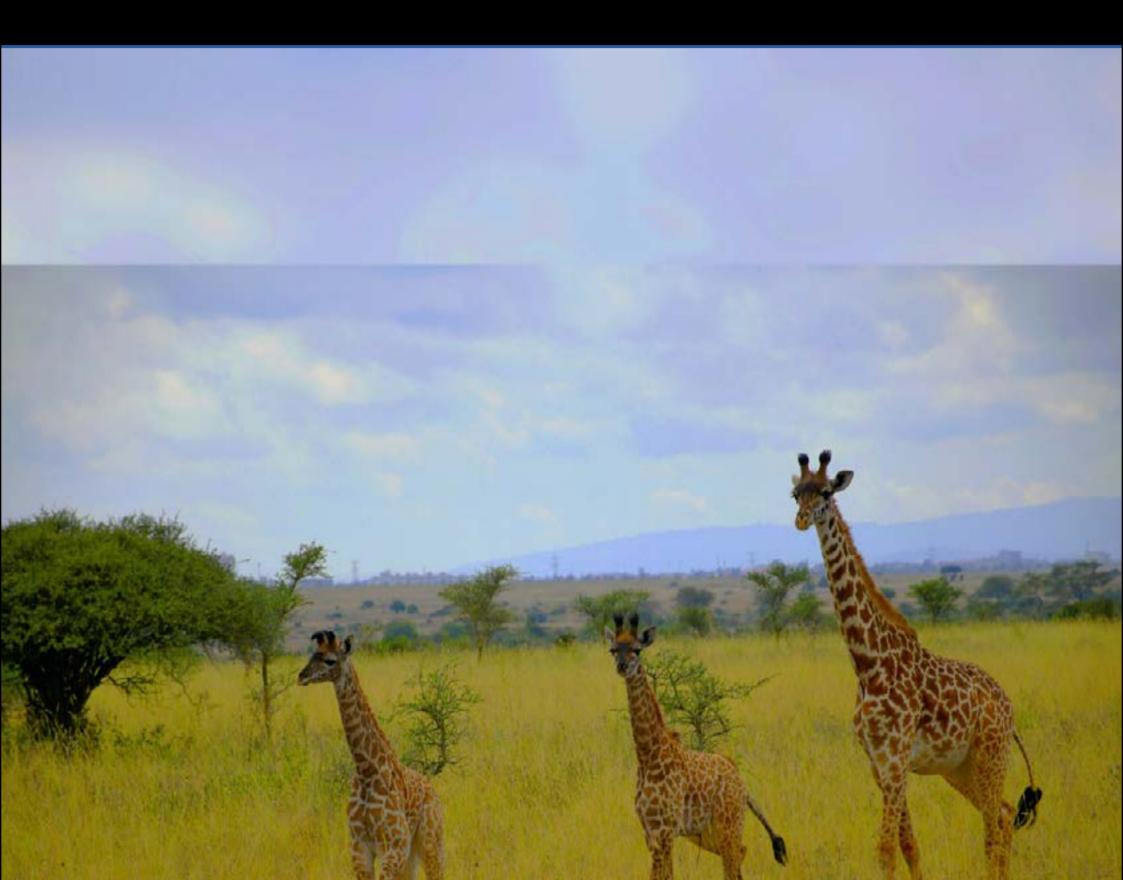
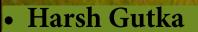


## FRIENDS OF NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK

### NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK NEWS- OCTOBER 2021





### 29TH EDITION NEWSLETTER

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - PG 3

**THE TREASURE HUNT WINNERS- PG 4 & 5** 

**TREASURE HUNT PICTORIAL REPORT PG 6** 

THE RIVER HORSES, BY GARETH JONES- PG 7, 8 & 9

SILVER OAK MAZINGIRA HUB- PG 9

UNDERSTANDING THE NNP MANAGEMENT PLAN- PG ||

THE IVORY BURNING CONCEPT- BY JOSEPH KANIARU- PG 12

NNP POETRY SECTION- PG 14 & 15

PHOTO OF THE MONTH- PG 16 & 17

FONNAP EDUCATION PROGRAMME WITH LEARNING INSTITUTIONS HILLCREST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS PG18

**NEW MEMBERS SECTION -PG 20 & 21** 

KIDS' SECTION- PG 22 & 23

NNP MAMMAL SIGHTINGS -PG 24 & 25

the second of the

**NNP BIRD SIGHTINGS - PG 26** 

Olga Levari Ercolano

**OTHER SIGHTINGS IN NNP & FoNNaP CORPORATE MEMBERS- PG 27** 

**Content, articles & photos sourced, edited and compiled by Mutwiri Felix** 



Dear Members,

The month of October was quite busy, starting with the engagement with the Hillcrest school about their membership in FoNNaP and how they can be more involved as members. On October 11th, Jim and myself were back at Hillcrest to make a presentation to the Hillcrest Scholars Society about FoNNaP and what activities we do in the park. At the end of the talk, the students were so enthusiastic about doing various activities to support the conservation of the fragile space in Nairobi National Park. We are committed to working with them and support their conservation activities in the park. It is very encouraging to see the youth not only excited but committed in their conservation efforts.

On October 3rd we had the bi-monthly game count which was well attended. This is an important activity for the research department of Kenya Wildlife Services and we look forward to members support of this important activity. The next one is scheduled for December 5th 2021. Please contact the office if you would like to participate in this game count.

