



FRIENDS

OF NAIROBI

NATIONAL PARK

NEWSLETTER



JUNE

2021

25th Edition

Friends of Nairobi National Park [FoNNAP] June Edition



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**Jonathan Pereira**  
**Board Chairman**  
**FoNNaP**

Dear Members,

I hope and pray that we are keeping healthy and safe at this time.

The month of June has been quite a busy month for FoNNaP. We started the month Celebrating World Environment day with a Parthenium pullout exercise which was attended by some members and volunteers. The Parthenium pullout exercise happens weekly in conjunction with KWS Community scouts and the exercise is proving to be successful. Consistency in the exercise will achieve results in the long term goal to eradicate this invasive species.

The quarterly game count was held on June 6th 2021. The event was preceded by a training conducted by KWS Science department on how to conduct the game count. This was a very important interactive session that highlighted the methodology and effective collection of data during the game count. This game count was incorporated in the National Game Count statistics. To the members who participated, your time and efforts on that day are truly appreciated.

The FoNNaP Park patrol teams have been active on a regular basis in the park and this has seen an improvement in implementation of the park rules. Off road driving has been reduced as has the speeding in the park. Thank you to the team for the time, efforts and resources utilised in assisting KWs to maintain the park to the best possible standards.

On the office front, at the end of June, the board bade farewell to Janet, the office administrator. whose contract was not renewed on expiration. Felix is still carrying out the duties of the administrator in acting capacity. If there are any members who can volunteer their time at the office for any work, please get in touch with us, we can surely do with the extra workforce.

I would like to appeal to members whose memberships have expired to please make their payments for the same. We are all experiencing tough times and the only way FoNNaP can continue is with memberships and donations. Please spread the word out there and encourage your friends and relatives to become members of FoNNaP.

Stay safe and healthy,

Best Regards,

Jonathan Pereira  
 Chairman



## CHANGING HEARTS AND MINDS.

*Dr Paula Kahumbu named the rolex national geographic explorer of the year.*



FoNNaP celebrates the achievement by our member and past chairperson, Dr, Paula Kahumbu the CEO, Wildlife Direct who has been recognized as the Rolex National Geographic Explorer of the year for 2021. This prestigious award is recognition of the excellence and commitment shown by Paula in championing for wildlife conservation in Kenya and throughout the world. Paula's contribution in production and airing of the Wildlife Warriors series is one of the contributing factors towards this victory.

In a statement, Dr. Kahumbu had this to say:

"I am truly humbled and grateful to Rolex and The National Geographic Society for naming me the Explorer of the year today. This is a huge honour that I never dreamed that I could attain. As a child my heroes were people who protected wildlife. The challenges to our wildlife are escalating and we stand to lose over one million species including rhinos, grevys zebras, cheetahs and giraffes in the next 30 years. We cannot save these wild species and places unless all Africans want to save them which is why our work in raising awareness about the crisis is so vital, but I never imagined I would be making wildlife documentaries. I am very excited about the potential power of our partnership with National Geographic to change hearts and minds in Africa. My dream is to see Wildlife Warriors on the Natgeo channel so that young children across Africa and the world can learn how they too can be great explorers of the natural world. To save our extraordinary wildlife and wild spaces, we need many more wildlife warriors."

At FoNNaP we congratulate you on this great achievement and we wish you well. Indeed you are a trailblazer.

### FoNNaP MEMBERS APPOINTED TO SERVE AS HONORARY WARDENS

The tourism and wildlife CS HoN. Najib Balala appointed 300 individuals to act as honorary wardens for a period of three years.

The award acknowledges suitable persons for their notable work that in one way or another supports and promotes core functions stipulated in the act to the conservation and management of wildlife in Kenya.

### FoNNaP Members appointed to serve as Honorary Wardens:

1. Hitesh Kerai Kalyan
2. Olga Levari Ercolano
3. Tanvir Ali
4. Chryssee Martin
5. Jagi Gakunju

FoNNaP congratulates you on the appointment as honorary wardens. We recognize and appreciate men and women who are instrumental in protection and sustainability of NNP in their own capacity.

## WORLD GIRAFFE DAY

*By Mutwiri Felix*

World Giraffe Day is celebrated annually on 21st of June. Many people wonder why is the giraffe celebrated yet there are other animal species across the world without such recognition. IS THE GIRAFFE THAT LUCKY?!!! The World Giraffe Day was started by Giraffe Conservation Foundation with an objective to raising awareness about the protection of this amazing animal. One can easily tell the Giraffes are celebrated certainly because they face numerous threats. Just like other animals Giraffes portray unique social behaviors that affect how they interact, reproduce and forage each day.

Here are facts about giraffes that you should know:

- Giraffes are not territorial, they normally live in open herds with no obvious leader
- The only viable predator adult giraffes face is the lion. They have powerful legs which they use to defend themselves against predators. A strategic kick by a giraffe to a lion skull will lead to the death of a lion.
- Giraffes have a gestation period that ranges from 14 to 14.5 months.
- The habitat of giraffes is dry Savannah, grasslands or open woodlands. giraffes move into wooded areas with dense vegetation in search of food to supplement their diet. Normally giraffes love feeding on Acacia.
- Giraffes are quickly losing their habitats and their numbers are shrinking at an alarming rate. Increasing human population is a major contributing factor since there is actually a rising demand on Land for Agriculture & infrastructural development..

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# THE DOGS OF NAIROBI

By Gareth Jones

Early morning drives often have a feeling of excitement in that you are about to see something special and unexpected. Such a sighting happened in the Sosian valley a few years ago, as we crossed the stream, I noticed a movement on the rocky section near the road. We stopped and waited, and after a few minutes a female spotted hyena and her cub emerged at the entrance to their den. WOW! what a special moment. In recent years hyenas have been rarely seen due to their low numbers, however it appears that their numbers are slowly beginning to recover with a number of small packs in certain areas.



It is also useful to note that there are a number of “doglike” type species that are residing in the park, there are 2 Hyaenidae species notably the spotted hyena and the aardwolf, past records indicate that striped hyena were previously also found in the park. Spotted hyena (*Crocuta crocuta*), also known as the laughing hyena, form family groups called packs and are also very effective hunters. It should be noted that scientifically Spotted Hyena are not of the dog family even though they are “doglike”, their classification is Hyaenidae, that is apparently more closely related to the cat species. Aardwolf look like miniature striped hyenas, however they are not typical carnivores, instead they eat large quantities of insects, and focus on termites. Interestingly Hyena are not actually scientifically classified as dogs, they are actually technically more closely related to cats.

The jackal species are the most closely related to our domestic dogs, 2 species of *Canis* are found in the park, namely the black backed jackal, and rarer side striped jackal. On one occasion a few years ago, we were blessed to find a jackal den with 3 small pups located near No 6 junction, we watched them for some time. Eventually they relaxed and behaved almost as if we were not there, as they played puppy games like “catch me if you can”. Jackals are opportunistic hunters; I have seen them successfully hunt a wide variety of small mammals and birds over the years.



