



# Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest (FoASF)

## Monthly Report

### November 2019



Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest – P.O. Box 925, Malindi 80200, Kenya

[www.friendsarabukosokoke.org](http://www.friendsarabukosokoke.org)

## Data collection

### Summary table of observation

<b>Human activity</b> Count observation	<b>Firewood</b> 12	<b>Cut trees</b> 26	<b>Beam/plank</b> 1	<b>Charcoal</b> 2	<b>Fito/withies</b> 5	<b>Poles</b> 11	<b>Carving</b> 2
<b>Human activity</b> Count observation	<b>Weapons</b> 0	<b>Traps and snares</b> 290	<b>Cutting tools</b> 6	<b>Wildlife</b> 31	<b>Rain</b> 3		

### Patrol performance summary table

#### Team Blue

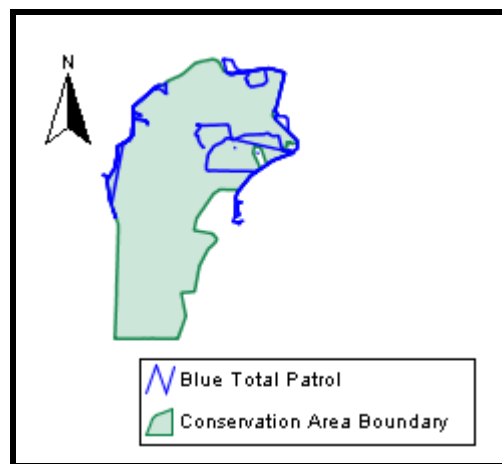
Transport type	No. of patrols	Distance (km)	Distance (km) per no. of patrols	No. of patrol hours
Foot	12.00	72.44	6.04	27.26
Motorbike	2.00	44.58	22.29	2.36
Tractor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vehicle	20.00	171.10	8.56	22.26

#### Team Red

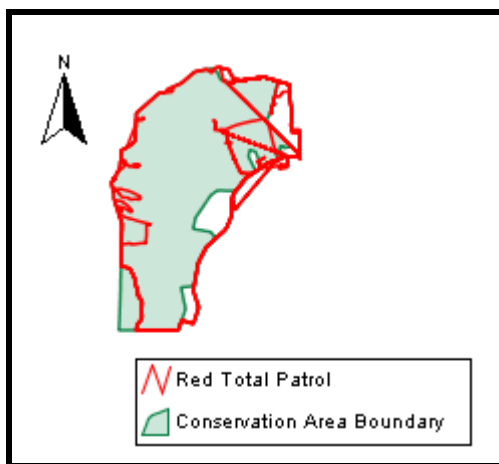
Transport type	No. of patrols	Distance (km)	Distance (km) per no. of patrols	No. of patrol hours
Foot	16.00	75.45	4.72	31.72
Motorbike	7.00	119.92	17.13	6.61
Tractor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vehicle	17.00	518.32	30.49	24.14

#### Team Blue and Red together

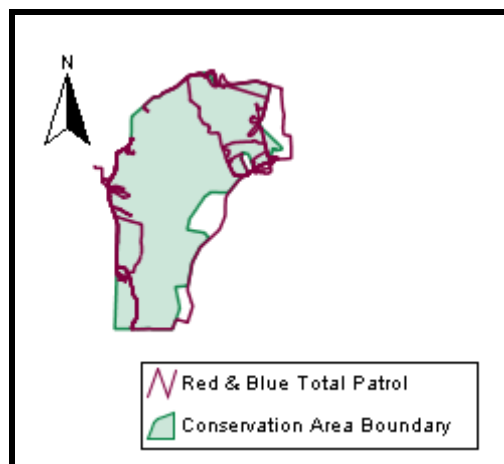
Transport type	No. of patrols	Distance (km)	Distance (km) per no. of patrols	No. of patrol hours
Foot	24.00	165.49	6.90	67.71
Motorbike	7.00	127.34	18.19	21.84
Tractor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vehicle	26.00	232.79	8.95	20.50



Team Blue tracks



Team Red tracks



Team Red and Blue tracks combined

### Scout team patrol comparison table

Team	Distance (km)	No. of patrols	No. of days
Blue Team	288.12	34.00	34.00
Red Team	713.69	40.00	40.00
Team Red & Blue	525.63	57.00	59.00

