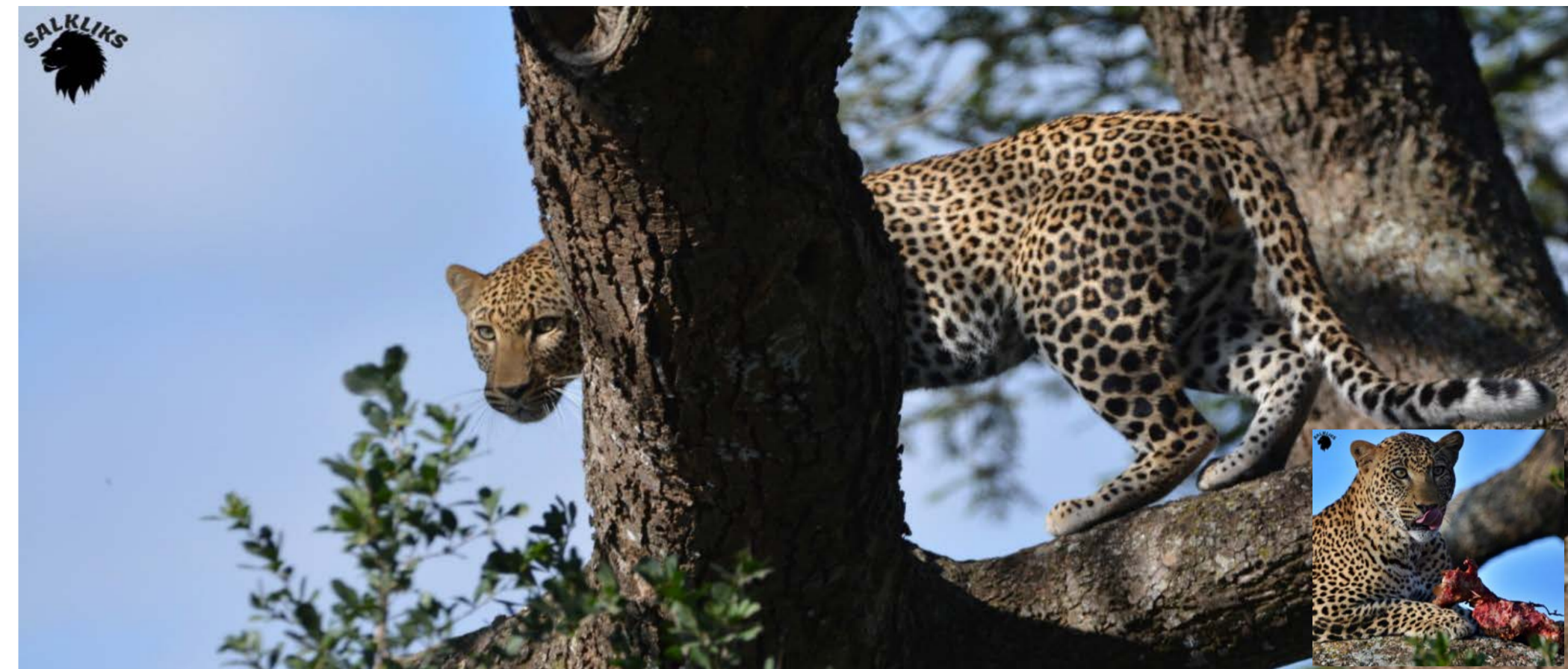


Olga Levari Ercolano

Till we meet again, Nguruman!

Maridadi & Kichaka

by Seyan Hirani – 13yrs



Leopards, the most elusive and shy animals of the wild. It is a wonderful experience to see them and spend time with them, and the Nairobi National Park leopards are no different. We go to the park every week, in search of these cats and as luck has it, we have been lucky twice and gotten to see them.

There are a few leopards in the park and Koko is one of them. She gave birth to two beautiful young cubs now about 16 months old.

Koko and her cubs roam the lush forest behind Nagolomon Dam. They leave footprints on the ground and holes on the barks of trees. We have encountered the family on two occasions: First on the 22nd August 2020 and second, we saw her son on 15th November 2020. It has been amazing to see him grow over the past three months both in size and ability.

(An extract from my August article) We headed there and after searching for some animals and birds that can be found in the forest, my Dad and Sister saw a leopard jump across the narrow road and disappear into the forest and were over the moon because it was very rare to see a leopard in the wild and they had managed to do so. At that time, I was quite annoyed with myself but more determined than ever because I had not seen it and my favourite animal is the leopard. We then waited patiently screening the area where the leopard entered the forest. We had waited for less than two minutes when suddenly I looked back and saw two of the leopardess’s cubs walking gracefully and elegantly on the road.

On our second encounter, we went to the Nairobi National Park at around 3:00 PM with a mission to find a leopard. We just entered and as the last leopard the previous day was seen between 24C and 25D, that is where we went. After driving for less than fifteen minutes, we reached a big shady tree and when we looked, there he was, proudly relaxing on the tree, staring inquisitively at us. After about

an hour, he jumped off the tree and came back up with an old, half-eaten kill. He started eating the little flesh that was left in the kill and a few minutes later, his kill fell to the ground. He did not go to pick it immediately, but instead went after a while to pick it up. He then came back up and continued grinding the bones of the animal he had killed some time ago. Just as 6:30 approached, he jumped off the tree and slunk into the many bushes of the forest, and thus came the idea for his name.