There are 3 species that used to occur in the Nairobi national park, the already mentioned striped hyena, the African Wild Dog were last seen in the 1980's (in the last few years a pack was reported south of the park near Kajiado), and the insect eating Bat eared fox that were previously resident in the Athi basin and a few other termites populated dry areas.

Species like hyena, jackals, African wild dog, Aardwolf & Bat eared foxes all have an important role in balancing an ecosystem, and therefore need to be protected. We hope pray the day will come when species that used to occur in the Nairobi National Park are re-introduced. When visiting the park, it is always best to expect the unexpected, and drive slowly, rewards will come in time. Remember when you see one of the “Nairobi dogs” the cats are often not far away.

For more information link to the following website [www.kws.go.ke](http://www.kws.go.ke)

# LEOPARDS IN JUNE

by Seyan Hirani

It was a cold, gloomy morning when we were in the lush green forest of the park looking for the agile rosetted predator, the leopard. As we drove down the road leading to Langata Gate, we noticed the snow-white underside of the leopard's tail who upon hearing the sound of the car engine came on the road to investigate the source of the sound.



I immediately started clicking away, with excitement bubbling in my veins and forgetting the numbing cold of the morning. As I looked at the markings on the face closely, I knew that it was Sosian. I had wanted to see him for such a long time so I was very excited to see him so close to us.

He marked his scent on several thickets then peeped through a bush thinking he is invisible to us, which he was not. As we approached a bend with him walking ahead of us, he leapt into the forest. We waited for a few minutes at the spot which he jumped in when we suddenly saw him on the road up ahead. We walked with him for quite some distance when he peeped again from behind a dead tree that lay lifeless beside the road. He put on a memorable show for us and one that I shall never forget.

**Bye Sosian,  
Till we meet again!**

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As reported in the May 2021 FoNNaP Newsletter, there are five key invasive species in the park introduced over time and which have now taken spaces in the park and are on the increase, some at a more rapid pace than others.

These are:

1. *Parthenium hysterophorus*,    2. *Lantana Camara*        3. *Solanum incanum* (Sodom apple)
4. *Ipomea hildebrandtii* ,    5. *Vatke, Caesalpinia decapetala*

**PHOTOS CREDIT- Dr. Migongo Bake**



1. *Parthenium hysterophorus*



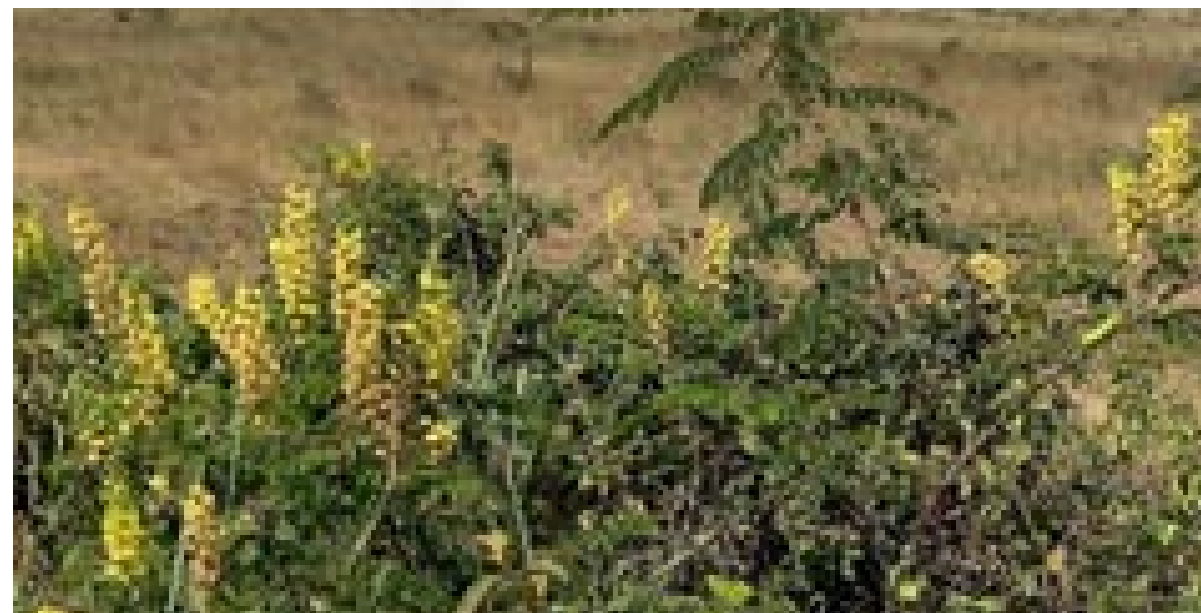
2. *Lantana Camara*



3. *Solanum incanum* (sodom apple)



4. *Ipomea hildebrandtii*



5. *Vatke, Caesalpinia decapetala*

All these are largely found along road margins in the park indicating that they have established themselves in spaces where there is least competition with other species for establishment success. With time, though, they move inwards taking advantages of any empty spaces to seed and start taking over from indigenous plants, especially grasses. This is the case with the worst of the 5, *Parthenium hysterophorus* (also known as “hunger weed” due to its impact on food security in agricultural and grazing lands), in terms of its aggressiveness and impact on the park’s vegetation. *Parthenium hysterophorus* has, therefore, been the focus for FoNNaP, in collaboration with KWS, in the invasive species removal programme, and which KWS has entrusted FoNNaP to take the lead on a scientific methodology of its removal. This includes going block by block, using the right tools and keeping weight records of the weed pulled out for a given location of removal in a given block.

FONNaP driven parthenium removal in June was on the 5th to mark the World Environment Day. Over 50 participants drawn from KWS and its Community Scouts, FoNNaP’s friends and volunteers, including representation from Botanical Gardens Conservation International (BGCI). This team joined hands to pull out the weed to mark the day, as well as the UN’s Decade on Ecosystems Restoration (2021-2030) and BGCI’s “Make a Difference (MAD)” week towards global ecological restoration, leading to the Ecological Restoration (SER) World Conference later this year.

Since May this year, when FONNaP-led parthenium removal initiative under the new Board leadership took off, large areas of the park’s infrastructure where parthenium weed was very visible are now free of it. It is worth noting, though, that starting in May, other than the designated once-a-month removal of the weed, FoNNaP has also been teaming up with KWS and its Community Scouts every Thursday for the parthenium removal exercise. Areas covered in June include area around Hyena Dam a; area between Hyena Dam and Number 4A; area between Number 2, all the way to Mbagathi Gate; and road from Number 27 to Kingfisher Picnic Site and its immediate environs. In total 1,963 Kgs (close to 2tons of parthenium weed removed in the month of June from these locations.