### Team patrol mandate

Mandate type	No. of patrols	No. of days	Distance (km)	Person - field hours
Ambush	12.00	14.00	55.65	206.63
De-Snaring	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Monitoring	119.00	119.00	1471.79	685.54
Road Clearing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

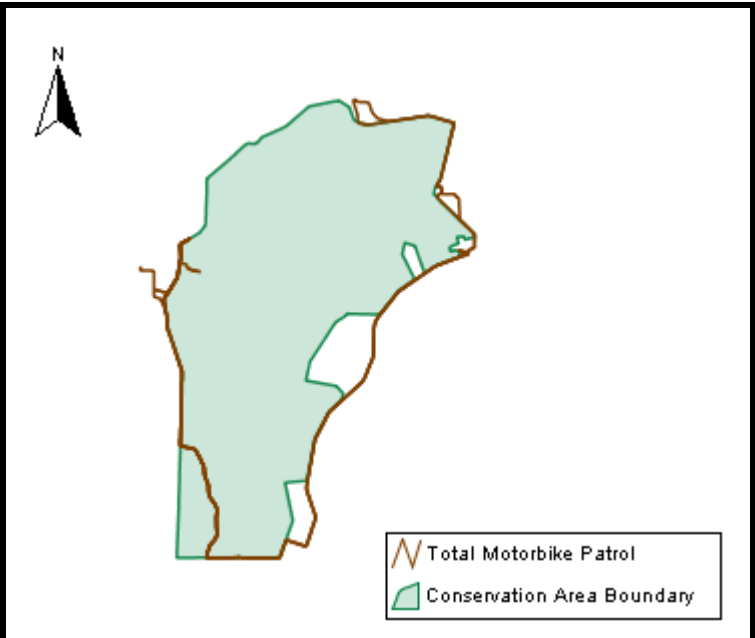
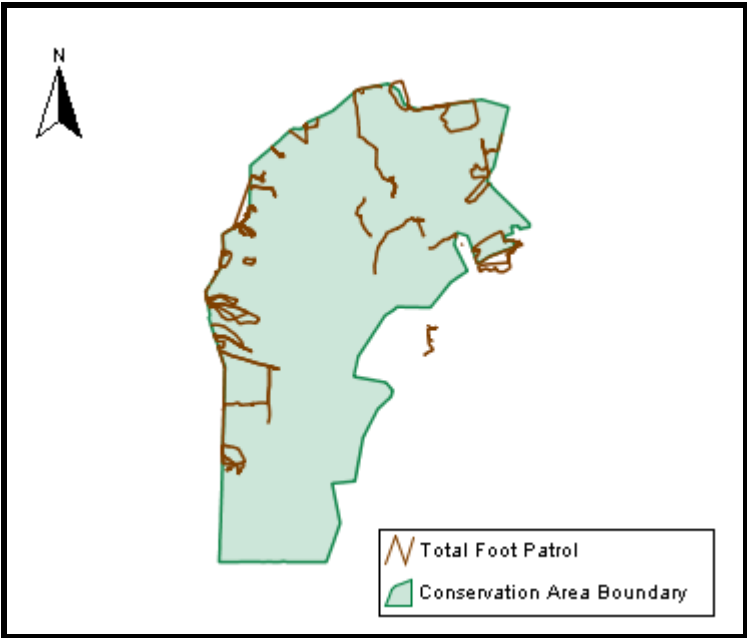
### Areas covered

Location	No. of Patrols
Arabuko	3
Arabuko sokoke primary school	3
Arabuko swamp	4
Bandacho	5
Bishop Kalu	4
Dida	7
Gede	2
Girimacha	11
Jilore	14
Kaembeni	21
Kahingoni	10
Katshuha Nzala	8
Komani	4
Malanga	21
Matsangoni	3
Mgurureni	1
Mida	13
Mida (Jamii villa)	1
Nature reserve	13