Female puff adder with short tail

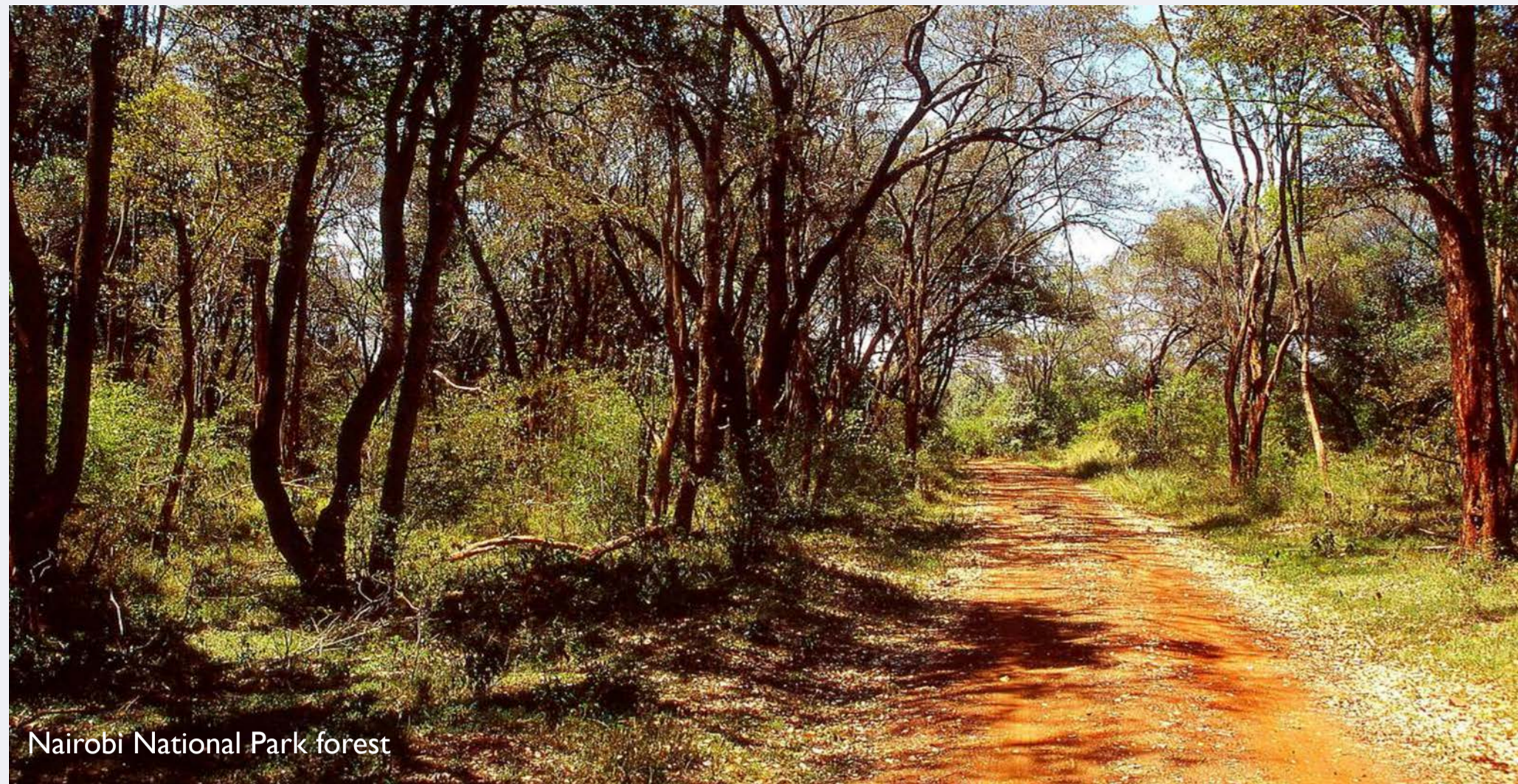
Thank you to FoNNaP for giving me the great honour of naming Koko’s cubs and their names are as follows:

Koko’s son is called Kichaka (meaning bushes and thickets) Koko’s daughter is called Maridadi (meaning beautiful) Koko, Kichaka and Maridadi, see you soon.



The Secretive Snakes of the Nairobi National Park Forest

By Stephen Spawls (stevespawls@hotmail.com)



Nairobi National Park forest

The dry upland forest that comprises the far western side of Nairobi National Park, on a ridge above the plain, enclosed within the loop of road that goes from the Banda Gate to the Main Gate, was originally part of the once-extensive Ngong Forest. It is the southernmost sector of a huge forest that at one time stretched from the Nyambene Hills south to Nairobi. There's not much of it left; the mid-altitude land that it originally occupied is prime farming country with decent rainfall, so humanity have made use of it for agriculture. But the forest remnants are worth protecting. They are the home to some beautiful forest reptiles, including some fascinating snakes.



Meru Tree Snake inflating throat by S. Spawls



Meru Tree Snake by S. Spawls

The largest is the Meru Tree Snake, *Thrasops schmidtii*, which is a big slim harmless black tree snake that can reach a length of 2.3 m, although 1.3 – 2m is more usual. Originally regarded as a subspecies of Jackson's Tree Snake, *Thrasops jacksoni*, it was elevated to full species status in 2002 by the eminent Zimbabwean herpetologist Don Broadley, as the population is isolated from the Jackson's Tree Snakes west of the Rift Valley, and has different scale counts. It is a Kenyan endemic. It is a secretive, diurnal snake, and rarely seen, although it does seem to be becoming more common. For a long time, there was only a single specimen in the collection of the National Museum, captured at Muthaiga by Arthur Loveridge many years ago, but in the 1970's Emanuele Gallmann and Richard Mathews collected a few in the Ngong Forest near Rowallan Camp, and recently pictures of specimens observed in the National Park have been posted on Facebook. Meru Tree Snakes are unusual snakes in many ways. They feed largely on chameleons, they smell strongly of liquorice, and if pursued in a tree, they will initially inflate their body, looking huge and threatening, and will then jump from the branches. Although a forest snake, they will follow riverine forest out into the savanna; I have seen them along rivers in the dry country west of the Nyambene Hills. They are uncannily similar to the black colour phase of the boomslang, a deadly rear-fanged snake (which, incidentally, has never been found near Nairobi, and nobody knows why not).



Boomslang by S. Spawls

Another inhabitant of the forest is the harmless Montane Egg-eater, *Dasypeltis atra*. This is a small but intriguing snake. It comes in a range of colours, and lives in the high lands on either side of both branches of the African Rift Valley, from Ethiopia and the DR Congo south to Tanzania. Some Montane Egg-eaters are rufous, some brown, some have patterns, the original specimen was black (*atra* means black in Latin). Some patterned examples have been found in the savanna of the park, but within the forest they are brown. And on the western slope of the eastern escarpment, from Limuru north through Kijabe to Nakuru you can find jet black specimens. I have only ever found one brown one in Kenya; early one morning on the Langata Road in the dip just past the main gate of the National Park, where it crosses the Mokoyeti River. Sadly, the car in front of me had run it over and it soon died. As their name suggests, Montane Egg-eaters live only on birds' eggs, which they swallow in a most unusual way. They have few teeth, but sharp bony extensions of the spine protrude through into their throats. They work the egg into their throats, and tip their heads up and down. The spiky bone cuts through the shell, the snake swallows the white and the yolk and spits out the shell. Four species of Egg-eater occur in Kenya.