The Treasure hunt held on October 17th was a huge success. We had over 75 participants in 25 cars. It was encouraging to see all the participants at the gate by 6.30 am all set and ready to enjoy the morning in the park for a fun and learning experience. The event ended with lunch and prize giving at Kingfisher Picnic site. An interesting fact was there were an equal number of members and non members who participated. Participants had such a good time that some wanted it to be a monthly event. However we will have the next one in January. Thanks to the parents who brought their children to be part of this event. To the donors of prizes, thank you very much.

I am pleased to inform members that plans are at an advanced stage for FoNNaP to take over the tree nursery site, that was previously occupied by the Greenline Project. We are waiting for the memorandum of understanding between FoNNaP and KWS to make this project a reality. We look forward to all members supporting this project which will see the planting of more indigenous trees in the park especially in the areas as outlined in the NNP Management plan (2020-2030)

We have scheduled a members meeting on December 4th 2021 from 3pm and the board looks forward to meeting members and having fruitful discussions with members.

Regards

CHAIRMAN

### **CHAIRMANS' REPORT OCTOBER 2021**

Jonathan Pereira Board Chairman FoNNaP

JONATHAN PEREIRA

#### PEEKABOO BY NEIL RIBEIRO- POSITION ONE

It's not common for someone to wake up before sunrise to play hide and seek, that too with flora and fauna. On Sunday 17th October, 75 participants made their way to Nairobi National Park to do just that. The regulars knew to drive straight to directional point to get a picture of hippos, or to Hyena dam to spot a crocodile. The regulars also knew that they could find a leopard in the forest, but few ventured there, on this day, the leopards were determined to not be found. Likewise all of the snakes opted to not come out and play. Many of us learnt that the Lion's ear is a plant, not a hearing device for the king of the jungle or that the orange caterpillar will never become a butterfly.

All roads eventually led to the Kingfisher picnic area where participants were quizzed and got to improve their knowledge about the park and FONNAP. This was followed by a delicious curry dinner prepared by Chefs Daljeet & Jonathan.

The spectacular prizes included hotel stays at Wajee Mara and The Wildlife Foundation in Narutenoi conservancy, a beautiful wildlife painting and hampers. Several participants stayed on until the rain chased them into their cars and out of the gate at 5 p.m.

If you missed out on all this fun, don't despair, the committee is already organizing the next one to be held in early 2022, which they have said will be more fun and more interesting.

Neil Ribeiro +254 736 54 0000 Skype: NeilRibeiro

#### **POSITION TWO**

Hello! My name is Mukiri.

I took part in my first FONNAP treasure hunt on the 17th of October.

The event started at 6:30 in the morning and over the course of the next few hours, the other participants and us tried to find as many species on the list as possible. We had to take photos of the animals we found on the day, to show the judges that we had actually seen them that morning. This was not always as easy as you might think as, while driving around the forest in the morning, I saw a suni walking about in the bushes, but as I tried to get a photo of it, it scampered off into the undergrowth. At the end of the treasure hunt we received points for how rare the sighting was considered to be. At around lunch time, all the participants met at Kingfisher picnic site where the judges checked our photos and asked us questions for additional points.

The participants also had lunch and socialised with others there.

For me, visiting the park in the morning is always great fun as it reveals to you animals that you would hardly see as easily during the day, as well as just giving you a refreshing feeling and setting you up for a wonderful day. On the day of the treasure hunt, the highlights for me were two sub-adult jackals at their den trying to find a way to hunt some infant warthogs.

However, the mother warthog was there looking after her babies and made sure the jackals would have to find another way to get their meal. Another highlight for me was finding a marshal eagle up in a tree, just going about its business. I've been visiting NNP for thirteen years now and over that time I have had some truly remarkable experiences with its inhabitants. It is a wonderful place to spend a day at the weekend, even if it's just driving down to Athi Basin dam and sitting and watching animals coming and going.

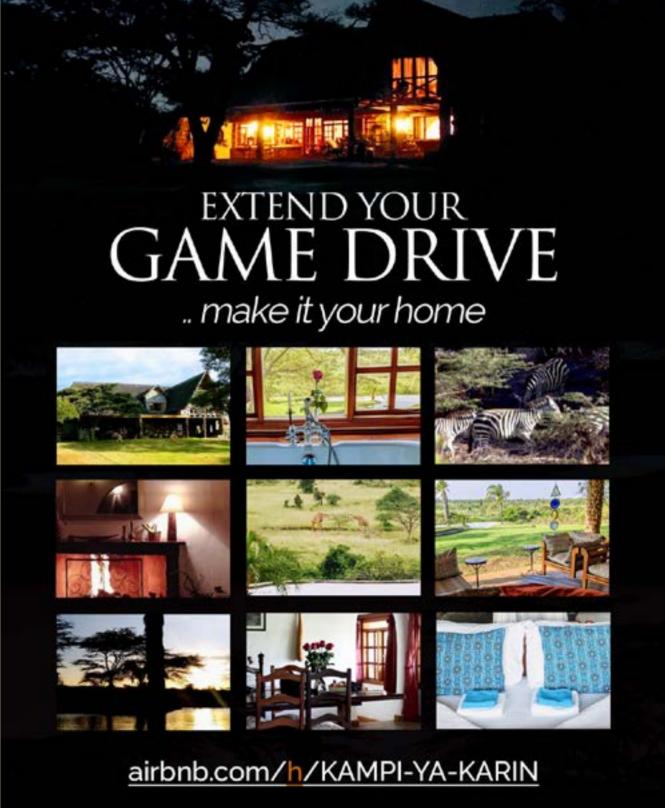
Over that time I have seen big changes to NNP, most notably, the construction of the SGR that now cuts right through the park on its way across the country. I have also seen the effects of plastic waste. I hope that in the next few years we are able to try and eradicate plastic from the park, as this is becoming an ever increasing issue that the park is having to battle with, and you may have noticed some of the animals are starting to get growths and tumors from the pollution that they are having to face.