Parthenium pullout participants on World Environment Day, June 5th 2021 – (photo credit- Dr. Migongo-Bake)

Also to take note of, and appreciate its efforts, is the large Stand Up Shout Out (SUSO) Youth Group which, as part of their “Adopt a Park” programme, has taken parthenium removal in the park by storm. The group’s focus, given the large number of participants (averaging about 80 at any given removal event) has been on areas densely invaded by weed, such as around Athi Basin Dam , Hyena Dam, East Gate area, and along SGR line. This effort has resulted in a remarkable removal of parthenium weed amounting to 8,129 kgs (just above 8 tons) in this month alone.

The parthenium removal initiative is proving successful and the combined result of these concerted efforts has seen remarkably large areas of the park cleared of this weed by end of June. This is only for now, though, as the thousands of seeds in the soil from the last several flowering seasons of the weed will germinate with the right moisture and temperature conditions. It may, therefore, take 3-5 years with continuous removal of new growth before the park can be completely parthenium free or with manageable populations of it.

Finally, as stated in May Newsletter , the Habitat & Wildlife Committee leadership stands ready to respond to any questions related to invasive species in our park that you, your family and friends may have, and which would be posted, with corresponding answers, in the next newsletter.



# KNOW NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK

By Kevin Rombo

The Nairobi National Park (NNP) is an important environmental resource that is home to a variety of wildlife attracting about 153,000 visitors annually. Globally, the park is the only national park in the world to be located in a metropolis, Nairobi City and therefore comes with numerous benefits to the local population including beautiful scenery, variety of wildlife, ecological benefits, employment creation and revenue earnings from visitors to the park.

## Nairobi Safari Walk:

This is comprised on forested nature trails with variety of trees, paths and select wild animals. Its ideal for a walk as you wonder in nature while enjoying the serene nature.



Photo credit- Outdoorsome destination guides



Photo credit- Kenya Wildlife Service

## Animal Orphanage:

This is sanctuary where endangered species are house and also injured wildlife are kept as they are treated to ensure recovery before release to their habitat



Photo credit- Kenya Wildlife Service



Photo credit- Kenya Wildlife Service

# THE GAME DRIVE GALLERY

## Game Drive:

For those who love a good drive in their cars on vast landscape while viewing diverse species of wildlife-flora (indigenous trees and plants) and fauna-animals like lion, giraffe, buffalo etc and variety of bird species.



Photo credit- Daljeet Kaur



Photo credit- Veer Sikand



Photo credit- Rajit Galaiya



Photo credit- Jonathan Pereira

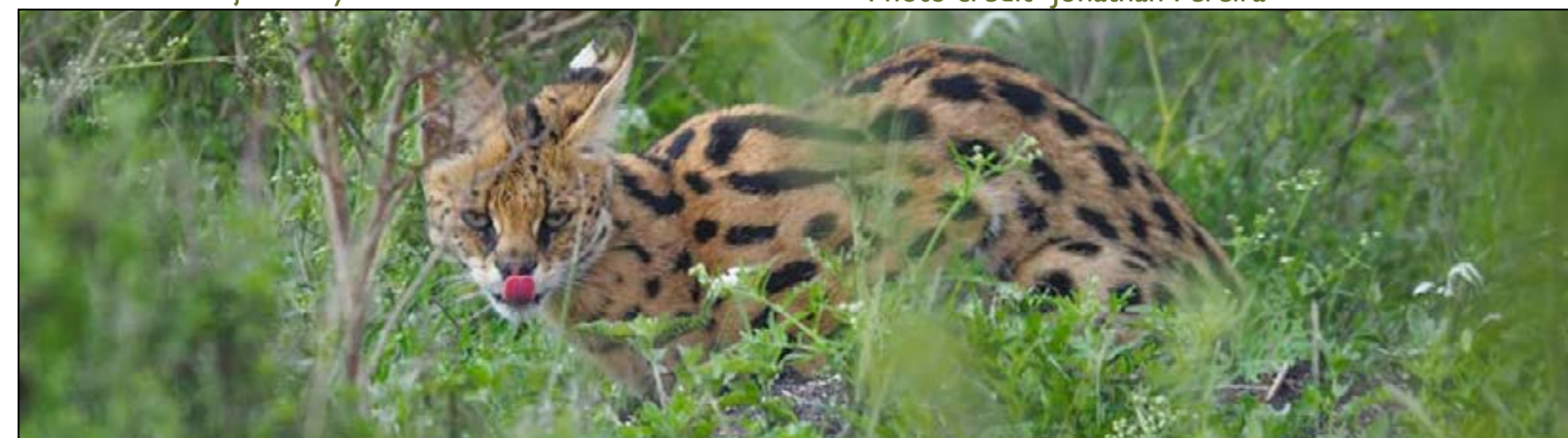


Photo credit- Veer Sikand



## 3Es EXPERIENCE: My Grade, My Trees! By Vivian Kemboi



3Es Experience believes that children, being the future, can equally contribute greatly towards environmental conservation efforts and be tomorrow's Environmental Conservation Champions. 3Es Experience has launched My Grade, My Trees with students in Kajiado East from three schools, namely, Entaratoi Primary School, Nembuya Primary School and Samuli Primary Schools.

During the launch different stakeholders including students, parents, teachers, local administration, partners and 3Es Experience staff got a chance to plant trees across the three schools. During the launch, a total of 60 trees were planted this is because of the existing dry weather conditions. The few trees were planted as a pilot to monitor how well certain trees can thrive in those weather conditions as we wait for the rainy season to approach for the purpose of mass tree planting.

It was a privilege to see students from the schools' eager to plant the trees, name them and even create a barrier to protect the trees from destruction by domestic animals. This shows that they understand how important trees are.

My Grade, My Trees! Is a programme that is aimed at encouraging the young generation to plant and nurture as many trees as their grade every year. 3Es Experience views this as an opportunity to create responsible individuals who will grow with a passion to protect natural resources by learning the importance of trees and nature.



In partnership with Climate Collage, 3Es Experience got the privilege of helping the children participate in a fun learning activity with students on Climate change. During that time some students got the chance to learn more about climate change and the diverse effects of human activities on the environment. Children expressed how sad they were with droughts, famine, floods and climate refugees, all of which are effects that climate change has had in different communities across the world.


## 3Es EXPERIENCE: My Grade, My Trees! By Vivian Kemboi

Children pledged to protect the environment not only through tree planting but also avoiding pollution and encouraging their fellow students not to litter. If children can have so much love for the environment, why not us. Let's all call each other to action when it comes to matters to do with environmental conservation. Let us all ensure that our environments are clean and green for sustainable futures!