Montane egg-eater, eating egg, by S. Spawls



Brown Montane egg-eater, by S. Spawls

A most rare and secretive snake of the forest is the harmless Forest Wolf Snake, *Lycophidion ornatum*; a species confined to inland East Africa. It is attractively marked, as you can see in Michele Menegon's picture. Arthur Loveridge, the original curator of the Nairobi Museum (before it became the Coryndon Museum, and then the National Museum) made a significant collection of snakes in and around Nairobi, but he never found a Forest Wolf Snake. The first Nairobi specimen was collected in the 1970's by Eliud Waweru, one of the museum's herpetological team, in Karura Forest. Since then, a few more have turned up. Although these little snakes spend most of their lives concealed in leaf litter or in holes, hunting the smooth-bodied lizards that are their main diet, they sometimes do amazing things. The American herpetologist Eli Greenbaum once found a Forest Wolf Snake in the DR Congo, several metres up a tree at night, it had seized and was eating a Johnston's Chameleon. A relative of the Forest Wolf Snake, the Cape Wolf Snake, *Lycophidion capense*, is one of Nairobi's common snakes. It is also rarely seen, usually living in holes, although in the rainy season it is sometimes flooded out of its refuge and may enter houses. Being small and grey, it is hard to identify, and is often mistaken for something more dangerous.



Forest Wolf snake by Michele Menegon



Cape Wolf snake by Sonia Varma

These forest snakes, incidentally, are under-represented in our national collection in the National Museum in Nairobi. Although many people do not want to kill animals, if by chance you find one recently dead (they are often killed on roads by vehicles) and not too damaged, it is worth taking it to the National Museum, to Dr Patrick Malonza and his team. Temporarily, it can be put in a plastic bag in the freezer, or in alcohol. Or you can send a picture. Without museum specimens, we cannot be certain what snakes we have in Kenya and where they live; without such data conservation work cannot be done.



Photo of the Month

Siddharth Patel

The World Record Holders

By Sidney Shema

There are some birds that you can see in Nairobi National Park that stand out among all other birds globally. They have characteristics or behaviours that set them apart from the rest and even people who are not particularly interested in birds will often be awed by them. Let's take a look at five of these world record holders.

1. Common Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*) - World's largest bird

Ostriches can weigh over 120 kg and stand up to 2.7 m tall. They are by far the largest birds on earth. There are two species of Ostrich, both of which occur in Kenya: The Common Ostrich (*Struthio camelus*), found in southern Kenya, and the Somali Ostrich (*Struthio molybdophanes*), found in the dry savanna of northern and eastern Kenya and up into the Horn of Africa. They are very similar in size, although the Common Ostrich is slightly larger/heavier. The Common Ostrich of southern Kenya belongs to the race/subspecies *S. c. massaicus* (Masai Ostrich). Ostriches are only found in Africa. There used to be an Asian race of the Common Ostrich on the Arabian Peninsula, called the Arabian Ostrich (*S. c. syriacus*), but it went extinct in the 1960s due to excessive hunting by people. Today, apart from the Masai Ostrich, the other races of Common Ostrich are the North African Ostrich (*S. c. camelus*), which once occurred on the Lotikipi Plains west of Lokichokio but is now thought to be extinct in Kenya, and the Southern Ostrich (*S. c. australis*) of southern Africa.



A male Masai Ostrich in Nairobi National Park

2. Kori Bustard (*Ardeotis kori*) - World's heaviest flying bird

Ostriches are the heaviest birds in the world but they can't fly. Among flying birds, the Kori Bustard is the heaviest, weighing up to 20 kg. If you think about it, that's quite heavy if you need to lift yourself into the air and fly using nothing but pure muscle power! The Great Bustard (*Otis tarda*) of Eurasia and north Africa weighs almost the same

as the Kori and there is debate over which holds the true world record, but the Kori has a higher average body weight than the Great Bustard



Kori Bustard in Nairobi National Park

3. Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*) - World's fastest animal

The Cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) is the world's fastest running animal. But among all animals, the Peregrine Falcon is the true king when it comes to speed. Its main hunting technique involves stooping down on its prey at an incredible speed that can exceed 320 km/h!! The prey often dies on impact. The Peregrine is like a living bullet! They mainly hunt medium-sized birds like pigeons/doves, waders and ducks.

Peregrines are extremely versatile and are the most widespread bird of prey on earth, occurring on every continent except Antarctica, and in almost every habitat from woodlands to semi-deserts to coastlines to big cities.

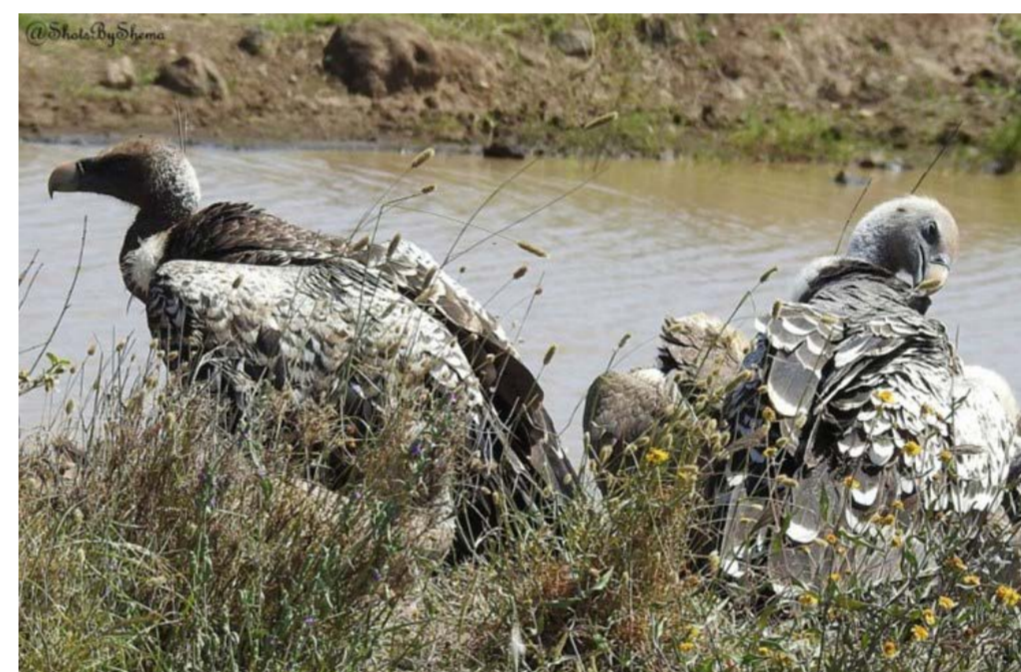


Peregrine Falcon in Tsavo West National Park. Although they occur in NNP, I have never managed to photograph one there!