### KFS and KWS ranger's present

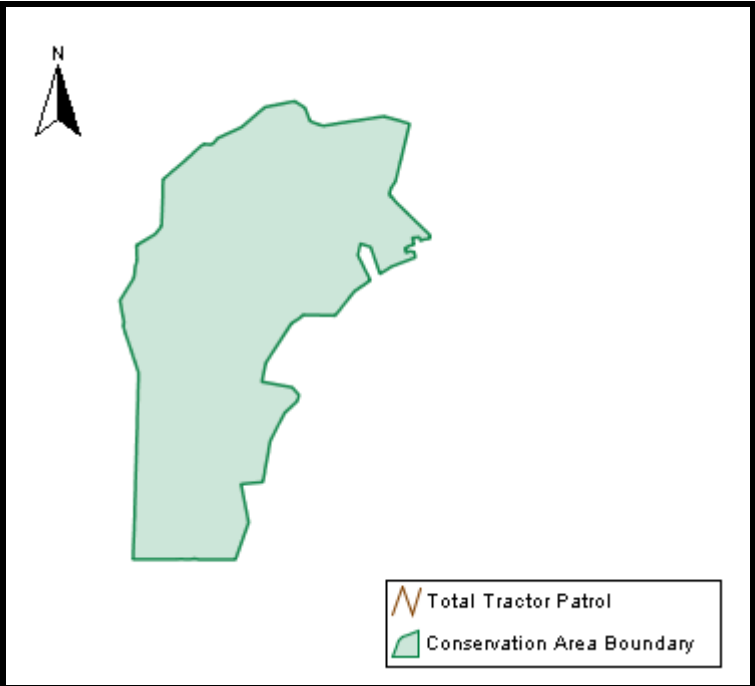
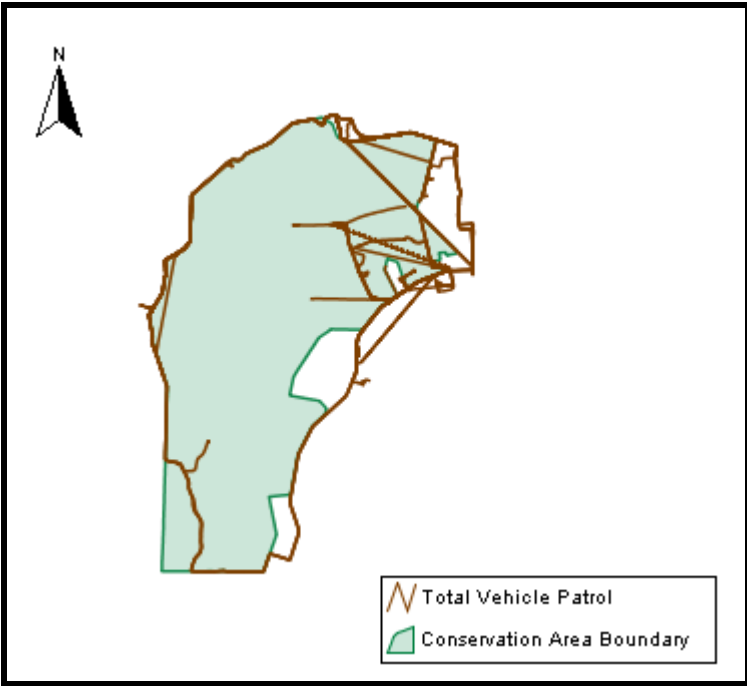
Date	No. of rangers
2019-11-01	4
2019-11-02	1
2019-11-03	3
2019-11-04	4
2019-11-05	7
2019-11-06	5
2019-11-07	4
2019-11-08	6
2019-11-09	3
2019-11-10	1
2019-11-11	3
2019-11-12	3
2019-11-13	1
2019-11-14	5
2019-11-15	5
2019-11-16	9
2019-11-17	3
2019-11-18	3
2019-11-19	3
2019-11-20	5
2019-11-21	6
2019-11-22	0
2019-11-23	3
2019-11-24	3
2019-11-25	4
2019-11-26	3
2019-11-27	2
2019-11-28	7
2019-11-29	2
2019-11-30	5