FONNAP.



Photo credit- Mukiri

We might be able to help this situation by doing some kind of single-use plastic check on entry and increasing the amount of baboon proof bins around the park! I also hope that NNP will remain a place where animals can freely move in and out of the park into areas like Athi-kapiti and Narentunoi conservancy and continue to be supported by organizations like



YOUR VACATION RENTAL OVERLOOKING NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK **FoNNaP Treasure Hunt Pictorial report Photos Credit- Manvir Kalsi** 











6

I thought for a moment on how ironic it was that the hippo appeared to be "smiling" as a "hippo on the go", while in fact it is a very dangerous animal. A humorous thought came to my mind, "when considering that hippos are so very large and fat and all they feed on is vegetation, then Hippos are living proof that salads are fattening "Ha ha Ha". The word Hippopotamus comes from the Greek and it means River (potamos) Horse (hippos). In some languages, the name has been translated to "river horse". In ancient times the hippopotamus was known to the Greeks and Romans as the "Beast of the Nile".

#### **THE RIVER HORSE!!! By Gareth Jones**



The Hippo look- Photo credit- Gareth Jones

Some years ago, it was getting late on a cloudy day and almost becoming evening, and being tired after a long day, I rode slowly but purposefully through the park, not really putting extra effort into looking. Then suddenly a huge shape appeared from behind a bush on my right, it was a hippo feasting on the lush green grass that had grown after the recent rains.

Clearly the Hippo was not amused that "dinner" had been interrupted, and made short hippo grunts while running in half circles and then turning towards me, as if to say "come on, move away and leave me in peace!" Well, I did listen to the hippo's "body language "message, and left the massive beast to feast into the night.

On another occasion early one morning as I drove though the Langata forest, on a chilly dull overcast day. Suddenly a huge shape appeared in an open area on my left, it was a hippo lying down resting, no doubt after a night of feasting on the lush green forest grasses due to the recent good rains. The hippo lay still for a few minutes, but then stood up as another vehicle passed next to me, looking at me with an almost smiley bemused expression, the huge hulk of a hippo slowly turned and retreated into thicker bush. Wow! what a great and unusual sighting to see such a "surprise guest" in the forest.



The Hippo Show- Photo credit- Gareth Jones

The Hippo needs to resurface every 3 – 5 minutes to breathe. The process of surfacing and breathing is automatic, and even when sleeping underwater a hippo will emerge and breathe without waking. Hippo bulls can weigh well over 1,500 kg, they are the third biggest animal in Africa behind the elephant and rhino, and can run on land at speeds of up to 30 km per hour. Combine this with their aggressive nature, agility in and out of the water, and sharp, close to 500mm long teeth in enormous jaws and you can understand why hippos can make for such a fearsome creature to encounter.

#### **THE RIVER HORSE!!! By Gareth Jones**

Friday 18th June 2010 was an interesting day; 3 lions had been eating on a buffalo carcass at the water's edge of the Eland Valley dam.When I arrived at the dam, the lions were sitting quietly on top of a mound, and the hippos were deep in the water, with the buffalo carcass visible on the opposite bank of the dam. I sat and watched them for some time, eventually the Hippo's began to move towards the buffalo carcass. The hippos came out of the water and stood over the carcass, from a d istance it was difficult to see exactly what they were doing, but they appeared to be licking/muzzling the carcass on quite a few occasions. I then moved closer to the buffalo carcass by taking the back track past the dam wall, as I stopped the hippo retreated into the water, so I sat quietly and waited. After some time, the lions began to move towards the Buffalo carcass (a lioness with 2 sub-adult cubs), they each ate briefly on the carcass, and I could see they were all very full from the feasting. Then the hippos began to advance while the lions were at the buffalo carcass, they boldly came out of the water, and the lions immediately timidly retreated. The Hippo's then repeated the cycle of licking & muzzling the buffalo carcass.





The Hippo Kiss- Photo credit- Gareth Jones

Happy Hippo - Photo credit- Gareth Jones

It was again difficult to see from where I was parked, because the carcass was on the water's edge and partly hidden by the bank, but I observed the hippo's tongues licking the carcass. A truly fascinating event to witness, however this did get me thinking. Firstly, how did the buffalo die on the edge of the dam? Was it alone at the time? Was it weakened so that a single lioness with 2 half-grown cubs could kill it? Did it die of another cause at the water's edge? It's hard to tell, then also the actions of the Hippo's were really amazing and very rare to observe. Perhaps they were trying the get mineral nutrients like body salts etc. from the buffalo carcass? Hippos are not known to eat meat. What is also particularly amazing is that location of this natural event in the Nairobi National Park, was at the Eland Valley Dam is less that 1 km from the park boundary, next to the Nairobi megacity.