4. Rüppell's Vulture (*Gyps rueppellii*) - World's highest-flying bird

Vultures are highly efficient, supremely adapted flying machines that are able to soar on air thermals or updrafts for huge distances with barely the beat of a wing. Rüppell's Vulture has been recorded flying at heights of over 11 km, which is higher than any other bird is known to fly. Unlike their close cousins the White-backed Vulture (*Gyps africanus*), they do not breed in Nairobi National Park as they require large cliffs on which to nest. They are a common sighting in NNP however, as they visit frequently to feed and bathe in the park.

Sadly, this species, like the White-backed, is now Critically Endangered. Their main threats in Kenya are secondary poisoning (when they feed on poisoned carcasses meant to kill big cats and hyenas), electrocution, and collision with electricity infrastructure.



Rüppell's Vultures after taking their daily bath - Nairobi National Park

5. Goliath Heron (*Ardea goliath*) - World's largest heron

This enormous heron stands 1.5 m tall and has a huge spear-like bill that it uses to catch big fish that can be nearly half a meter long! It also eats other small animals like snakes, toads and small mammals. Herons are important predators that help keep the populations of aquatic animals like frogs and fish in balance with the environment.

Goliath Heron is very rare in Nairobi National Park, but there is one immature bird that has been hanging around and visiting the park frequently since 2019, and seems to particularly like Hyena Dam. It has been seen getting into conflict with another giant in the park, the Marabou Stork (*Leptoptilos crumenifer*), which is the largest stork in the world.



Goliath Heron in the Tana River Delta

Kenya is privileged enough to have some of the world's most incredible birds, and a good number of these can be seen in Nairobi National Park. The 5 listed above are just a few examples and there are many others. The best way to appreciate birds is to go birding with a professional guide. Feel free to get in touch with me (shotsbyshema@gmail.com) if you would like recommendations for knowledgeable bird-watching guides.

More articles on the birds of NNP and Kenya can be found on Sidney's website: shotsbyshema.com



Make Yourself At Home in Nairobi National Park
Full Board or Self-Catering with or without a Dawn Patrol
in the Park

SILOLE COTTAGE
www.silolesanctuary.com
0721 646 588!

November Meanderings

By Michelle Cairncross

I arrived in Kenya in 2012 and began my teaching at Gems, opposite the park. I was delighted when I saw baboons and warthogs wandering along the roads. I was desperate to go into the park and my first trip started a love affair. I didn't go in as often as I would have liked but I enjoyed it every single time.

I first heard about FoNNaP from Aliyah, whom I worked with at the time, so I became a member and went along to some member's meetings, slowly getting to know people. I realised that there was a lot going on with the SGR and at my first AGM I decided to put my name forward for the board. I then spent 3 years on the board, helping with mostly fundraising, but anything else that I thought I could help with. For two years I was a board member and then last year I served as the Vice Chair. Being on the board and making new friends through that was definitely a highlight of my time.

Over the years I have taken many friends and family into the park and often it was a maiden trip for them. This November was no exception. I had been promising some friends to take them in for a long time and as my time was coming to a close in Kenya, it was now or never. We decided to hire a land cruiser and driver for this trip, giving me a break from driving but giving them a 'real' safari experience. Once we arrived and found our driver, it was in to the car and through the main gate.

We headed for Hyena Dam first, where I knew some rhinos had been spotted in the morning. On the way we saw a huge python, sunning himself beside a dirt mound. It was curled around and we couldn't see the head, but there was no doubt it was a beautiful creature.



My second python but for my friends, their first.

Then it was on to Hyena Dam, where we found the cross that like to sun themselves on the banks of the dam.



One of my friends, despite having been to the Mara and a couple of other places, had never seen a rhino so that was on the top of the list. After looking for a lioness, we spotted 3 rhinos that we could get to up close. Mum, dad and baby rhino were a highlight of the trip.



We stopped at Hippo Pools for a quick picnic then continued. At Sosian Valley we came across a beautiful juvenile Martial Eagle. He gave us the eye, and let us pass.



Another first for my friends was seeing a pair of jackals. We had a fantastic day in the park and then I had one more day with my family before we left Kenya.



My boys and I, are now in quarantine in Sydney, Australia. We will be back and my first foray will definitely be to Nairobi National Park.



Friends of Nairobi National Park
Merchandise Catalogue
(Available on Order)



Umbrella
Ksh 900



FoNNaP T-Shirt (Green & Beige)
Ksh 850



Caps
Ksh 500



Aluminium Water Bottle
Ksh 800



Thermal Mugs
Ksh 800



Fleece Hoodies (Jungle Green)
Ksh 3000



Thermal Flasks
Ksh 1500



Key Holders
Ksh 200

Payment Details
MPESA TILL No: 275211
Cheques and Credit Card Accepted
Cheques to: Friends of Nairobi National Park

(FoNNaP Members get a 10% Discount)

Email: fonnapi1@gmail.com
+254 723 690 686

GAMEWATCHERS SAFARIS

FONNAP MEMBERS
DISCOUNT
10% OFF

PORINI SAFARI CAMPS

PORINI AMBOSELI CAMP, Selenkay Conservancy, Amboseli.
PORINI MARA CAMP, Ol Kinyei Conservancy, Masai Mara.
PORINI CHEETAH CAMP, Ol Kinyei Conservancy, Masai Mara.
PORINI LION CAMP, Olare Motorogi Conservancy, Masai Mara.
PORINI RHINO CAMP, Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Laikipia.
NAIROBI TENTED CAMP, The Nairobi National Park, Nairobi.
RHINO RIVER CAMP, Adjacent to the Meru National Park, Meru.