Patrol transport types



Foot patrols

Motorbike patrols



Vehicle patrols

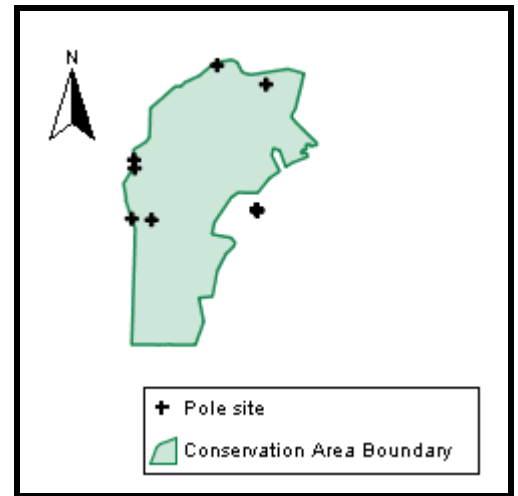
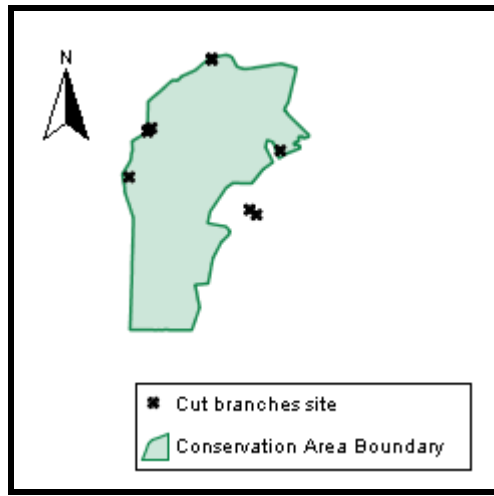
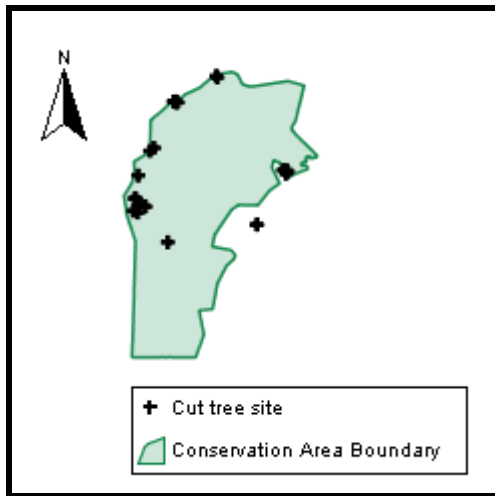
Tractor patrols



## Illegal activities

### Cut trees and branches

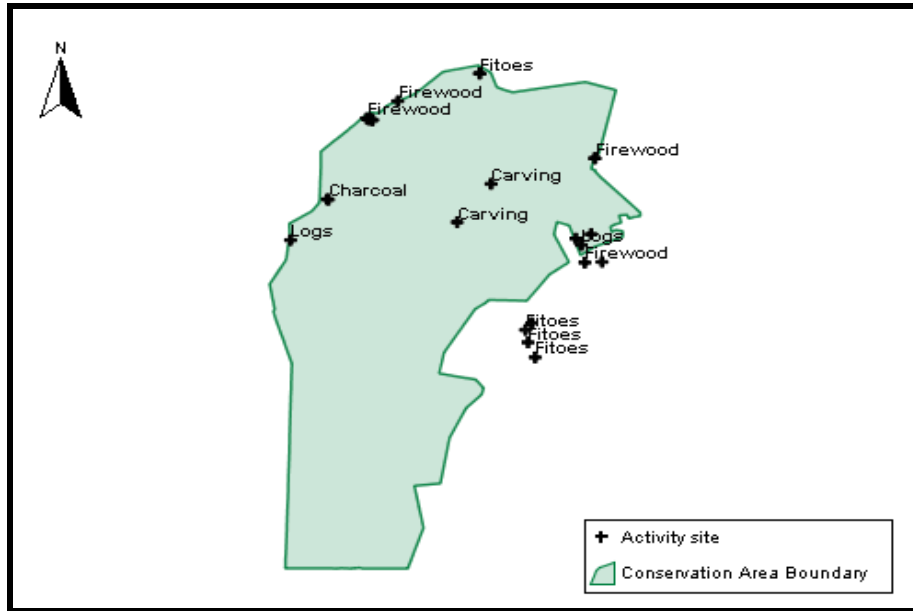
46 cut trees and 26 cut branches were recorded and a total of 267 poles were collected.