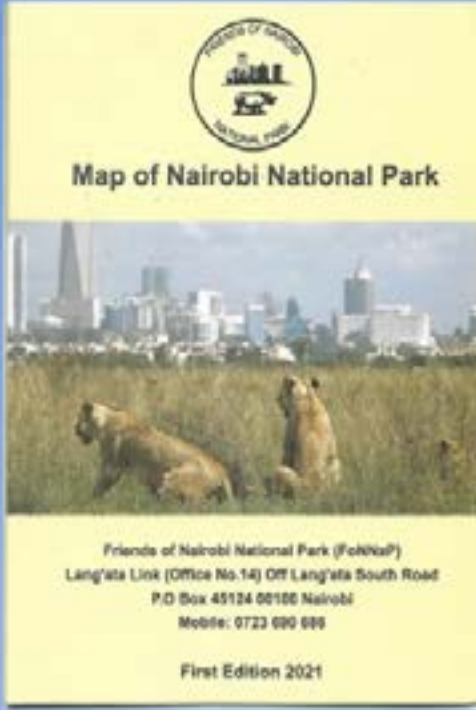
3Es Experience is also looking for like-minded institutions and partners so that it can maximize its impact on the most vulnerable and marginalised communities. Feel Free to Get in Touch!

You can always check out more on our social media pages. Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and YouTube, feel free to like, comment, subscribe and share our posts and videos.

By  
**Vivian Kemboi**  
Founder & Executive Director  
3Es Experience



## New Updated Maps of Nairobi National Park



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PHOTO CREDIT- ARIF ADMANI





My name is Fionah Njeri, a student at Africa Nazarene University taking Bachelor's education (English and literature). I grew up with a unique interest in nature and also, I have watched human beings being become victims of climate change over years. This informed my way of life and thinking. I joined the Environmental Club of Africa Nazarene University that sensitizes on conservation matters. Africa Nazarene University is located in Ongata Rongai adjacent to Tuala within the Athi Kapiti Corridor that connects Amboseli and Nairobi National Park. The university experiences wildlife movement and the club has embraced restoration activities to minimize the disturbance of both the flora and the fauna of the area. The club has shaped my environmental passion meaningfully through environmental education and conservation activities. During this year's Africa Nazarene Annual Green Week, I was crowned as Miss Environment Africa Nazarene University. Representing the school as Miss Environment has not only made me learn but also enabled me to network and share experience and opportunities on and off campus. It has given me skills and a heart for giving back to the community through conservation. Being a conservation model also enables me to connect with nature and appreciate its existence. The Nairobi National Park (NNP) is an important environmental resource that is home to a variety of wildlife. Globally, the park is the only national park to be located in a metropolis and therefore comes with numerous benefits to the local population including beautiful scenery, variety of wildlife, ecological benefits, employment creation and revenue earnings from visitors to the park. However, the park has been facing persistent challenges from rapid urbanization of Nairobi City, infrastructure development, pollution, poaching and persistent drought owing to climate change. It's about time we all work together as one in fighting the climate crisis we are facing. We can no longer afford to watch our wildlife face extinction. It is time to reimagine our human actions in a way that it favors the biodiversity. Wildlife conservation is the base of any economic, political and social issues of a country. We as conservationists understand this, but not everyone does. We need to carefully package this message and share it with everyone in the world that wildlife conservation are principles that safeguards our way of life.



Fionah joins FoNNaP Volunteers during invasive species removal at NNP

Therefore, we need to respect and protect the Nairobi National Park, since every action counts.

Joining FoNNaP enables me to be part of influencing opinions and decisions concerning activities and events which might have detrimental effects on the Park's ecosystem, its biological diversity, its density of flora and fauna and its access routes for migration.

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Following an environmental education forum held at Silole Sanctuary and hosted by Enviro Wild Initiative in collaboration with African Sustainability Network and the Millennial Environmentalists, I concluded that understanding an ecosystem is very crucial before embarking on restoring it.

Below are some of the reasons why you should be aware of as you conserve and restore an ecosystem:

**Nature of the ecosystem**

We have different ecosystems on the planet-savanna grassland, savanna woodlands or marine ecosystems-etc. You need to be conversant with the type of ecosystem you are trying to conserve. Be aware of the threats and opportunities for the ecosystem. Know the vulnerability of the ecosystem from natural or human activities. You will need to check what activities have been carried out in the ecosystem, how it was several years back, and the current state.

**The services it offers**

Ecosystems offer different services from habitats to wildlife, breeding zones, feeding areas, water catchment areas, sacred areas, buffer zones, spiritual grounds, and economic activities. It is crucial to understand this so that any restorative initiative you introduce does not compromise the service it offers but boosts.

If it is a habitat- then you need to find out what animals live within the ecosystems and establish whether your activities will affect their natural existence and reproduction or not. If it is an area with unique plant species, research the significance of the plants to the ecosystem; will your activity promote their existence? Ask yourself why those plants are unique to the particular ecosystem.



Mr. Will Knocker educating the team about invasive species

**Weather patterns**

Different weather patterns characterize every ecosystem. Thus, you have a responsibility to ascertain the weather patterns to avoid engaging in an activity that the weather experienced within the area may not support. For instance, you might not want to plant trees suitable for highland areas in an ecosystem that receives minimal rainfall. Weather is a very crucial determinant of any restorative activity.



The team removing stones to allow smooth natural regeneration

**Social and cultural activities of the communities**

An undervalued aspect in restoring an ecosystem is the socio-cultural practices of a given community living within or close to the target area. The success of a conservation initiative is primarily influenced by how people behave. For instance, planting trees within a place where the people practice free-range pastoralism may not be ideal. The livestock may uproot them as they graze or may step on them. Heavy grazing inserts a lot of pressure on the soil, making it lose and prone to soil erosion. This means the trees may not survive.

Therefore, understanding the communities will give you an idea of what additional measures to consider to realize success in your project.

**Nature and extent of degradation**

It is vital to establish the nature and extent of degradation in a given ecosystem. Every ecosystem is uniquely influenced by social, cultural, and economic activities as well as natural occurrences. The geographic location and inclination of an ecosystem also affect the magnitude of degradation and conservation approaches. With that in mind, one can quickly develop restoration measures that are applicable to the area. No one wants to invest time, money, and resources in an initiative that bears no fruit.

**Goal of restoration**

What is your fundamental objective of embarking on ecosystem restoration? Are you on a one-off or a long-term strategy? Are you working on solving a desperate situation or addressing a not so severe problem?

Do you have several options? If so, then pick the most suitable and viable option that will make a difference. After all, your main goal is to make a positive change in the environment. But it would be best if you also worked within the limits of finances, don't initiate a project, and leave it hanging. Start small projects that you can manage within the shortest time possible. Go for short-term projects in the beginning.

As we dive deep into this decade on ecosystem restoration, let's selflessly work for our planet. To the environment, to restoration!