Nairobi National Park has hippo in various dams and in the Mbagathi River. If people sometimes sit quietly at a dam where hippo are present, they often start to perform as they cavort in the water. Sometimes small babies can also be seen. Even though hippos can look somewhat comical at times with green vegetation material on their heads, and we sing funny songs like "Mud mud glorious mud, nothing quite like it for cooling the blood ", in reality Hippo's have a nasty reputation in Africa. This is mostly because of their aggressive nature when they are out of the water feeding, while people are collecting water in the early morning or late afternoons. The situation has become particularly tense in some parts of Africa where human populations have increased and water resources have decreased. With so many dangerous animals in Africa, many people often overlook the fact that hippopotamus as a species are actually the biggest killers of humans out of all the large African animals. Although hippos are herbivores, these highly territorial animals are estimated to kill well over 500 people each year in Africa. Hippos' bulls fiercely defend their territories, which include the banks of rivers and lakes, while females' hippos can get extremely aggressive if they sense anything getting in between them and their babies, who stay in the water while they feed on the shore. The 'yawning' that Hippos often display is actually meant to be a threat.

Sometimes you will see a reddish tint from the skin of the Hippo. This is the body's way of producing a type of natural sunscreen for protection from the heat. When it is coming off the body it is often mistaken for blood or for sweat but it isn't either of them. Neither blood nor sweat, this secretion is a natural sunscreen that protects the hippo's naked skin from the harsh African sun. Blood sweat is made up of two secretions: one red (hipposudoric acid) and one orange (norhipposudoric acid). The secretions serve two purposes, these highly acidic compounds inhibit bacteria (reducing disease) and absorb ultraviolet light (helping prevent sunburn and sun damage).

The average lifespan of a hippopotamus is between 40 and 50 years. Hippos are social and usually hang out together in groups of 10 to 30 individuals, but some groups may include up to 200 members. No matter how small or large a group, all hippo herds are led by a single, dominant bull. Many of these herds contain females, but bachelor hippos are allowed inside the community as long as they know to respect the bull hippo and not flirt with any of the females. Would you believe a hippopotamus cannot swim? You would think that an animal that spends a majority of its time in the water could swim, but hippos cannot. However, they can move underwater at a speed of 15 mph (8 km/h). So, you won't be able to outswim them!

At Silver Oak Mazingira Hub we recognize that trees are a symbol of life and as we move towards a post-COVID-19 world, tree planting is likely to be part of the projects that will help the world recover. This is also in line with the National Strategy for achieving and maintaining over 10% tree cover by 2022.

Please feel free to contact us at your convenience. You may reach us at; Email: silveroakmazingirahub@gmail.com Tel: +254 746 268 854 +254 768 560 334

A visit to the Hippo pools in the park is a worthwhile and rewarding experience, there is much to see there including birds, monkeys and other species, but please do not venture alone, hippos are dangerous creatures, armed rangers will escort you. Yes indeed! the hippo is another amazing creation, indeed the 'river horse' has a fearsome reputation throughout Africa. The Park is open daily from 06h00 to 19h00.



Under FoNNaP invitation we joined the NNP 75th anniversary tree planting initiative whereby we aim to restore lost portions of the Greenline and enhance plant biodiversity within the remaining sections to provide a thicker barrier between the road and the Park.Wherever trees are established, wildlife and other plants are sure to follow, ensuring a healthier ecosystem. In addition, trees provide shelter and food for a variety of birds and small animals.

The tree planting has enhanced the organisation's sense of pride, and ownership. Active involvement in the tree planting program has led to a stronger sense of community and the promotion of environmental responsibility and ethics among the members.The program has also projected a visible sign of change and has provided the impetus for other community renewal and action programs.

#### FONNAPYOUTHS MEMBERS ANIMAL CENSUS PARTICIPATION **By Mutwiri Felix**



The Bimonthly FoNNaP organized NNP game count is normally an experience filled with learning and fun. Treat this as a normal game drive while focusing on one particular block counting the animals within.

It is normally a scientific event that requires extreme concentration to avoid undercounts or repeated identification of the same animal.

You will be surprised by the greater biodiversity harbored by NNP and appreciate the efforts by individuals and organizations investing their time and resources for its protection.

During such occasions we are granted free park entry to give everyone an opportunity to participate.

From an institutional view, FoNNaP supports the animal census to encourage Kenyans to come out in big numbers in learning and appreciating life beyond the borders of the city. The Park is a tranquil space of fresh breath and beautiful sceneries to create long lasting memories. I normally appreciate the art of photography during the game counts because it gives me the opportunity to take photos of wildlife in their own natural ecosystems.

The activity kicks off at 6.00 am, participants pick their datasheets and carefully drive to the park with huge expectations, you will be surprised how amazing game viewing can be in these early hours.

FoNNaP youth members finds it thrilling, it motivates me to realize that it is the first time visit to NNP for most of these young souls. We are proud of the new recruits in the conservation of NNP. Significance of the animal census





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The Tourism Development and Management Programme aims "to develop a distinctive and diverse nature-based tourism that offers visitors memorable experiences". To achieve this aim, the programme sets out an ambitious strategy for enhancing visitor experience and thereby increasing visitation, as well as tourism revenues. The strategy focuses on providing new and innovative opportunities for private sector investment in the park, as well as activities that enhance visitor experience and satisfaction. The programme's objectives focus on developing tourism investment opportunities; improving tourism product to enhance visitor experience; marketing NNP locally and internationally; and improving tourism management.