**Firewood, timber (planks/beams), logs, fito/withies (small poles), charcoal and carving**

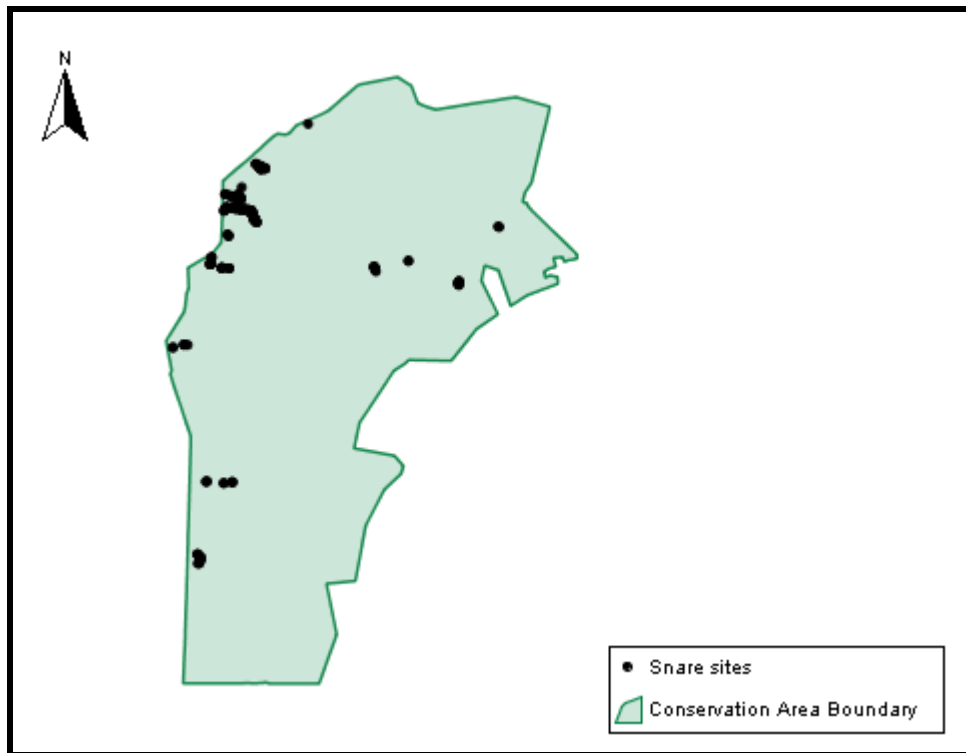
Human activity	No. of logs	No. of heaps	No. of kilns	No. of fitoes	No. of planks	No. of crosscut logs	No. of headloads	Count observation
Building Poles								11
Carving								2
Charcoal			2					2
Cut branches						7		12
Cut Stems						45		26
Firewood	325						33	12
Fitoes				229			4	5
Logs	8	1						3
Planks					6			1