**Caroline Kibii is An Environmental Scientist and founder Enviro Wild Initiative**  
 Email: [Kibcaroline@gmail.com](mailto:Kibcaroline@gmail.com)





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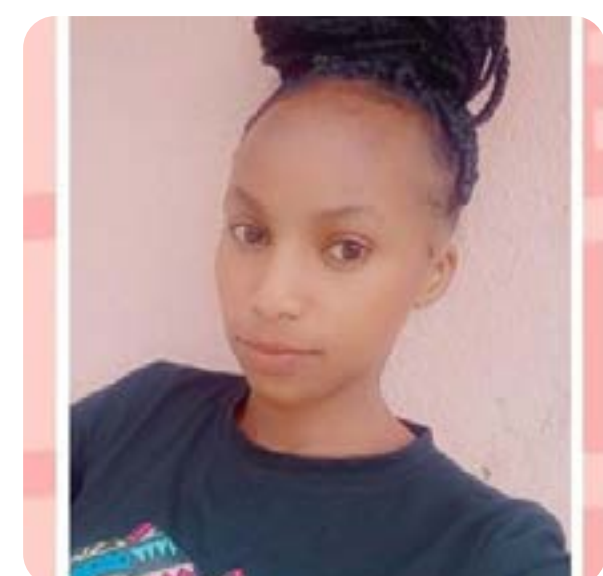
It is just over a month since I decided and enrolled being a family member of this amazing and dedicated group. Though it's been well over 8 years for me at Nairobi, being a regular, weekend visitor to the park with my family, combined with place which I call as my house having a view of this amazing gift that Nairobi has, I always felt that I should contribute in its conservation. With my wife and 4 years old son, who is very much fond of animals, getting associated with FoNNaP made it easy to convince. Conservation, wildlife and photography has been a passion that I too had from childhood which made me get involved in programs like tiger census and birds census back at home, following the posts and discussions on FoNNaP's social sites made me intruded to get involved and re-live those days. As a silent follower of the conversations from FoNNaP members in different forums of the group, I wasn't sure whether I could be someone contributing to the newsletter with my write-up, but here I am daring an attempt, of course from Felix's encouragement.

Nairobi National Park; a unique one by its presence around a growing city and national capital, I am sure it is never without a risk of events it has witnessed, whether it is infrastructural development tapping to its existence or the human-wildlife conflicts, but us, human beings take things for granted just because we can express our feelings, ambitions and are clever to find ways and means to achieve such desires and on the contrary the animals cannot. Recent situations of pandemic which brought the "economic growth" to almost a stand still situation taught us a lesson as to how nature heals when we don't meddle with her. Sighting of Mt. Kilimanjaro from Nairobi as a backdrop of the park by itself was a great and unforgettable personal experience I had. I kept imagining as to how amazing it would have been if it remained that way with the diversity park offers with the flora and fauna. Engagement with FoNNaP has not only let me get an idea of certain intricacies and challenges that the park is facing, but also has given opportunities in participating things which I wouldn't have had as an ordinary conservation enthusiast. So, I strongly feel there is a higher need in that angle of education and engagement with various youth groups and get maximum participation to own the habitat that park has blessed us. A personal opinion is, of FoNNaP having to set up of a wing within as youth club and encouraging children for regular weekend sessions to teach them and get them involved in the conservation activities. With committed members in the group, such initiatives may very well help build next generation FoNNaP members and create that awareness of conservation. Just as same as loving animals or visiting park for recreation (which also helps boost the cash flow for managing the parks) or to showcase the talent of photography / videography in capturing the moments of sighting; a much larger responsibility lies in conserving the park and its habitat. Looking at the future, a proper knowledge transfer, that which can be done regularly will help secure a stronger foundation for future. The future which can have individuals who not only are passionate of conservation but equally knowledgeable.

Vinay Subbaramaiah  
Nairobi, 13 July, 2021



My name is Fionah Njeri, i am a Student at Africa Nazarene University taking education, English & Literature and quite Passionate about wildlife and environmental conservation. Being a Conservation model, i received the honor of Miss Environment Africa Nazarene University 2021/2021 I love NNP because it comes with numerous benefits to the local population including beautiful scenery, variety of wildlife, ecological benefits, employment creation and revenue earnings from visitors to the park. Joining FONNAP as a member enables me to be part of influencing opinions and decisions concerning activities and events which might have detrimental effects on the Park's ecosystem, its biological diversity, its density of flora and fauna and its access routes for migration.



My name is Naomi Njihia, I am a FoNNaP member. NNP is in my heart, especially because it is the first park to be established in Kenya. Being passionate about wildlife protection and conservation, I admired FoNNaP's efforts. Regardless of the development and industrialization happening, am glad that there are people who believe in protection of wildlife habitat. FoNNaP are a non profit membership society that helps Kenya Wildlife Service in preserving the biodiversity of NNP and its ecosystem. I learnt about FoNNaP from Felix and from his explanation i realized they are an incredible group doing an incredible job. I was happy to join this amazing group. It is my hope that more people will join us and help in conservation efforts. I wish future generations will enjoy and realize the beauty of the park and recognize it as our heritage.

## NEW MEMBERS SECTION



My name is Jennifer Migwi, I am a final year student of Multimedia University of Kenya. I wish the world would realize how beautiful nature is. It is my love for nature that draws me to its constituents. Right from childhood, I was privileged to experience the true beauty of nature. Nothing felt more comforting than sitting beside a waterfall and just listen to the amazing rhythm of the waters as they compete down the fall. I never imagined being left out during academic trips. I saved every penny that came across to make sure that I toured my country. I happened to visit NNP and I had the first experience of a lion's roar. I was scared to death!!! FoNNaP has given me an opportunity to learn each day by interacting with people we share a common interest. I advocate for the protection of wildlife and I support efforts contributing to the balance of natural ecosystems. . Let's all visit NNP and get to see how amazing and resilient it is.



I'm Eve Mwaniki, currently a student in University of Nairobi pursuing law. I have always had an interest in nature and the animals as well. I tend to believe that nature was handed down to us as a gift from the Almighty in that case, a beautiful gift. Nature is not only aesthetically pleasing but I personally feel like it also increases dopamine levels. Being introduced to FoNNaP gives me an opportunity to actively participate in safeguarding the Nairobi National Park. The importance of the park goes far and beyond one being the fact that it is a home to wildlife and we should work together in the aim of protect it and its environs.