- 3. Develop a Visitor Service Centre;
- 4. Develop the lvory burning memorial interpretive site-Elephant graveyard;
- 5. Improve Simba View Point (The Former Impala Observation Point);
- 6. Upgrade and rehabilitate facilities at Mokoyiet picnic site and viewing point; Hippo
- Pools Picnic Site, nature trail and Cultural Centre; Kingfisher picnic site; and park entry gates;
- 7. Modernise marketing methods;

the NNP. community; plan;

#### Understanding the NNP Mnagemnet plan (NNP mgt plan extract) **Tourism Development and Management Programme & the Community Partnership and**

The priority management actions that will be implemented under this programme include:

- I. Upgrade the existing temporary camp into a permanent low impact tented camp;
- 2. Renovate the KWS Club House to a proper restaurant;

8. Nominate NNP to join the International Network of Sustainable Tourism Observatories (INSTO).

#### **Community Partnership and Conservation Education Programme**

The Community Partnership and Conservation Education Programme aims "to enhance the support and participation of NNP adjacent communities in wildlife conservation". Key in achieving this aim is ensuring that NNP management and adjacent communities are able to effectively communicate and collaborate with each other. This will be achieved through implementation of the management objectives that focus on: strengthening conservation education and awarenessprogramme; promoting conservation-compatible community land uses and practises; reducing human-wildlife conflict; and improving opportunities for communities to benefit from

#### The key priority actions that will be implemented to achieve the programme's aims are:

. Establish sponsored protected area tours for the local

2.Support establishment of community wildlife conservancies:

3. Support development of a Conservancy Livestock grazing

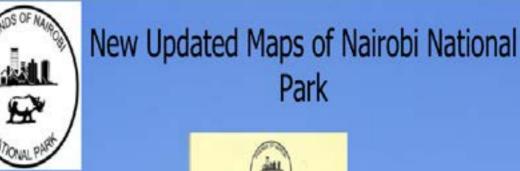
4. Train community scouts in relevant skills;

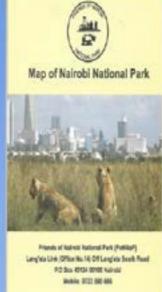
5. Support wildlife related community enterprise projects; 6. Support formation of Water Resource Users Associations for management of the section of Mbagathi River in NNP; 7. Work with the County Governments of Kajiado and Machakos in maintaining wildlife

dispersal areas;

8. Construct and maintain a wildlife fence to protect people and their property;

9. Create awareness on the wildlife compensation process among the local community.





First Edition 202

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#### **Ivory Burning**

The number of elephants in Kenya was on a downward trajectory throughout the 1980s and late 1970s. This trend happened in Africa where elephant numbers had dropped by fifty percent in this period. Demand was rising in the Asian region. African countries felt a need to respond which they did in a variety of ways. Among them were selling the ivory to facilitate the protection of other elephants, or immortalizing the elephants by making an ivory tower in one of the conservation areas.

lvory burning is a technique used to pass a message to poachers, animal rights crusaders and all people in the world. Due to the fact that ivory does not burn easily, the fire is fueled using a petrochemical e.g., kerosene that incinerates it for an extended amount of time leading to its disintegration.

In discussing the effectiveness of this technique during the Moi era, it is imperative to note the shock and awe effect. There was need to show the dissatisfaction of Kenya with efforts towards curbing this vice. The public spectacle was to be achieved by first publicizing the event and its perceived significance. Richard Leakey was very clear that the message the country intended to pass was that ivory belonged to elephants and any ivory plucked out of an elephant by a poacher was a gross violation of animal rights. The ivory was heaped into a big tower. President Moi was handed a flaming torch by Richard Leakey and lit the ivory. For the next week the world was treated to ivory burning, the effect was a crash of ivory prices all over the world. The fallen prices did not motivate poachers to invest in poaching. This led to a rebound in the numbers of elephants throughout the 1990s. However, with the rise of Chinese demand for ivory due to the economic boom that occurred in the East with migration of companies' production capacity to the place, the problem of poaching of African elephants leered its head again.

The tackling of poaching through burning of ivory has not been as successful as it was expected to

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#### **NNP POETRY**



By Emmanuel Kibet

Let's all give it a thought,

The fascinating southern scenery,

Making the rowdy city look like an haven.

Concealing the unfriendly streets .

The major source of the almost timely rains bounding our capital.

The ultimate destination to our foreign friends

A home to our precious wild lifes

Calling it jungle is an insult

I would rather sit under those lovely shades .

Below that towering giraffe

Graceful devouring those ever green vegetation

And definitely drowning in the lovely vocals of those ever happy birds

This park is our home,

Our goldmine and our pride.

Nairobi city is a fairy land

But the park makes it Shangri la.

Keep the park safe !