From Kshs 9,450 Per Person Sharing Half Board Basis
* Kshs.14,450 Per Person Sharing on Fully Inclusive Basis (Ground Package)



www.porini.com

Call Jackie on 0733 888 570 | 0774 136 523/4/5 | 0722 509 200
0733 718 902. info@gamewatchers.co.ke

Birth Of A Giraffe

By Sonia Varma

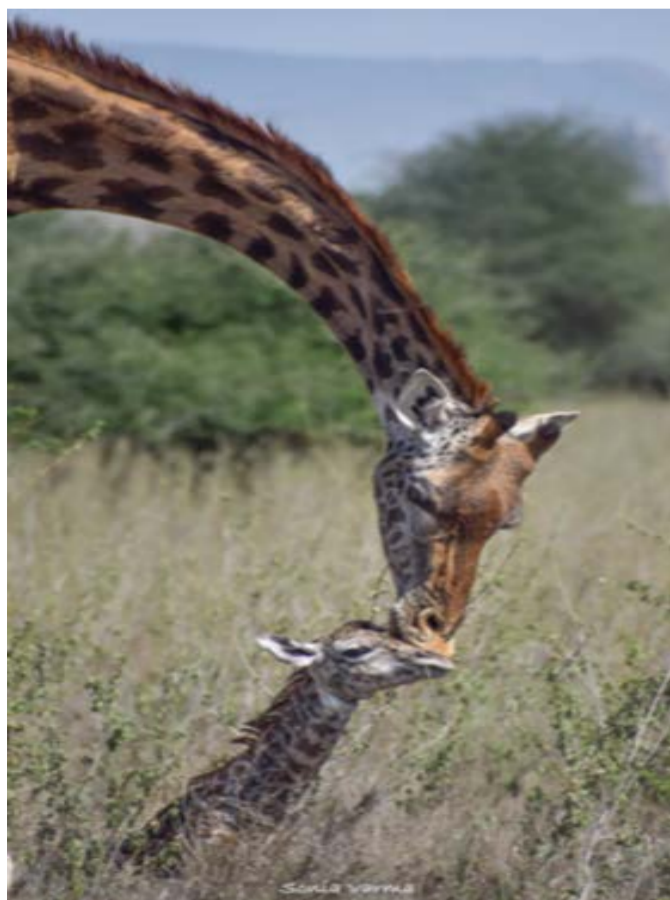
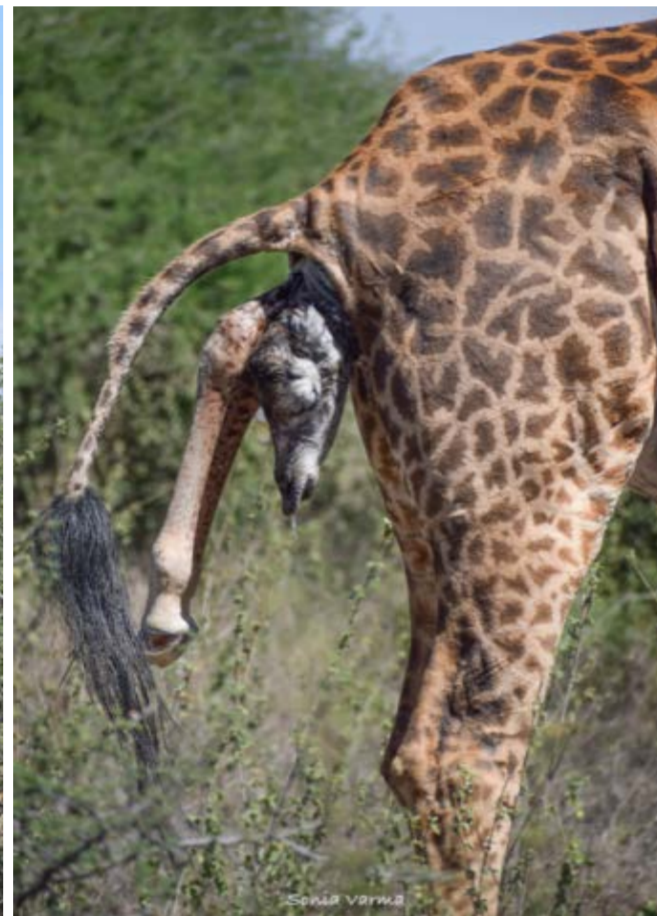
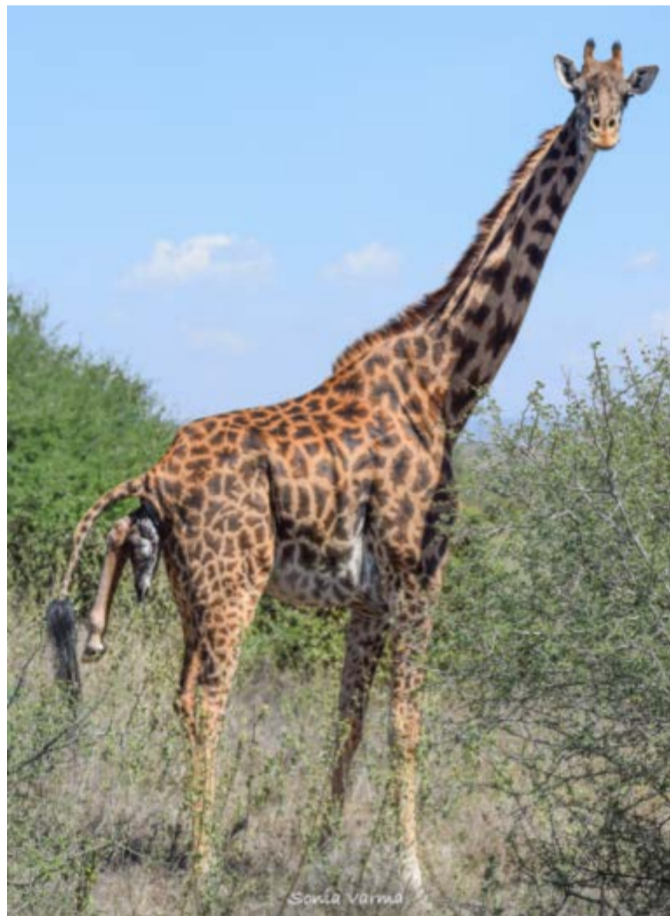
On 18th November, at approximately 1pm, we heard about a giraffe in labour at Athi basin. I headed straight there. By the time I arrived, just the front legs and head were sticking out of the vulva.

The giraffe had already been in labour for over an hour by this time. She was pushing quite a bit and was very exhausted. She was also very nervous and continuously scanning her surroundings for any predators, and luckily the rest of her herd were just on the other side of the road.

Finally two hours later, the baby was out....at this point we were not sure if the calf was alive as we had not seen any movement since we arrived at the scene. So we all held our breathsand after around 5 minutes, we saw him lift his little head up.

From there, the mum started licking and cleaning him up, and within minutes the baby already started trying to stand up, although displaying difficulty with its front left leg.

A new life in NNP.



