



# FRIENDS OF NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK FONNAP

*July 2022,*



# NEWSLETTER

**EACH ONE OF US HAS A STORY TO TELL, THERE IS NO GREATER AGONY THAN BEARING AN UNTOLD STORY . EACH STORY IS DIFFERENT, THERE'S ALWAYS SOMEBODY LISTENING.**



**THIS NEWSLETTER IS A GREAT WAY TO UPDATE EVERYONE AROUND NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK (NNP) ABOUT THE LATEST HAPPENINGS. YOU CAN USE IT AS A SOURCE OF RELEVANT INFORMATION, UPDATES, AND ALL ABOUT NNP. THE NEWSLETTER IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE AND WITHIN REACH. WE APPRECIATE OUR READERS' EAGERNESS TO MAKE THIS BETTER AND MORE INTERACTIVE. SHARE ARTICLES WITH STRONG MESSAGES TO OUR EMAIL [FONNAPNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FONNAPNEWSLETTER@GMAIL.COM). THANK YOU TO OUR PHOTOGRAPHERS FOR THEIR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN MARKETING THE PARK WORLDWIDE. THROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY, WE CAN TELL UNTOLD STORIES, HISTORY IS PRESERVED, AND THE FUTURE HAS BEEN PREDICTED. YOUR PHOTOS HAVE ALWAYS COMPLIMETED THE STORIES WE WANT TO TELL.**

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# TREASURE HUNT ADVENTURES

## ADVENTURES IN NAIROBI NATIONAL PARK

After arriving back in Kenya after studying at the University of Virginia, I was eager to immerse myself in Kenya and all it offered. Therefore, I was thrilled when my father told me about FoNNAP. My first introduction to FoNNAP was the treasure hunt activity where participants drove around the park taking photos of animals, with each sight awarded with points. This treasure hunt began bright and early at daybreak. One of the first animals we saw were hippos at the Nagolomon reservoir.

Perched along the reservoir were a row of safari jeeps full of excited people wearing large hats peering at the hippos with binoculars from the overhead window. The hippos' large barrel-shaped body remained submerged underwater, with only its enormous head visible. The eyes, nostrils, and flapping ears, high on the head, peeked through the water before disappearing back into the water. On the reservoir's shores lay a row of sunbathing crocodiles and charming cattle egrets huddled together in a large group. The picturesque scene looked as if it came straight from a National Geographic documentary. Continuing down the road, we suddenly spotted a beautiful giraffe elegantly striding across the road. We stopped and watched the sole giraffe slowly and carefully stroll across the road and disappear into the bushes on the other side. We came across more captivating animals as we continued along the dusty path. However, in my opinion, the most memorable part of the journey was seeing the landscape of the safari park. Across the open plains of rolling grassland dotted with trees were zebras, ostriches, and a wide variety of gazelles grazing across the plains in harmony. Framing this view was the cityscape of Nairobi, making for a unique image. There, one could see the beauty of Nairobi, with the mixture of development and nature that few cities in the world seem to have. However, it also reminds us how important it is to protect and serve the national park from the growing urbanization.

At the end of the competition, the participants gathered at the Impala Picnic Site, where the tallying of results would take place. As the participants sat down together and socialized over a warm meal and drinks, the FoNNAP members counted all the points and verified the participants with the highest scores images. 3rd place participants won a gift voucher, 2nd one night for two at TWF, and finally, 1st won one night for two at Nairobi tented camp and a gift from FoNNaP. While not everyone won an award, the event was a celebration for everyone as we could enjoy each other's company and honor the national park. This event was an exemplary example of the FoNNAP's goals to expand the park's importance in the minds and hearts of Kenyans and visitors and continue to build a thriving membership, representation, and leadership. It was a pleasure to join in.

*Written by:*

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# FoNNAP MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

## MEMBERSHIP DRIVE EXPERIENCE



On 9th July, the FoNNap office took part in a Membership Drive at the Hardy Mall. With the help of Rupert Watson, the membership drive was a fantastic day where we adverted to the local community about the importance of Nairobi National Park and our critical work. Further, during this drive, we not only spread the word about FoNNap, the National Park but also sold merchandise and, importantly, spent quality time with the local community!