Keep Nairobi dreamy



By Tamara Juma

With age has come beauty,

Seventy-five years of serenity, Nairobi National Park a prodigy, A jewel to behold in its entirety. Making people all around aware, For the animal's welfare, Creating an environment full of care, Where our wild can be healthier. A task not so easy, Patrolling and keeping busy, The staff have been diligent, A trait so eminent. Ve celebrate you today, A moment worth the praise, Nairobi National Park, a glass we raise, Seventy-five and still on the rise



By Denis Njoroge

Animals our concern

We got the best view

Quite refreshing habitats

With the ordeal greatness

We pursue the best in the ozone

For the endangered we offer a home

Because animals are family.

Our friends be the species

For in you we found solace

Great and super within us

The big five nature we roam

Not even the little species

We offer habitats too.

Environment be our concern

Survival of the fittest be our motto

Fine we deserve day and day

Taking care of God's creation



#### By Nimrod Fadhili

#### IF EARTH COULD SPEAK

If earth could speak She would warn ungrateful beings Of their thirst to procreate For "mother nature" will die, So will "father nature".

If earth was to speak, She would first puke Of the odour from phlegmy streams Blurry intoxicated air Fertile soil rendered sterile By humans whom she feeds and carries.

If earth was to speak, She would beat her own chest As the capa dei capi of planets. Her words would strip all traitors, Mascots baptised as her activists For no deed chaperons their actions.

If earth was to speak She would first sue the galaxies, Of sabotage and back stabbing And the sun for its covert invasion Melting away her beauty. And polar bears would testify.

What if she is speaking? Through volcanic eruptions Eerie avalanches, tsunamis Unforeseen earthquakes, Diabolic blizzards and typhoons. What if she's speaking but, No linguist comprehends her tongue!

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#### **FoNNaP Education Programme with Learning Institutions** Hillcrest International Schools **By Mutwiri Felix**

The FoNNaP schools' conservation education program kicked off with active engagement of Hillcrest students and staff. The main aim of this program is to reach out to learning institutions neighboring NNP and integrate them in the management and decision-making regarding the needs and the future of the park.

This is an activity under the community engagement and advocacy committee and we look forward to spreading knowledge about NNP in the mind and hearts of more youths.

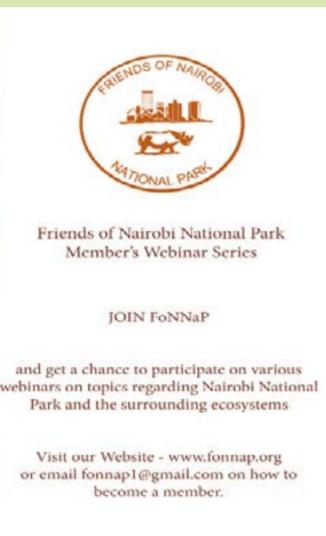


FoNNaP CHAIR & VICE CHAIR DURING AN EDUCATION PROGRAMME AT HILLCREST INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS

#### **IMPORTANCE OF WILDLIFE EDUCATION**

- Imagination and enthusiasm are heightened. Sparks the imagination and unlocks creativity. When educated about the relevance of wildlife youth are more enthusiastic and engaged in conservation and protection of wildlife.
- Change attitude towards nature and help people to imagine wildlife and humans existing in harmony with each other/ peaceful co-existence.
- Youth are empowered. Through wildlife education the youth are able to come up with ideas, opinions and share them with relevant bodies which brings about active engagement in the conservation of wildlife.
- Wildlife education captures interest and attention of the young leaving a lasting impression and the urge to continue with protection and conservation of natural resources and be more active in doing so.
- Knowledge is equally gained by the society of the aesthetic value, ecological value, economic value of wildlife hence broader understanding and exposure required to conserve wildlife even better.
- Through wildlife conservation the youth are instilled with respect, admiration and appreciation of nature surrounding them and how use its resources for future generations to be able also to enjoy the same wildlife we are experiencing and exploring.
- Critical and creative thinking skills are enhanced. Through wildlife education programmes youths are challenged to research, investigate how and why things happen, and make their own observations. By developing and enhancing critical and creative thinking skills, helps come up with unique ways to handle wildlife conservation.





We are truly humbled and thrilled to be friends of Friends of Nairobi National Park !

#### **New CORPORATE MEMBERS** Hillcrest International Schools



At Hillcrest Secondary School, all the gifted and talented students belong to The Scholars Society. This society aims to provide a platform to expose and inspire students to step out of their comfort zones and to think about how they can impact their communities. Over the years, we have engaged in many successful projects. This year, however, I can safely say that our cooperation with FoNNAP has greatly enthused students and all the scholars now feel that they want to be part of the formidable team that unites to conserve our heritage; The Nairobi National Park. Much gratitude must go to our ex-student Ryan Napo who introduced us to FoNNAP and to the wondrous possibilities in our association.

After chatting with Felix and paying the very reasonable subscription fee, we launched our journey with a lunchtime chat. All scholars gathered in the school hall to listen to Jonathan Pereirra and Jim Kinyany. Despite satiated tummies heavy after their lunch, students were all ears and agog at the inspirational talk conducted by the two gentlemen. The passion and commitment displayed by the two gentlemen, as they expertly talked to the students about the animals, the wardens, the projects they had embarked upon and all their brave undying efforts to conserve the NNP, was clearly evident. In the debrief the scholars were unanimous in their decision; they wanted to be Friends of Nairobi National Park. Felix organised a game drive during which we were most fortunate to see lions and a rhino, amongst other animals. We had a most informative talk at the lvory burning site and again, despite the hot sun and growling tummies, students asked questions and engaged avidly with the guides. There was a hot debate about whether or not the ivory should have been burnt; however, eventually, we all understood the rationale; ivory was useless anywhere else except where it belonged; on the elephant.