My name is Athiel Mading. I graduated a month ago from Hillcrest International school. I will be joining Lehigh University in a few months. I was referred to FoNNaP by a friend Ryan Nduma. I wanted to be apart of FoNNaP because Nairobi National park holds a special place in my heart. It's my happy place. It's different from the chaotic Nairobi, I am specially in love with the signs. One of the signs that I can't stop laughing at, each time I am there is 'warthogs and children have a right of way'. Everything in Nairobi National park should be protected and I am honoured to take apart of FoNNaP

### FONNAP UPCOMING EVENTS

EVENT	DATES
01/8/2021	NNP GAME COUNT
AUGUST	INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL
10/8/2021	WORLD LION DAY
22/9/2021	WORLD RHINO DAY
SEPTEMBER	INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL
4/10/2021	WORLD ANIMAL DAY
OCTOBER	INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL
16/12/2021	NNP 75 YEARS ANNIVESARY



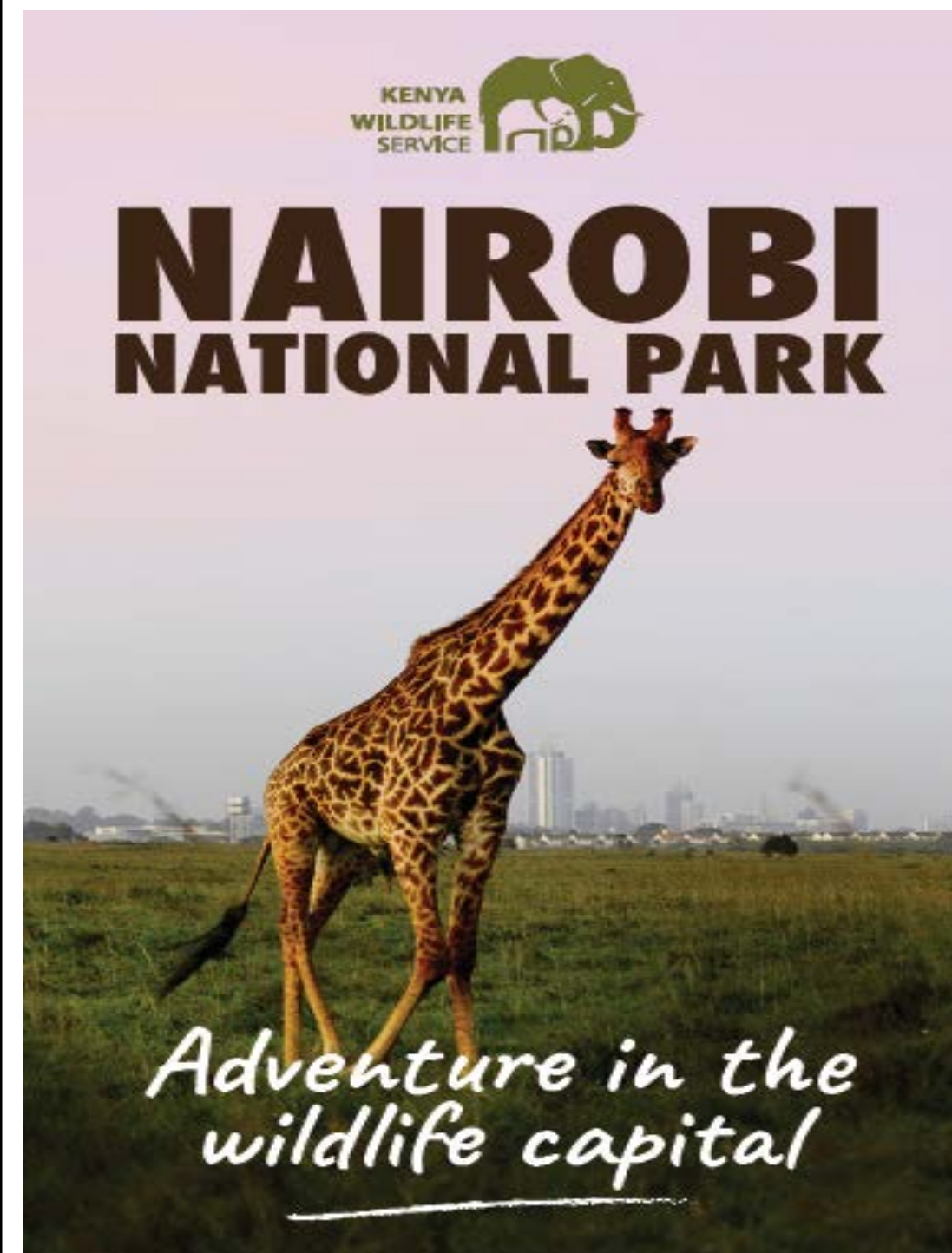


It is always an adventure going into the Park. As we were leaving a very large white rhino had settled down on the road, and was having a nap. He really didn't appreciate being disturbed and snorted his annoyance at us. We decided it might be better to take a different route and leave him to his nap.



Thank you KWS for looking out for us while we were busy pulling and forgetting that there are wild animals around.

**By Maya Melesi- 11 year old**



We went into the park to take part in the FoNNaP event to help pull out the invasive weed, parthenium hysterophorus.

I had lots of questions about parthenium and why it was so bad, so I did some research and was quite shocked at what I found. It is an invasive weed, native to Mexico, Central and South America and the Caribbean that is quickly taking over Nairobi's beautiful National Park and the animals' grazing land. It is a huge danger to the eco system. And what is even more worrying is that the seeds are dispersed so easily by wind, water, animals, vehicles and clothes and each plant has thousands of seeds, 10,000 to 25,000 per adult plants. Making it spread very quickly. It also produces allelopathic substances that deter other plants from germinating and growing near it – and hence can take over native grassland and livestock pastures, as well as the understory in woodlands. I have also read it is growing in the Mara ecosystem and the Serengeti too. We all know that without grazing land the grazers will have no food and will not come, without the grazers, there will be no predators, and of course without animals, there will be no tourists either. So indirectly this noxious weed, has devastating effects on all of us and is why it is the worlds most hated invasive species.

After researching invasives species, I found out that the best way to manage them is by preventing them. But in this case, it is already too late for that, so the best thing to do now is to stop them spreading even more, and this is why we are pulling them out. Although it is not the fastest way to get rid of them, it helps reduce their numbers, and is a long term project to restore the ecosystem. While we are pulling them out, we have to be very cautious and make sure to remove them with the roots to avoid re growth, and if possible, before they flower so that the seeds can't spread. So that is why FONNAP has Parthenium Pulling Thursdays, where volunteers and community scouts go and spend a few hours pulling out as much as possible, bag it, weigh it and then burn it. Some of it was hard to pull and couldn't be pulled out by the roots, but some was easy to pull up. Once you start, you see how much there is and it feels overwhelming. But with lots of people helping, it can be brought under control.

My brother Joshua Gitonga and I are FoNNaP members. We had a great experience during the last animal count in June at the Nairobi National Park as well as the Bird Day at the Giraffe centre nature trail in. It was exciting to see the giraffes at close range as they came out to feed in the early morning hours.



At the national park, we managed to spot them near Hyena Dam where several animals came to drink water. We took note that due to their long necks, it gave them advantage of reaching the top branches of the bush. It also enabled them to see predators from a distance. Their color helps them not to be easily visible as they blended in the bushes. We learnt that the animals come out to feed early in the morning and reduce their activity as the sun comes out.

I particularly enjoyed feeding the giraffes after the bird count exercise in May using the pellets provided at the Giraffe centre. It helped me realise all the more how much I love animals. I am looking to be engaged more in wildlife conservation initiatives as part of my activities as Little Miss Universe-Kenya 2020/21. I believe human beings and wildlife can live together in harmony and make this world a better place to live in.