We look forward to starting a membership drive for all corporate neighbors and family members to join FoNNap and help bring them onboard in the conservation and protection of the Nairobi National Park to aid in its posterity!



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# 3Es EXPERIENCE PARTICIPATES IN THE #STOCKHOLM50 EVENT THROUGH A CLIMATE FRESK WORKSHOP.

## 3ES EXPERIENCE

In line with the Swedish and Kenyan governments being the co-organizers of the UN's #StockholmPlus50 International Environmental meeting, the 3Es Experience took place on June 2nd and 3rd. In partnership with Climate Fresk, they organized its first workshop as facilitators, in conjunction with the Stockholm 50 event that was held in Sweden. The event aimed to protect human health and the environment from the effects of persistent organic pollutants.



Climate Change has become a global crisis that needs to be contained. There are many causes of climate change, the foremost being human activities such as transport, construction, agriculture, the release of fossil fuel, additional greenhouse gases, and so much more. With most of our population not having the knowledge required to combat climate change, 3Es Experience has created platforms for creating the much-needed awareness.

While interacting with most people, it's easy to tell that the impacts of climate change are not something that people are constantly worrying about. However, now more than ever, we are facing the consequences of a higher intensity than before, such as the extreme temperatures causing death in various parts of the planet, decreased crop yields causing hunger and malnutrition, and increased vectors of diseases that may be spread by climate refugees who move to areas where the population is less immune, decreased marine biodiversity and even wars!



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# 3Es EXPERIENCE PARTICIPATES IN THE #STOCKHOLM50 EVENT

We had a huge turnout, primarily students from universities all over the country who were passionate about learning about Climate Change. The 3-hour event was productive with interactions and discussions between all the participants as we worked together to understand the causes and consequences of these activities on a deeper level using visual aids and, importantly, the appropriate measures we can take to reduce climate change.



These students took a keen interest in the workshop, and we look forward to visiting their environmental clubs, both for education and training purposes, so that we can spread the message to larger groups of people together and create forums for youth to interact and understand the environment and nature today

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# THE UNSUNG DUNG HEROES

## THE LITTLE HEROES



Sometimes there are times when I slow down to look for the tiny things. After crawling along the road slowly, our reward came as some dung beetles rolled some dung. It was exciting to see just how hard they work, as they methodically work with the waste of animals like buffalo and Rhino. Recently after a good rainfall, the hardened soil had been wonderfully softened. As we approached the Hippo pools area, I noticed a dung beetle hard at work in the process of burying a ball of dung. The technique was interesting in that the dung beetle dug a circle underneath the ball of dung as if it was excavating a cavern.

Cambefort and Hanski (1991) classified dung beetles into three functional types based on their feeding and nesting strategies such as – Rollers, Tunnelers, and Dwellers. The "rollers" roll and bury a dung ball either for food storage or for making a brooding ball. In the latter case, two beetles, one male, and one female, stay around the dung ball during the rolling process. Usually, the male rolls the ball while the female hitch-hikes or follows behind. In some cases, the male and the female roll together. When a spot with soft soil is found, they stop and bury the ball, then mate underground. After the mating, one or both of them prepares the brooding ball. When the ball is finished, the female lays eggs inside it, a form of mass provisioning. Some species do not leave after this stage but remain to safeguard their offspring. The dung beetle goes through a complete metamorphosis. The larvae live in brood balls made with dung prepared by their parents. During the larval stage, the beetle feeds on the dung surrounding it. The behavior of the beetles was poorly understood until the studies of Jean Henri Fabre in the late 19th century. For example, Fabre corrected the myth that a dung beetle would seek aid from other dung beetles when confronted by obstacles. By observation and experiment, he found the seeming helpers were, in fact, awaiting an opportunity to steal the roller's food source.