Congratulations to the raffle ticket winners !

winning ticket no.	prize	winner
1100pink	1night for at TWF centre family cottage	David Milano,
105pink	1night for at TWF centre family cottage	Nandu Hirani/Kavita Parbat
2155green	1night for 2 at Silole Cottage	Calmcross Lean
3178yellow	5k shopping voucher at Naivas Waterfront	Lau Larsen
58green	5k shopping voucher at Naivas Waterfront	Prabhdit Sagoo
122green	5k shopping voucher at Naivas Waterfront	Stanley Munyeri
412 yellow	A meal voucher for 2 at ibis styles Westlands	Chantel Elaine
565yellow	A koroga for Family of friends at Mwiki Gardens Restaurant	Sally Shaw
6144yellow	Animal Print Photo by KevinGitongaphotography	Harriet maria
716pink	Annual free entry to Kenya Museums	Chantel Elaine
8135pink	Free family entry to Giraffe centre a group of 5	Rosemary Kinyanjui
9159green	50%OFF Shipping fee of goods from the UK	Prabhdit Sagoo
10173yellow	Peacocks and Picarthartes book by Rupert Watson	Lau Larsen

Removal Of Tumour From Zebra By Kws Vet.

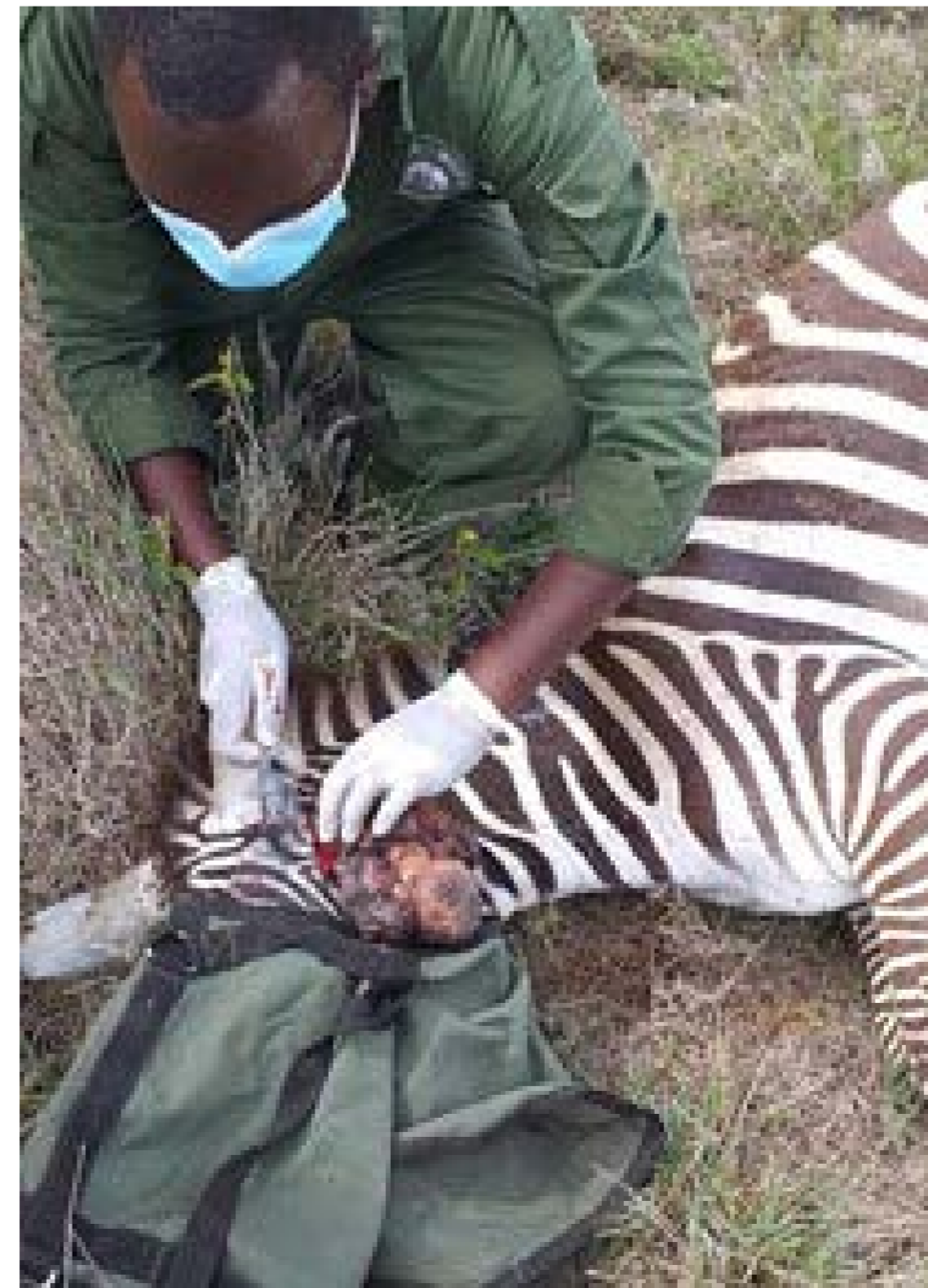
by Olga Levari Ercolano



Zebra with growth – photo by Olga Ercolano

On Tuesday, 24th November, the KWS team located the zebra in the same area and Dr. Rono performed surgery on the growth. His report was as follows:

“On examination, the pendunculated mass on the skin measuring 20cm by 10cm was found to be cancerous, a rare type of skin cancer called squamous cell carcinoma. The mass was successfully removed by surgical excision and we expect a complete recovery.”



Dr. Rono removing tumour from zebra

Warthog Rescue

On the morning of 11th November, a message was received by FoNNAp from a resident of Saifee Park in Langata, asking KWS to remove a warthog which had entered a shop there.

The call for help was conveyed to KWS Deputy Senior Warden by the joint FoNNAp/KWS Patrol team, to which KWS responded immediately and proceeded to Saifee Park to dart and remove the warthog and safely return it to Nairobi National Park. Photos, courtesy of KWS.



Warthog darted with tranquilizer

Warthog in KWS vehicle



Warthog returned to NNP

Ostriches In The Park

During this season there have been spectacular sightings of ostrich families with numerous babies.

These photos taken by Jonathan Pereira, are of an ostrich family with 50 babies, down in the Athi Basin



Wildebeeste Migration In The Park

During the month of December 2020, there has been a notable migration of wildebeest in large herds in the Park, from Athi Basin all the way up to No.2 cut grass area near Nagolomon dam.

Tour guides have been very excited to be able to tell their visitors stories of the wildebeest migrations of the past and how they are now returning in large numbers after a lengthy absence.