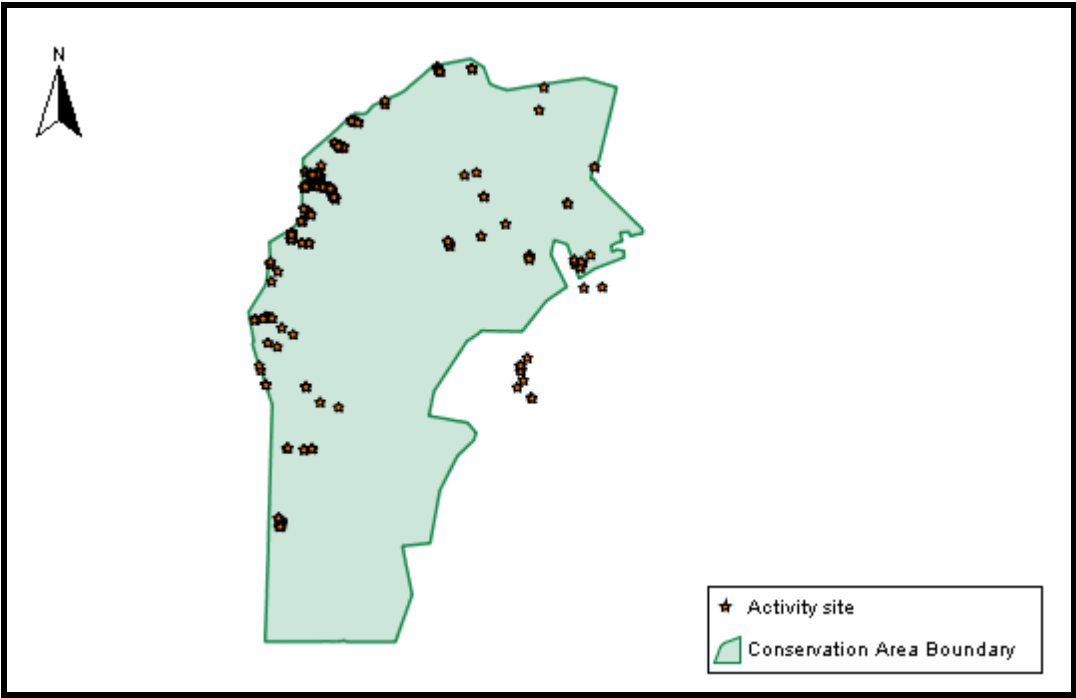


## Traps and snares

A total of 463 snares were removed from the forest in November.



Illegal activity hotspots



Arrests

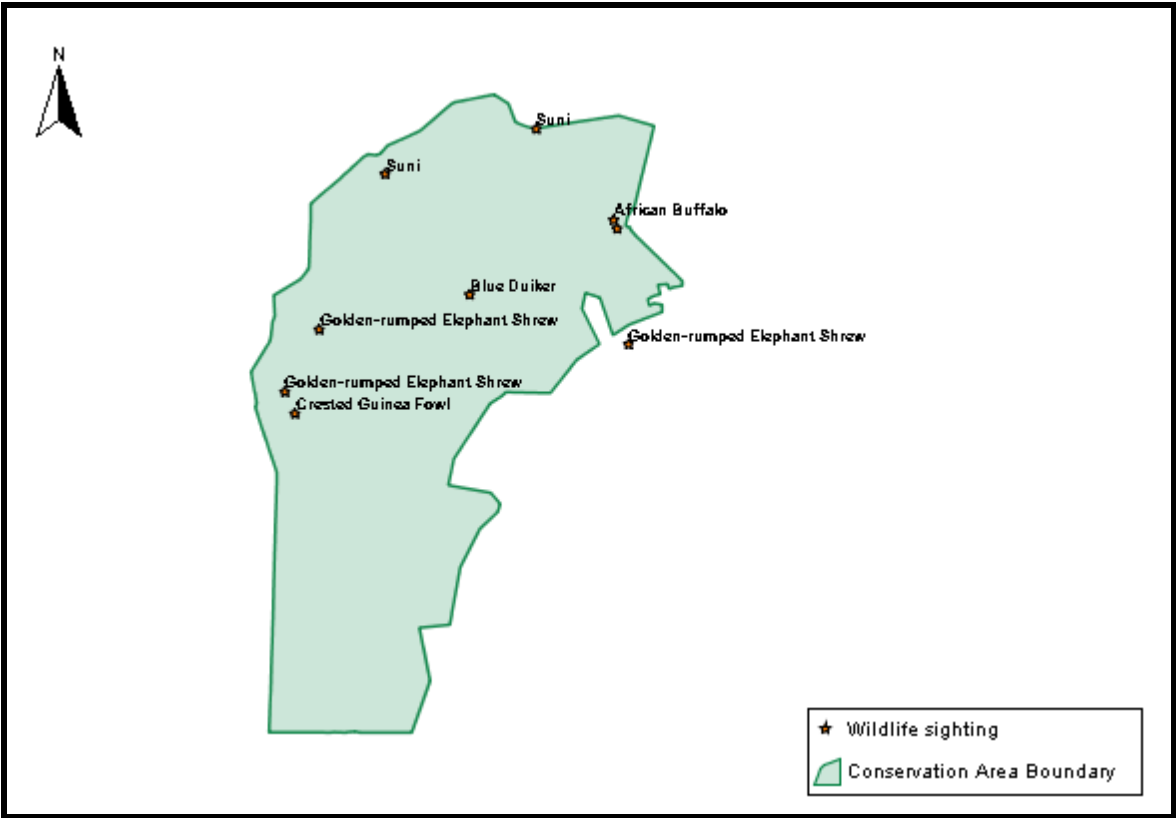
Two verbal warnings were given in November. The first was given to two women collecting firewood in the Bin Hare area, during one of the Gede CFA scout patrols and the second, to a young boy in Jilore found sitting on a headload of poles. Three men were arrested carrying two headloads of poles. Unfortunately, one of the arrested men managed to escape while traveling to the Malanga outpost.