They are widely used in ecological research as a good bioindicator group to examine the impacts of climate disturbances, such as extreme droughts and associated fires, and human activities on tropical biodiversity and ecosystem functioning, such as seed dispersal, soil bioturbation, and nutrient cycling.

So, what is the big deal about dung beetles? What do they do? Well, apart from the immense good they do in the Nairobi National Park, let me take you on a brief journey to Australia to explain. In the 1880s, cattle were introduced to Australia, 80 years later, by 1960, there was a massive problem with cow dung causing fly infestation and large barren areas due to millions of hard cow dung patties. From 1965 to 1985, nearly 200 different unique bovine-orientated species of dung beetles from South Africa, Kenya, and Europe were successfully introduced. The dung beetles aerated the soil and released nitrates in the dung, plus broke up the dung patties, resulting in much more fertile soil in Australia, with fewer flies. Dung beetles can roll a ball of dung 50 times their weight, they are, therefore incredibly strong relative to their size! Remember, "when we look for the smallest, we also see the largest," from beetles to buffalos. Bring your family and come explore the wonders of the Nairobi National Park.

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# KAREN BLIXEN BIRD WALK

## A BIRD WATCHING ADVENTURE

In the bright early morning, we headed to the Karen Blixen Museum, excited to start our day amongst nature! Invited by Nature Kenya, we joined them for a bird-watching event at the Karen Blixen Museum. After being introduced to the Nature Kenya ornithologists, who would be our guide throughout the day, we were told some history of the Karen Blixen Museum. This museum was once the centerpiece of a farm foot of the Ngong Hills owned by Danish Author Karen, where she grew coffee. After everyone had collected their binoculars, we began walking on the outskirts of the museum, where the ornithologists discussed the exquisite habitat. For example, one tree that stood out was the Nandi Flame (*Spathodea campanulata*), with enchanting red flower petals that stood out against the tree's green, like bright flames. As we walked through this habitat, we also passed through a nature trail, where we listened to the songs of the elegant birds and peered at them through the bushes and trees. Throughout this adventure, we spotted a great variety of birds, including:

- Grey-capped warbler
- Brown-backed honeybird
- Grey-backed camaroptera
- Abyssinian Ground Thrush
- Yellow-billed kite
- Common bulbul
- Bronzy sunbird
- Speckled mousebird
- Rüppell's Robin-Chat
- Bronze Mannikin
- African Pied Wagtail
- Grey-capped Warbler
- Hadada Ibis
- Pied Crow
- Yellow-whiskered Greenbul
- African Paradise Flycatcher
- Abyssinian Ground Thrush
- Hartlaub's Turaco



I believe the crowd's favorite bird was the Hartlaub's Turaco (*Tauraco hartlaubi*). This stunning bird has a dark green turaco, a prominent, white "comma" before the eye, brilliant red along its wing feathers, a glossy blue-black nape, and a rounded bushy crest. After spotting two of these birds, the crowd gasped in amazement after witnessing one fly above us with its red wings spread before our eyes.

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# KAREN BLIXEN BIRD WALK

Towards the end of the tour, our guides briefly discussed the Blixen Museum coffee farm, showing us an old coffee machine that once produced the coffee beans. Finally, a tour of the Karen Blixen house was a way to tie the lovely day together.

In the end, FoNNaP and Nature Kenya made a great partnership to create platforms to encourage people to get outside to enjoy nature and educate communities about the importance of our habitat and animals. They did a fantastic job creating a program to show us the beauty of the birds and sharing their impressive expertise. Birds are a crucial part of nature and our lives. While many people might ignore them, they complement our lives with the beautiful songs they sing and play a vital role in maintaining ecology. Thus, birdwatching is not only a simple pastime but an essential part of ecotourism where we can help conserve the environment and bring people and nature together. From the knowledge we gained from this event, we can establish a powerful means for conservation.

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# PHOTO OF THE MONTH

**PHOTO CREDIT:  
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# SIGHTINGS IN NNP!

SUBMIT YOUR SIGHTINGS VIA  
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THANK YOU  
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**Map of Nairobi National Park**

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# 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.

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