Photos of wildebeeste by Olga Levari Ercolano

Sighting Of Cheetah With 3 Cubs

Photos & sighting by Newton Njane

On 8th December, 2020, Newton Njane of Safari Trails, had the good fortune of seeing the elusive cheetah female with 3 cubs in the Athi Basin area. This is such a special sighting, that everyone is craving!

We are hopeful to be getting some clearer photos of this cheetah family. It seems that so far, whoever has the good fortune of seeing this cheetah with cubs, is taken by surprise and not prepared with cameras or the cheetahs are very shy and move away too quickly!

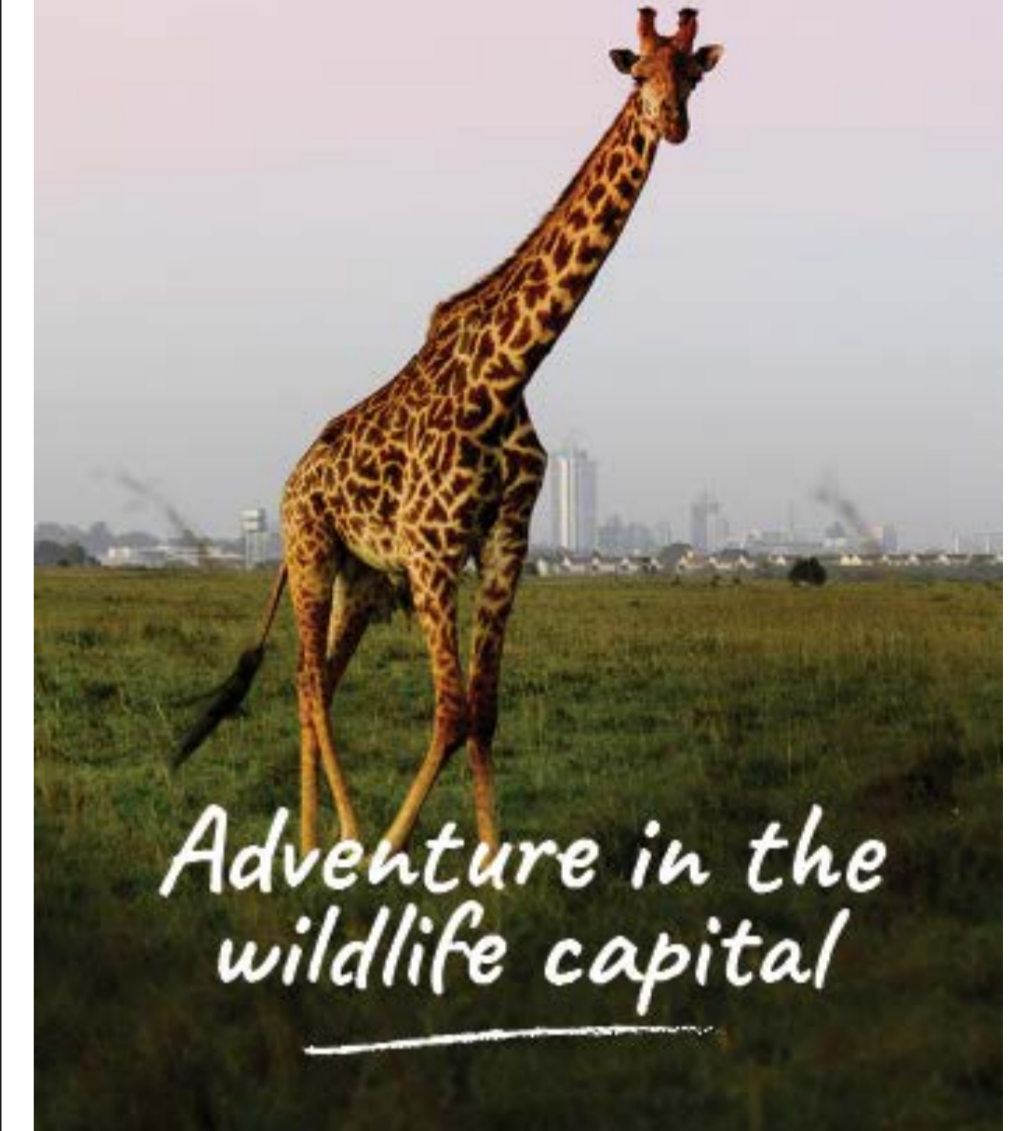
Thanks Newton for sharing this very special sighting.



A rare sighting of the Narin Trogon, As seen and Photographed by Lamak Sheikh in the forest near the Nairobi Tented Camp



NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK



Adventure in the wildlife capital



Friends of Nairobi National Park
Member's Webinar Series

JOIN FoNNaP

and get a chance to participate on various webinars on topics regarding Nairobi National Park and the surrounding ecosystems

Visit our Website - www.fonnap.org
or email fonnap1@gmail.com on how to become a member.