Arrested for	No. of incidents	No. verbal warnings	No. of people	Average person's age	No. of males	No. of women
Logging	3	2	6	27.50	4	2





Wildlife activity



Wildlife signs (including tracks, dung and pathways)



## Recent news

### The Kilifi Gold Triathlon - education program

The winners of the Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke/Kilifi Gold Triathlon education programme awards: Christine Salama Charo, her teacher Samson Kazungu Chengo from Girimacha Primary School; Aisha Nyamvula, her teacher Agnes Kananu Njuri from Bambakofi Academy; Selina Sifa Kahindi, her teacher Patricia Nyale; from Mkongani Primary School; visited Tsavo East National Park on Monday 4 November.

The team left KWS Gede at 5.50am arriving Tsavo East National Park at 7.45am had breakfast and started their six-hour game drive. They saw much wildlife including lion, elephants, crocodiles, hippos, giraffes, gazelles, zebras as well as many birds and other flora and fauna. They also learned facts about the Sabaki River. The students and their teachers all agreed that this had been an unforgettable experience and were very grateful to the organizers.

They were accompanied by KWS researcher at Gede, Lynn Njeri Njuguna, who was the initiator and behind the education programme sponsored by the Kilifi Triathlon with help from African Fund for Endangered Wildlife. She is delighted that nearly 1400 children from 37 schools from around the forest had been brought into the forest.



### Bio-Ken Snake Farm

The Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke's 10 scouts, liaison officer and field and administrative assistant, visited the Bio-Ken snake farm, Watamu to refresh their memory of the many species of snakes found in Kenya and how to responsibly respond to snake bites.

Clare Taylor and head handler Bonnie covered the dos and don'ts of snake bite treatment and practices and how to handle these situations if encountered when on patrol in the field.

Thank you to the Bio-Ken team for the trip and for the incredible work you do saving lives of so many.





## Community Forest Association (CFA) scout patrols

In November the Sokoke and Gede CFAs completed their 10 days of scout patrols funded by FoASF. The Jilore CFA has completed eight days of patrols with two days left which will be conducted in December.

Human activity noted:



Gede CFA	Sokoke CFA	Jilore CFA
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 14 cut stumps observed</li><li>- 5 cut stems for poles observed</li><li>- 1 Gambian rat traps removed</li><li>- 124 snares removed</li><li>- 1 suni released from snare</li><li>- 1 duiker found dead in snare</li><li>- 46 poles collected</li><li>- 95 mangrove poles collected</li><li>- 60 mangrove fitoes collected</li><li>- 2 culprits managed to escape</li><li>- 6 head loads of firewood collected</li><li>- 2 warnings given (to women collecting firewood)</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 1 arrest</li><li>- 57 snares removed</li><li>- 5 cut stumps observed</li><li>- 1 cut branch observed</li><li>- 2 pieces of timber observed</li><li>- 3 headloads of firewood collected</li><li>- 10 poles collected</li><li>- 2 headloads of poles collected</li><li>- 3 Gambian rat traps removed</li><li>- 1 suni found dead in snare</li><li>- 2 bicycles recovered</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- 16 cut stumps observed</li><li>- 1 pole collected</li><li>- 46 snares removed</li><li>- 1 beam found</li><li>- 10 head loads of firewood collected</li><li>- 1 warning given</li></ul>



## Liaison officer

### Important Biodiversity Areas (IBA's)

An induction workshop on monitoring Important Biodiversity Areas (IBA's) coastal region was held on 13 November at the Jamii Villas. The workshop was facilitated by Nature Kenya and National Museums of Kenya (NMK).

The workshop provided an overview of the IBA monitoring framework in Kenya and within the different Government agencies as well as guidance on how to correctly fill in the Basic Monitoring Form (BMF) highlighting the various conservation activities conducted in the various IBA sites.



Thirty-five participants from KWS, KFS, Nature Kenya, NMK, County Government, FoASF, Kaya Forests, Community and Mida Creek Conservation Group (MCCG) attended the workshop.



### ***Community conservation awareness meeting***

On 19 November, FoASF liaison officer Joseph Kanundu attended a meeting organised by FoASF committee member Sammy Safari, raising awareness on the conservation of the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. The area assistant chief, KWS Sargent Tinga and 50 members of the local community attended the talk.