Jonathan and Jim came back to Hillcrest in the following week, with brilliant ideas of how to inspire, encourage and empower our scholars who by now were sold on conservation.We discussed the next two projects which were Park Clean-Up and the Removal of Invasive species. Meticulous preparation went into the exercise and finally, on the material day, we had 25 inspired, passionate and energetic students all armed with gloves, bags and their water bottles (no snacks, just in case we inadvertently littered the park!). For three straight hours, students worked on what seemed like a small patch of the park, clearing the clogged up water way and cleaning the park of deeply embedded rubbish. It was amazing to witness how prepared Jonathan was; the trunk of his car looked like a hardware store, replete with shovels, string and rakes! Bags upon bags of rubbish in form of plastic bottles, masks, sanitary towels and alcohol bottles were filled and all this done amidst falling in mucky puddles and pushing through scrub and hedges to get to stubborn debris. Even when it was time to leave, students did not feel that they could unless they had dislodged that stubborn upside down plastic bottle stuck in months of dried up mud or that little piece of fabric peeking out from the ground; but leave we had to. If only we teachers could see that level of engagement and passion in the classroom! The bus was packed, not only with about 10 finely sorted trash bags weighing almost 500 kilos (according to Jonathan!) but also over 25 smelly, muddied but strangely content students. We neatly disposed of the trash at the park gate and called it a day...but we were sold. The Nairobi National Park was now an inextricable part of Hillcrest.

Two things were born that Saturday morning; one, our commitment to raising funds to purchase one lion collar (costing Kshs 250,000) and two, a new relationship with T3 (Trash, Thread, Textiles) a recycling company that would buy the plastic trash we collected. This was the brain child of Jonathan. Again, Jonathan and Jim came back, bringing along Lorraine of T3, to chat with students about this new project. Suffice it to say that our students are inspired and active. So far, 4 huge trash bags are currently stationed at vantage points around the school ready to receive trash from students, parents and relatives from home and around the school.This will be one way to raise funds for our pledged Lion collar. Next term, we look forward to more park clean-ups and more activities as well as events to raise funds for our pledge.

#### **NEW MEMBERS SECTION**



#### Hello

My name is Sophia Kinya Kaberia, am proud to be a friend of Nairobi National park and very passionate, and ready to protect and preserve nature and ensure that the next generation knows and appreciate nature as the backbone of human existence and that todays generation change their mindset to always be there for mother nature as it's always there to provide for us. I am a graduand of Maasai mara University pursuing a course in education with special needs.



- James kariuki kiiru
- I am a wildlife lover. I love everything about nature and my aim is to ensure I keep it safe for future generations to come. I am a member of wildlife club at Multimedia University of kenya. I have always been actively participating in every wildlife club in my life, from childhood.
- Nairobi national Park is the best park in the world located in the city therefore making it easy and convenient to visit. I think everyone has a part to share in conservation since God put us in charge.



#### RONNY ODHIAMBO **KENYATTA UNIVERSITY** 2nd year.

I am studying environmental studies at Kenyatta University and FoNNaP will help me with the practical part of nature conservation.

FoNNaP will also help me build networks with the people in my field of study



With its 117 square kilometers of Savanna Forest & wetlands bordering Kenya's capital, Nairobi National Park harbors an abundance of wildlife as well as many species close to extinction.

While the park represents an invaluable environmental and economic asset to the city it has always also been a global renown landmark for Kenya's exemplary commitment to its unique wildlife heritage.

Friends of Nairobi National Park are a non-profit membership society founded in 1995. We are in the forefront of supporting the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in protecting Nairobi National Park & its biodiversity from the growing pressure of Kenya's swiftly expanding city.