**By Anita Gitonga**

**Little Miss Universe-Kenya, 2020/21**

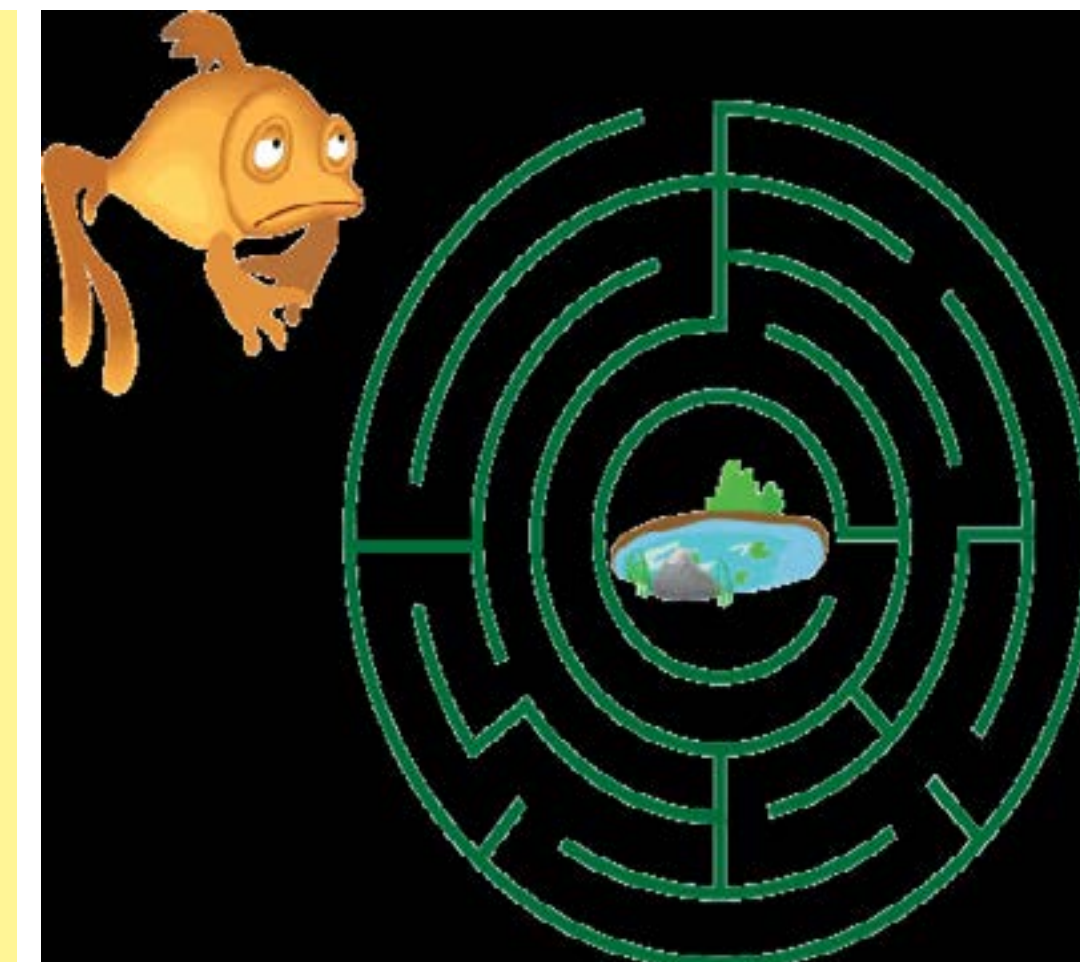
**HELLO!!!!**

*Did you know that access to clean water is paramount to all living organisms? plants, animals & humans all need water to drink, bathe and carry out more other activities.*

*The quality & well-being of human life highly depends on availability of clean water.*

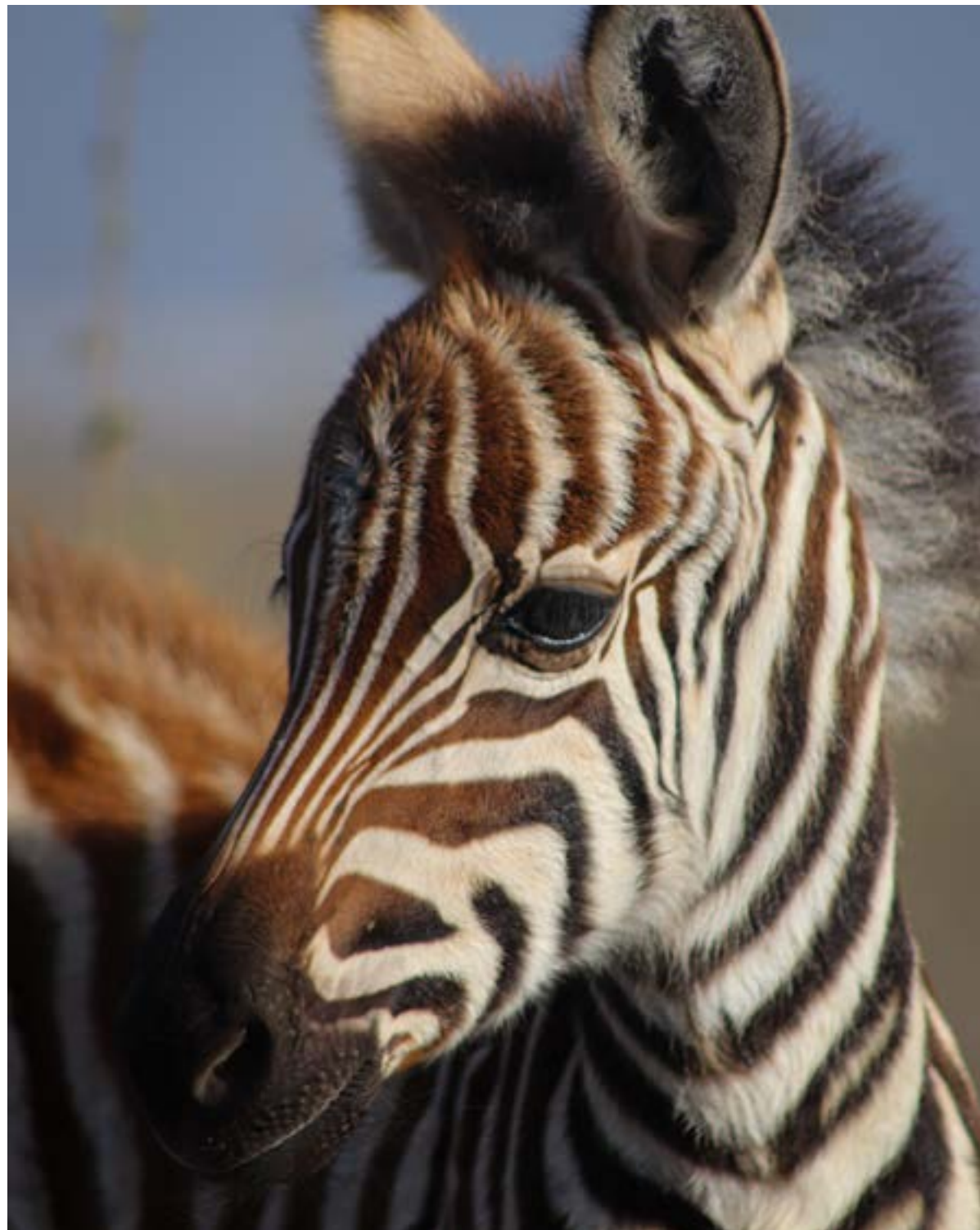
*The little fish is grateful for the clean water around him. how about you?*