*Merry Christmas
& Happy Holidays*
From the FoNNaP Family



Sightings at Nairobi National Park | November & December 2020

Junior Photos



Veer Sikand - 11 yrs



Hemini Hirani - 10yrs



Seyan Hirani - 13yrs



Jonathan Pereira



Veer Sikand - 11



Yash Kerai



Fareed Gulamhusein - 15yrs



Jonathan Pereira



HARSH GUTKA
WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHY

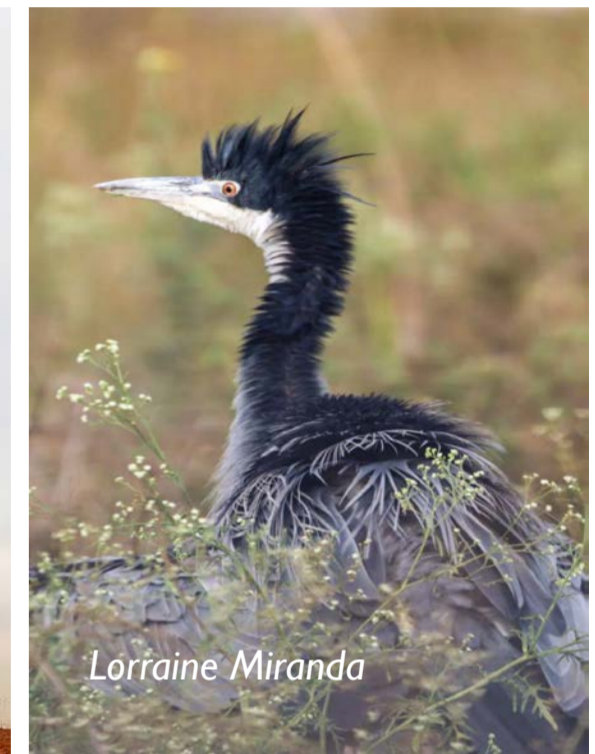


Shazir Virji

SHAZIR VIRJI



Jamal Sos



Lorraine Miranda



Anil Kerai



Trish Heather-Hayes



HANAIN



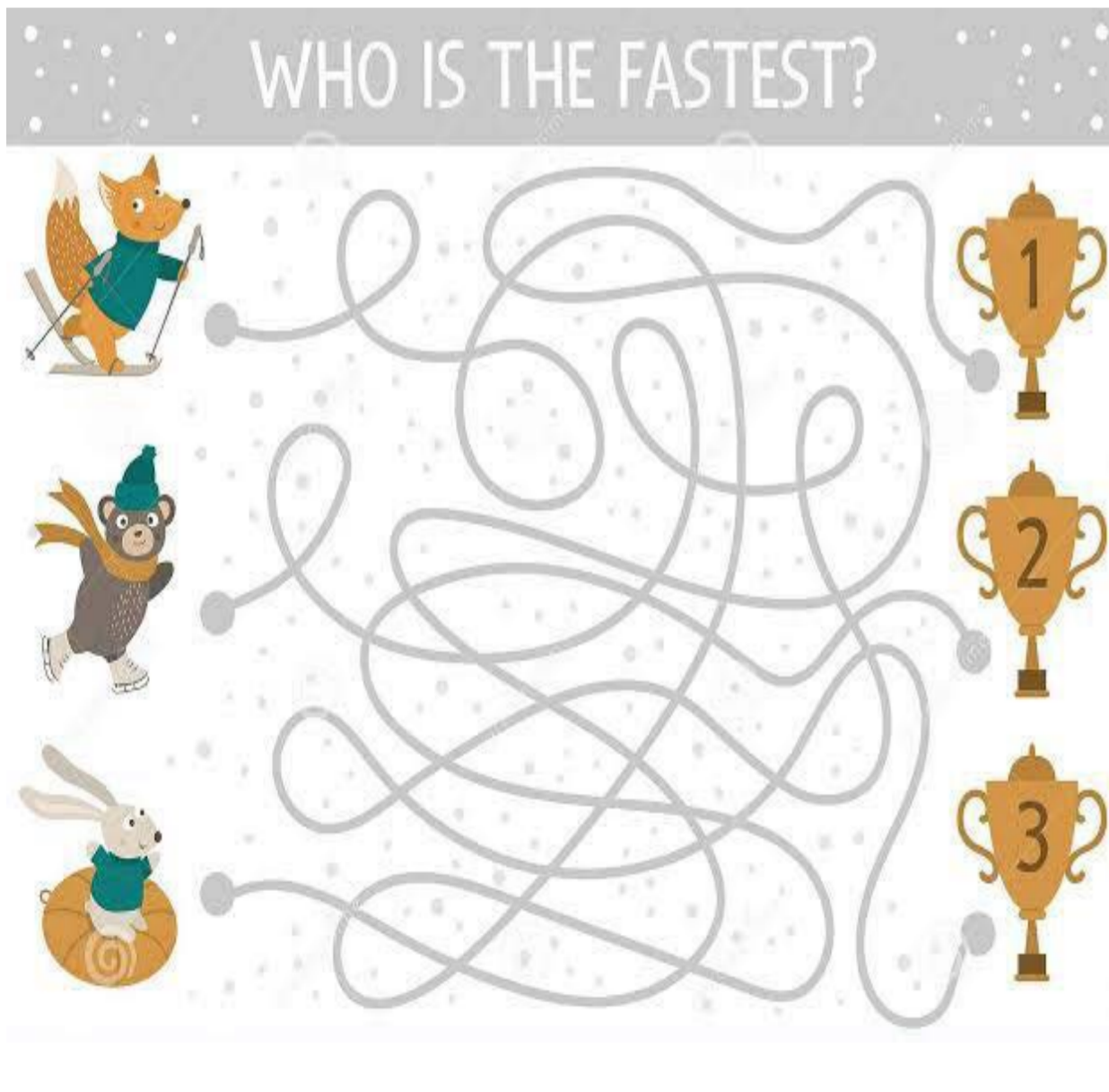
Hanain



Harsh Gutka

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

PUZZLE TIME Spot 10 differences



Christmas Word Search

AN
FR
YJWZ
KZLY
TWKPEY
KFUDCV
XJOLLYGJ
GMYSJVSL
GBUBLMJZSC
DHVSLPXVIG
TROOPERHLHBA
TFINTBCWPJNL
RSYZOKIBMOSOI Z
ETLWPWOAEURUUT
CEJCYITTJLUHCLPP
NDCVDUGKAI VPFQBT
OSNYLEDMSQWGYVBPSA
PKIGFAI IWUSSQEHVVR
TREEXSYESWZTPOBJGSLP
LWVRELUCTELVESNDYUFC
IQPNLFEKELEGGNOGFTMI X
AYGSRZDJLEQVNTJGXSBBN
PPTBOCXRZETNBIMUIEPJDMDY
YYP SOHJBSBOMMPOBVCJNNHLH
UNRUALIVMFREQVMQIXTWDHWXGP
RFRMNBSCHAXQSGNIKCOTSC TFE
MLPEPTQNIHTNGTGCOEXARMAZAKW
CVXMQAYEOREERPRVNWXB DLCKOYXR
UGKFJZJHYNHTAERWXBHMTUOHOQPFWO
FWIVOGBINXKCOVXYANOAIWZNPYOVLM

BELLS	CELEBRATE	MERRY
STOCKINGS	EGGNOG	MISTLETOE
WREATH	TREE	CHIMNEY
ELVES	JOLLY	REINDEER
SLED	SANTA	

OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS



FoNNaP CALENDAR OF EVENTS - 2021

- Parthenium Pullout Exercise
- Annual FoNNaP BBQ Event
- Annual General Meeting

(All dates to be confirmed via email)



Flame tree
Of Nandi

For all your food requirements

- Birthdays - Cocktails - Weddings
 - Packed Park Meals - Children snack boxes
- We can cater for all your home/party needs for any occasion from 10 pax .

+254722449871

gayefern08@gmail.com





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!

CONTACT US

Office No. 14, Langata Link | Off Langata South Road

Opp. Kenya School of Law

P. O. Box 45124-00100, Nairobi, Kenya

Tel: +254 (0) 723 690 686 | Email: admin@fonnap.org

Website: <https://fonnap.org>