#### **JOINING FONNAP IS EASY**

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#### ERSHIP BENEFITS

**Newsletter Subscription** 

- ss to online member resources including INP BIODIVERSITY DRIVE & project
- attendance to our conservation talks
- ation to participate in our field visits, clean-ups, Game counts & many other
- orate member Certificates, participation ficates to Student members for cipating in field science events
- entry to participate in field scientific ts; game counts, invasive spp removal
- nteer and intern opportunities
- gement in community & neighborhood
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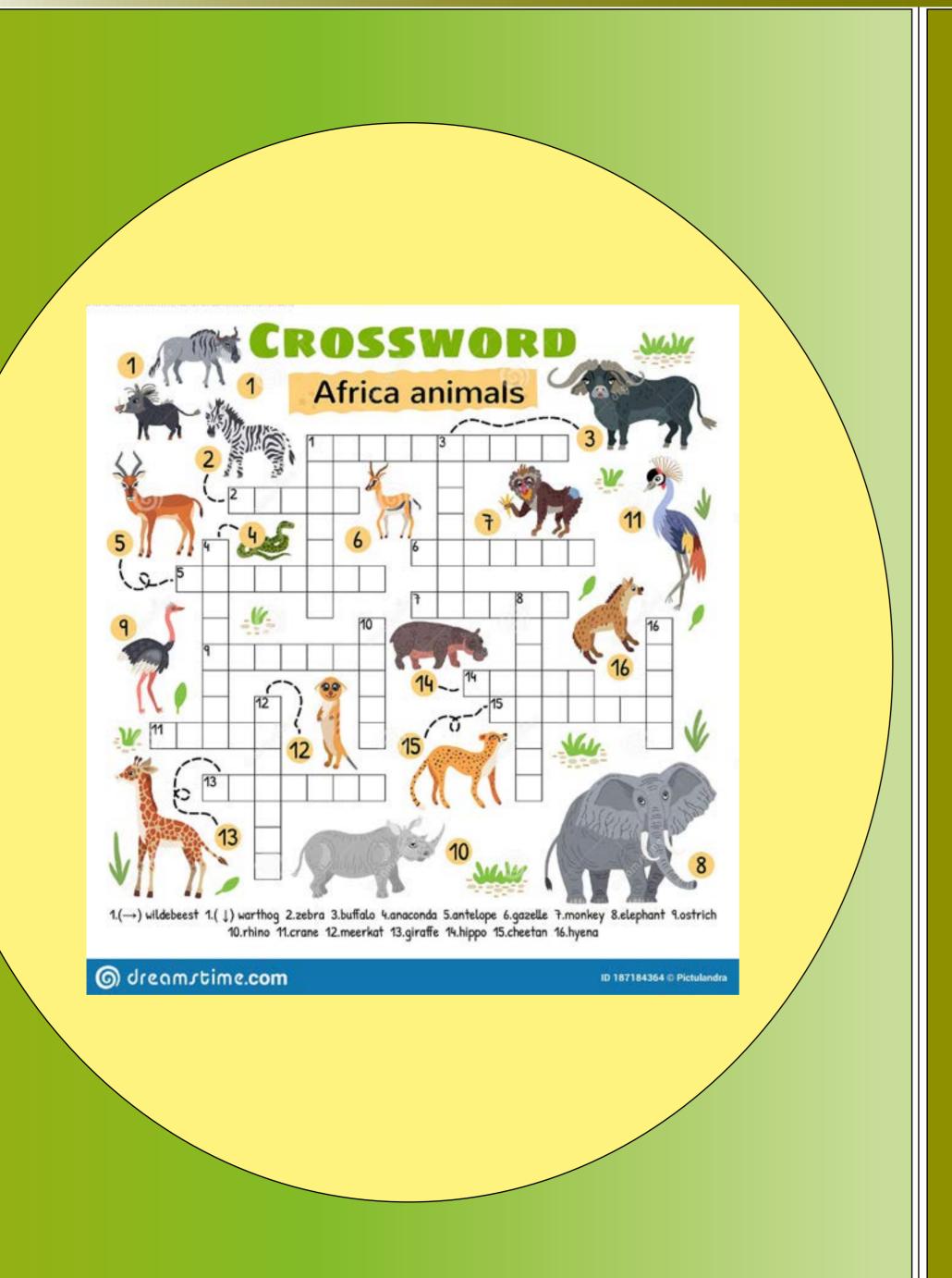
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FONNAP ADMIN-KE

### Fonnap UPCOMING EVENTS

VENT	DATES
OVEMBER 2021	
ch November	MEMBERS MEETING
BA	INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL
ECEMBER 2021	
ch December	GAME COUNT
6th December	NNP 75 YEARS ANNIVESARY





### "True Colors"

If you stumble upon a caterpillar, take good care of it. Keep it safe, and let it eat, so one day on the wind, a colorful fluttering butterfly will brighten up your day. The joy you'll find when butterflies visit on their way.

The same is true of people. There's a magic there to find. Inside us all is a butterfly waiting for the time we allow ourselves the chance to change and leave the old behind. With a burst of color, and a flap of wings, we finally learn to fly.

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#### **NNP OCTOBER SIGHTINGS**





Photo credit- Olga Levari











Photo credit- Olga Levari

Photo credit- EMB



Photo credit- Elaine Caneiro

Photo credit-Vyom Joshi



Photo credit- Olga Levari



Photo credit- Gareth Jones

Photo credit- EMB



Photo credit- Vyom Joshi



Photo credit- Rupert Watson

#### **BIRD SIGHTINGS**

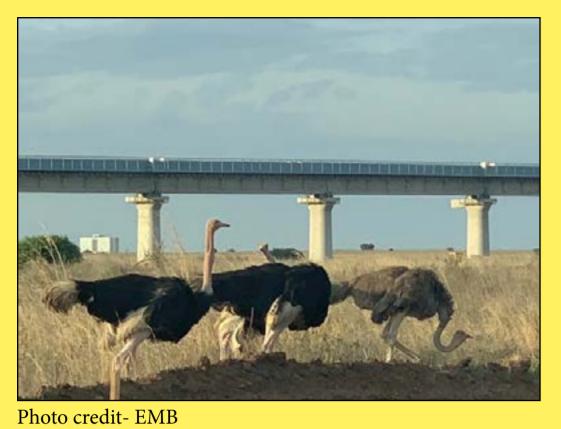




Photo credit- EMB



Photo credit- Rakesh Shah



Photo credit- Rakesh Shah



Photo credit- Adnan Savani

Photo credit- EMB

26



#### **OTHER NNP SIGHTINGS**



Photo credit- Elaine Carneiro

### **OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS**















CHELI & PEACOCK SAFARIS East Africa







### NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK NEWS

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.



#### CONTACT US

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### SEYAN HIRANI