*Help the Gold fish find its way through the maze & home to the pond.*





**SIGHTINGS IN JUNE  
JUNIOR SIGHTINGS**



JUNIOR SIGHTINGS PHOTO CREDIT- Malhaar Bhat

**BIRD SIGHTINGS**



Photo credit- Jonathan Pereira



Photo credit- Ebrahim Najmi



Photo credit- Hitesh photography



Photo credit- Rakesh Shah



Photo credit- Julius Ngugi

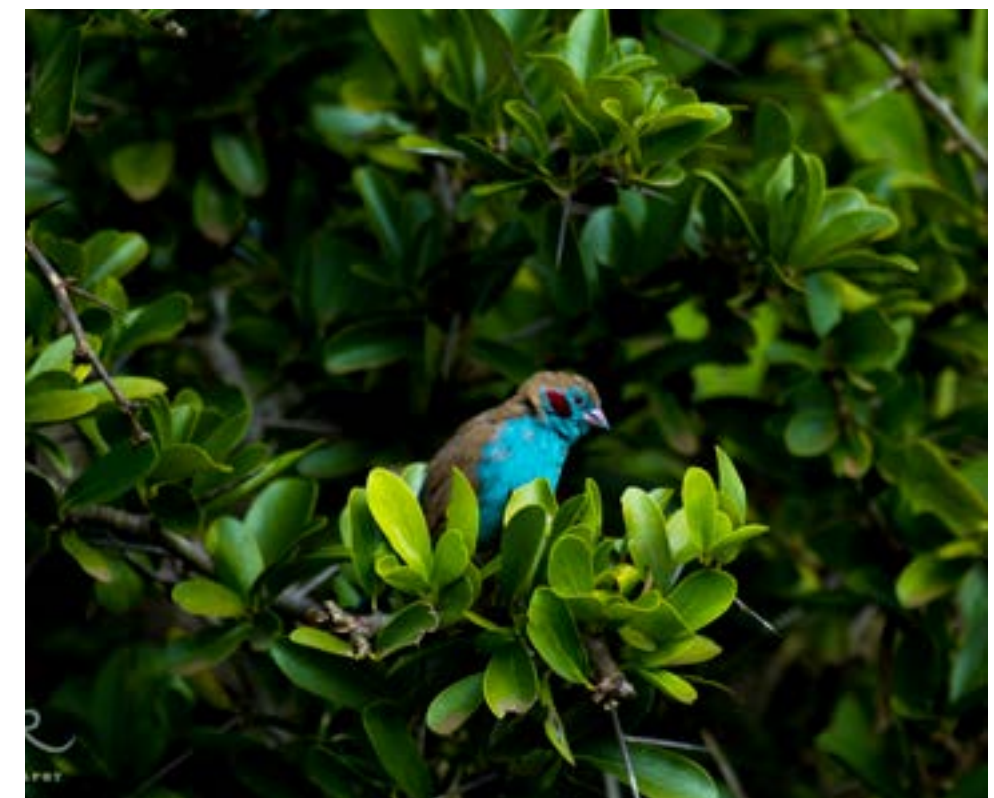


photo credit- Anil Kerai



**NNP MAMMAL SIGHTINGS**

**OTHER SIGHTINGS IN JUNE**



Photo credit- Lucas Mboya



Photo credit- Rakesh Shah



Photo credit- Hemah Shah



Photo credit- Vinay Subbaram & Ranjitha



Photo credit- Jonathan Pereira



Photo credit- The Creative Basket



Photo credit- Sameeha Rizwan



Photo credit Shazir Virji



Photo credit- Fareed Gulamhussein



Photo credit- Lucas Mboya

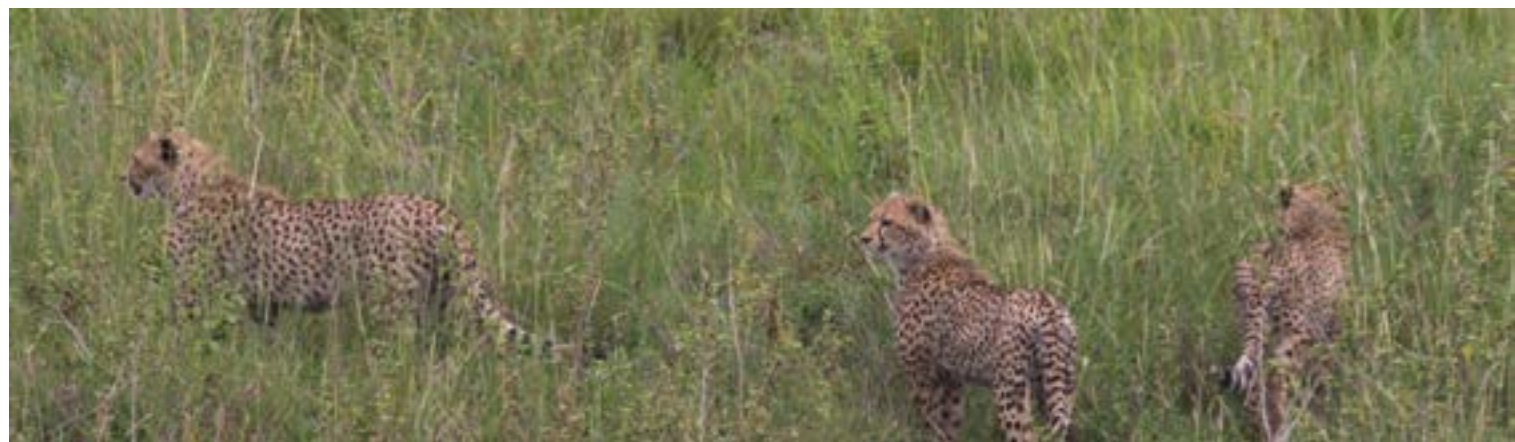


Photo credit Siddharth Patel



Photo credit- Lorraine Miranda



Photo credit Dyan Rhodes



Photo credit- Lorraine Miranda



Photo credit- Dyan Rhodes

**OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS**







FoNNaP is a non-profit membership society founded in 1995 dedicated to helping 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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