### ***Planting with the Kenya Forest Service***

On 1 November FoASF liaison officer attended this year's KFS short rains planting launch at Pwani University College, Kilifi.

Participants included representatives from KEFRI, KFS, Pwani University, the Kenya navy, Kilifi county and Gede CFA. A total of 4300 seedlings were planted. Thank you to KFS for organising this event.

On 21 November, KFS, in collaboration with the Ministry of Public Services, Youth and Gender Affairs through support from the Malindi Muslim Society and Uwezo, planted 500 indigenous tree seedlings in the Magangani area.

Participants included KWS Arabuko, FoASF liaison officer and the Gede CFA. Speeches were given by KFS Assistant Ecosystems Coordinator, Elvis Fondo and the guest of honor – the permanent secretary from the Ministry of Public Service, Youth and Gender Affairs.



### **Ker and Downey tents**

Three tents were generously donated by Ker and Downey Safaris in October. One tent is being used by the FoASF scouts for patrols in the forest. The remaining two were donated to Kenya Forest Service (KFS) on 5 November to increase their operations and patrols from inside the forest boundary.



## Fence posts

In October FoASF received funding from Nature Kenya for the purchase of 35 fence posts from Komaza in Kilifi. The posts were delivered and handed over to KWS on 22 November.

## Nature trail

The 30 drums donated by Captain Andy's were delivered to KWS Arabuko in November. The drums have been painted and the information stickers have been designed and are being printed. These drums will soon be placed along the trail.



## Display plot

In August 2018 funding was received from Blue Marmalade Supermarket, Watamu, to rent two acres of land by the Arabuko swamp, on the edge of the forest.

Sammy Safari, FoASF committee member and project manager, planned to use this land to grow crops; offer seeds and cheap produce to the forest adjacent communities and to provide a place for people to learn about permaculture and biodiversity conservation issues.

The land was ploughed and planted with maize, green grams and cowpeas. The green grams and cow peas were planted as cover crops and nitrogen fixers to enrich the soil in humus and to provide nitrogen support to the other crops planted there.

In December 2018, the crops began to produce their first harvest and seeds. Maize and cowpeas were sold for 200/- per two kilograms to the local communities (usually sold for 480/- and 500/- respectively in the local stores). Sales of green gram and cowpea seeds started in January, with some being set aside for replanting during the long rains in March. The seeds were also sold at a lower than retail price, to encourage the forest adjacent people to plant their own food and resist the need to harvest illegally from the forest.



The main challenges included unpredictable rains, pests and disease. The long rains arrived two months late and in June 2019 there was an outbreak of disease which devastated the green grams, maize and moringa crops. Sammy Safari informed and consulted the agricultural extension officers from Msabaha research centre in Gede, who stated that the same problem was being observed this season in the area. He advised that the plot be reploughed to stop the spread.

Green gram and cowpea seedlings were set aside for planting in the short November rains. In September 2019, Sammy Safari personally renewed the lease on the two-acre plot. Heavy rainfall in October/November has left the farms near the Arabuko swamp flooded and so the seedlings have not been planted. Sammy hopes for a more productive 2020.



Thank you to Blue Marmalade for their support and moreover for their recent donation of 10,000/- on a monthly basis.

### Direct support to KWS and KFS

FoASF activity	Cost (\$) justification	Total (\$)
KWS fuel	Assistance with fuel for motorbike and vehicle patrols with scouts.	200
KFS fuel	Assistance with fuel for the Gede forest station for patrols around the forest.	50
KFS fuel	Assistance with fuel for the Jilore forest station for patrols around the forest.	50
KFS fuel	Assistance with fuel for the Sokoke forest station for patrols around the forest.	50
<b>Total</b>		<b>350</b>



*All pictures in the field taken by FoASF scouts (November 2019).*

**With great thanks and appreciation to: Minara Foundation; Oak Foundation; Kenya Wildlife Service; Kenya Forest Service; Captain Andy's Fishing Supplies; African Fund for Endangered Wildlife; Blue Marmalade Supermarket; Royal African Safaris; Promaco Limited; Committee members; Community volunteers; and numerous supporters and funders who have made all this possible.**

Report compiled by Alia Moller and Joseph Kanundu - of Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest