



# Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest (FoASF)

## Monthly Report

### December 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> 1	<b>Cut trees</b> 47	<b>Beam/plank</b> 5	<b>Charcoal</b> 6	<b>Fito/withies</b> 1	<b>Poles</b> 13	<b>Carving</b> 0
<b>Human activity</b> Count observation	<b>Weapons</b> 1	<b>Traps and snares</b> 190	<b>Cutting tools</b> 9	<b>Wildlife</b> 17	<b>Rain</b> 7		

### Patrol performance summary table

#### Team Blue

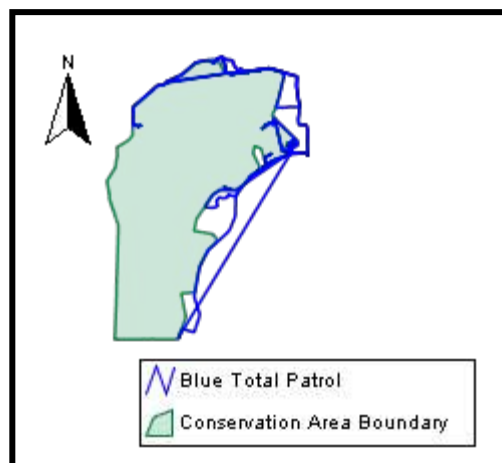
Transport type	No. of patrols	Distance (km)	Distance (km) per no. of patrols	No. of patrol hours
Foot	14.00	73.94	5.28	27.60
Motorbike	2.00	10.98	5.49	1.19
Tractor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vehicle	23.00	283.61	12.33	20.33

#### Team Red

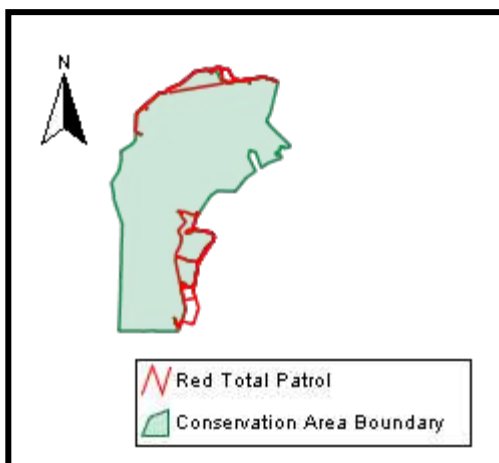
Transport type	No. of patrols	Distance (km)	Distance (km) per no. of patrols	No. of patrol hours
Foot	14.00	57.83	4.13	25.20
Motorbike	3.00	6.69	2.23	1.02
Tractor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vehicle	19.00	217.61	11.45	15.40

#### Team Blue and Red together

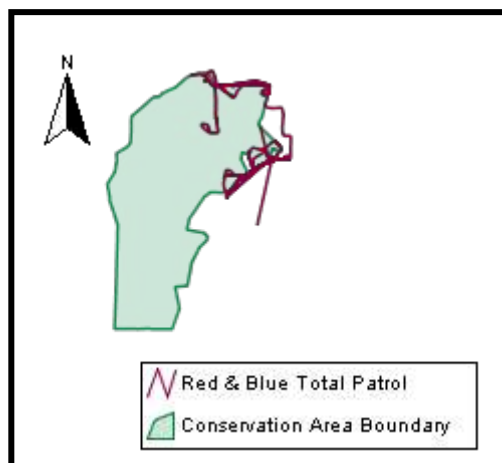
Transport type	No. of patrols	Distance (km)	Distance (km) per no. of patrols	No. of patrol hours
Foot	18.00	87.11	4.84	73.61
Motorbike	2.00	28.45	14.22	1.75
Tractor	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Vehicle	19.00	194.53	10.24	44.78



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	368.53	39.00	39.00
Red Team	282.13	36.00	36.00
Team Red & Blue	310.09	39.00	41.00

### Team patrol mandate

Mandate type	No. of patrols	No. of days	Distance (km)	Person - field hours
Ambush	10.00	10.00	100.12	43.50
De-Snaring	1.00	1.00	5.22	1.89
Monitoring	103.00	105.00	855.41	920.25
Road Clearing	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

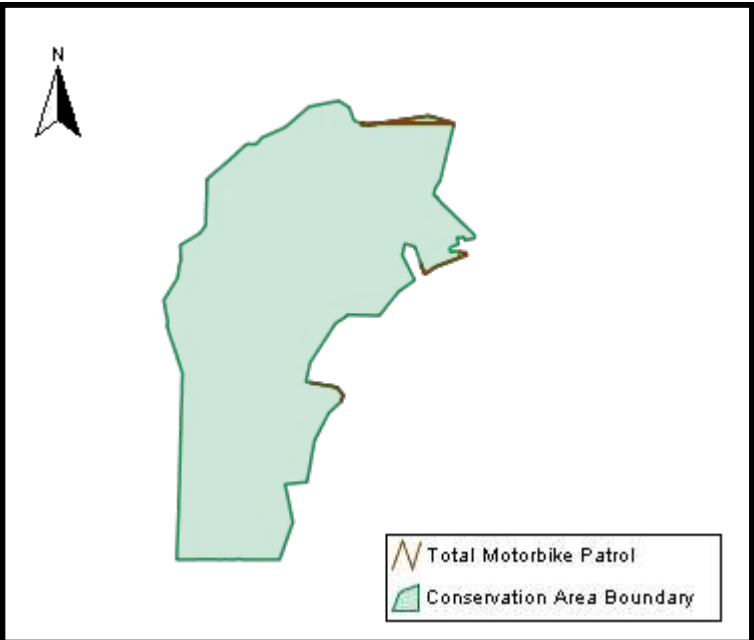
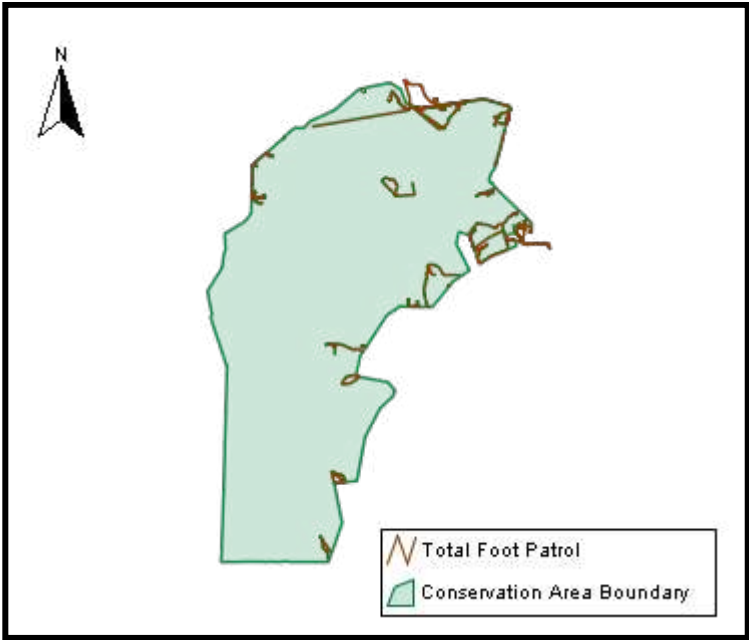
### Areas covered

Location	No. of Patrols
Arabuko	6
Arabuko swamp	6
Bandacho	4
Bishop Kalu	3
Elephant track	2
Gede	1
Girimacha	9
Jilore	20
Kalia Papo	19
Kararacha	9
Katshuha Nzala	7
Komani	3
Mabuani	2
Mabuani	2
Malanga	2
Matsangoni	1
Matsanjeni	1
Mgurureni	10
Mida	6
Mida (Jamii villa)	4
Mkongani	7
Mugurureni	3
Mwambani	6
Nature reserve	3
Njia ya Mafuta	1
Nyari	3

### KFS and KWS ranger's present

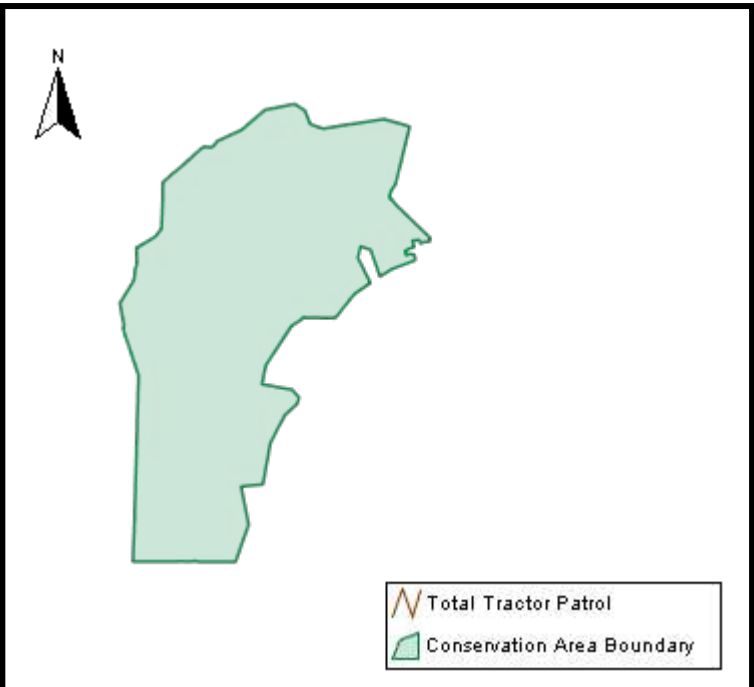
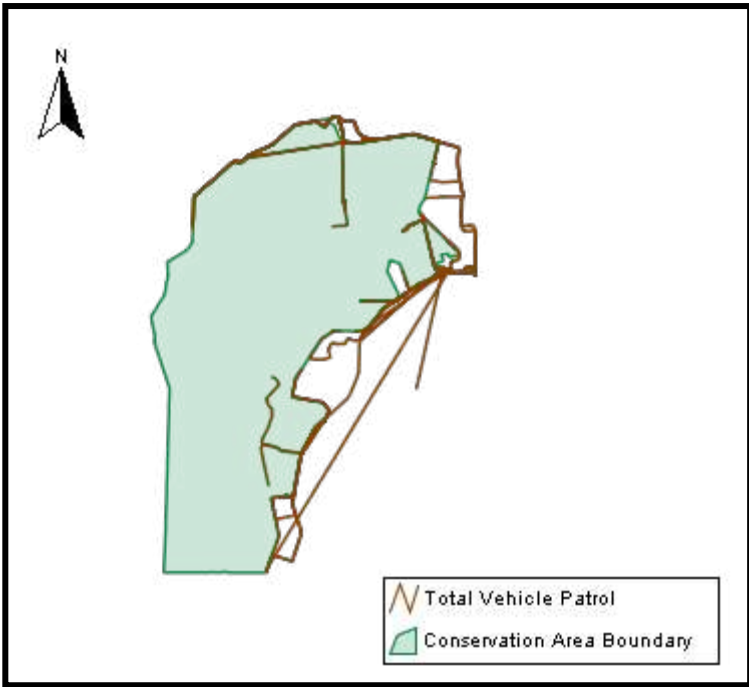
Date	No. of rangers
2019-12-01	3
2019-12-02	1
2019-12-03	3
2019-12-04	1
2019-12-05	0
2019-12-06	6
2019-12-07	2
2019-12-08	5
2019-12-09	1
2019-12-10	7
2019-12-11	2
2019-12-12	4
2019-12-13	6
2019-12-14	6
2019-12-15	0
2019-12-16	3
2019-12-17	2
2019-12-18	1
2019-12-19	7
2019-12-20	3
2019-12-21	1
2019-12-22	0
2019-12-23	3
2019-12-24	3
2019-12-25	3
2019-12-26	3
2019-12-27	6
2019-12-28	2
2019-12-29	5
2019-12-30	3
2019-12-31	3

Patrol transport types



Foot patrols

Motorbike patrols



Vehicle patrols

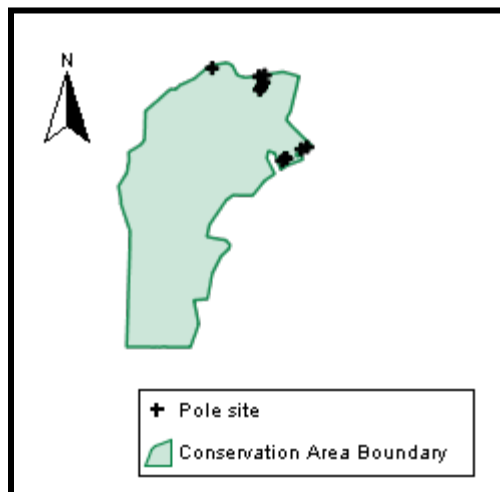
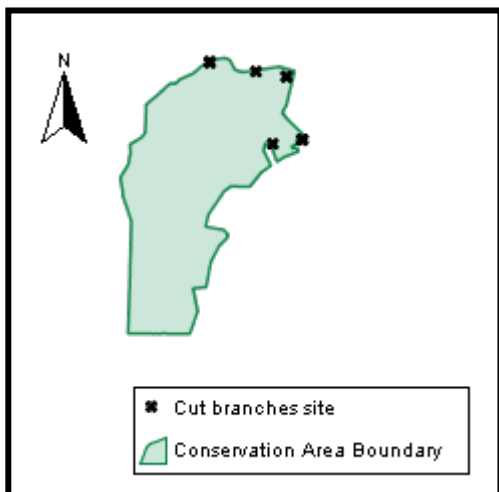
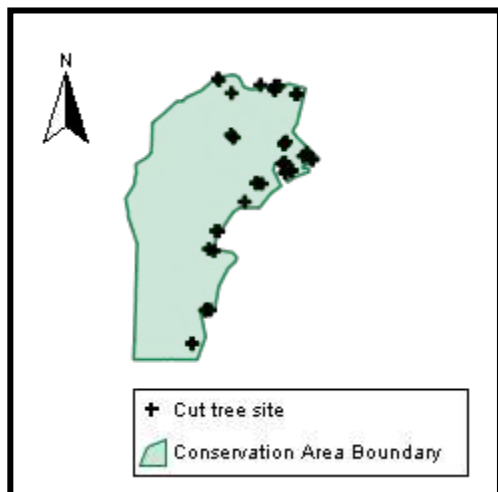
Tractor patrols



## Illegal activities

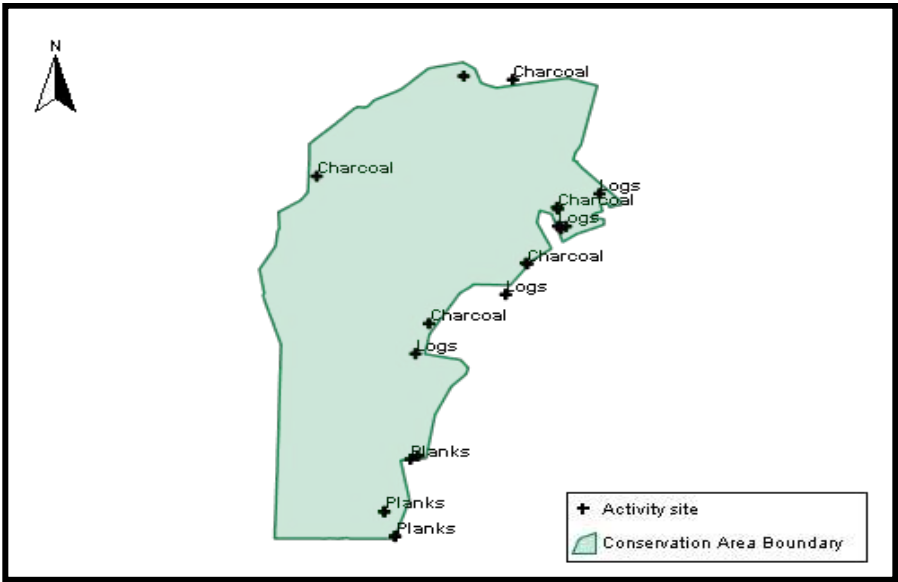
### Cut trees and branches

58 cut trees and 13 cut branches were recorded and a total of 38 poles were collected.



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

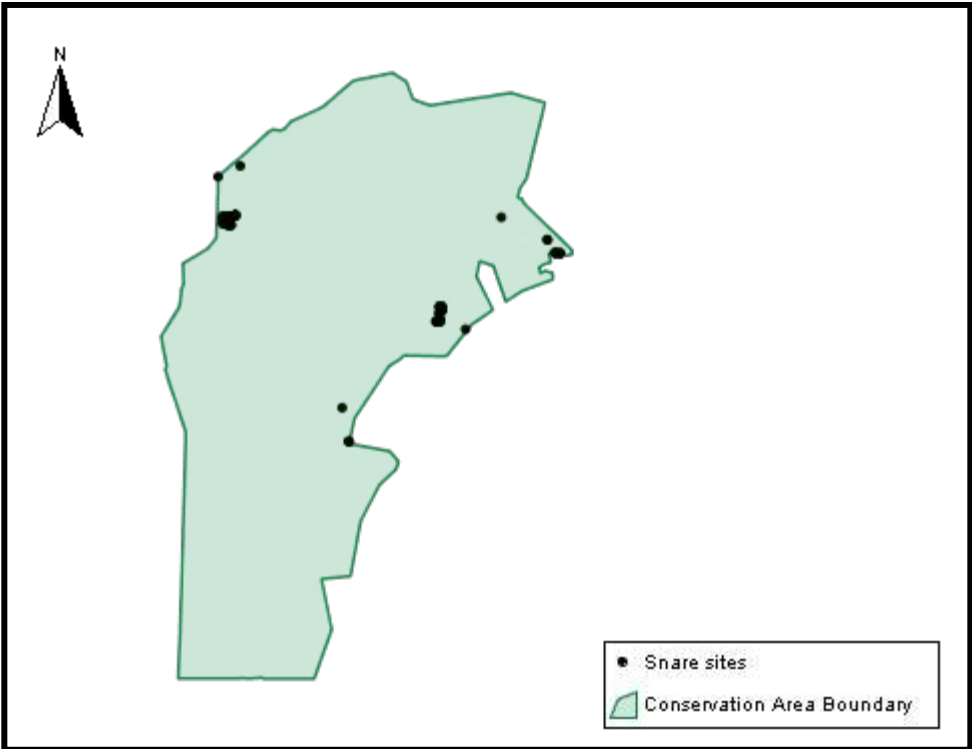
Human activity	No. of Bags	No. of Logs	No. of heaps	No. of kilns	No. of Fitoes	No. of Planks	No. of crosscut logs	No. of Stems	No. of headloads	Count Observation
Building poles								2		13
Carving										0
Charcoal	1			6						6
Cut branches										10
Cut Stems							7			47
Firewood									1	1
Fitoes					10					1
Logs		42	7							7
Planks						13				5





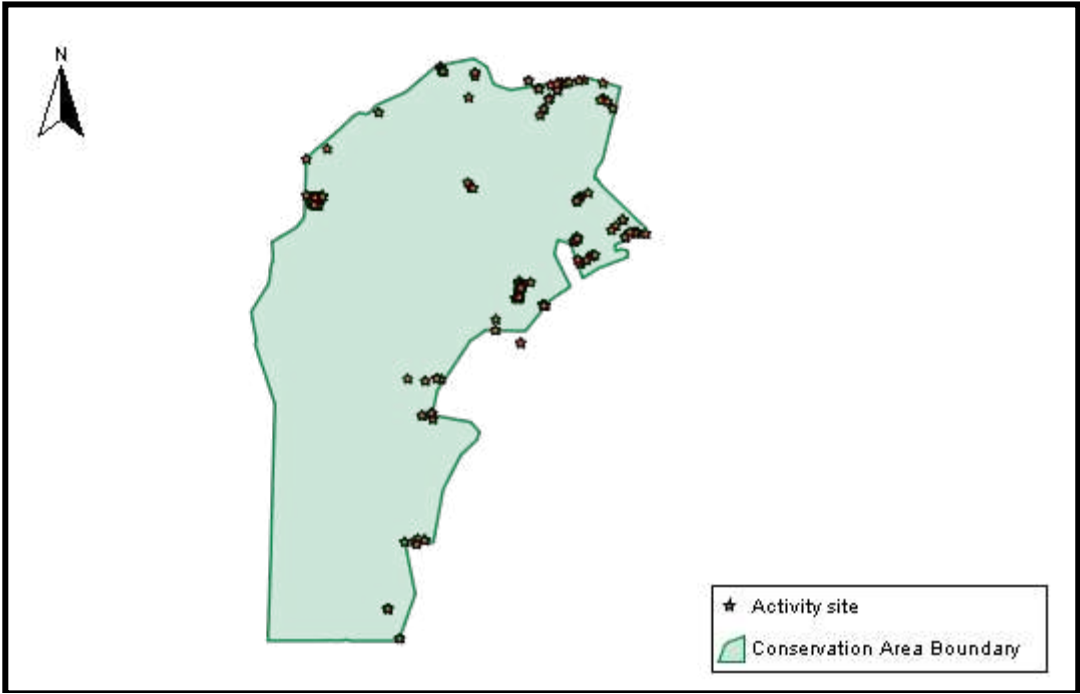
Traps and snares

A total of 269 snares were removed from the forest in December.





Illegal activity hotspots



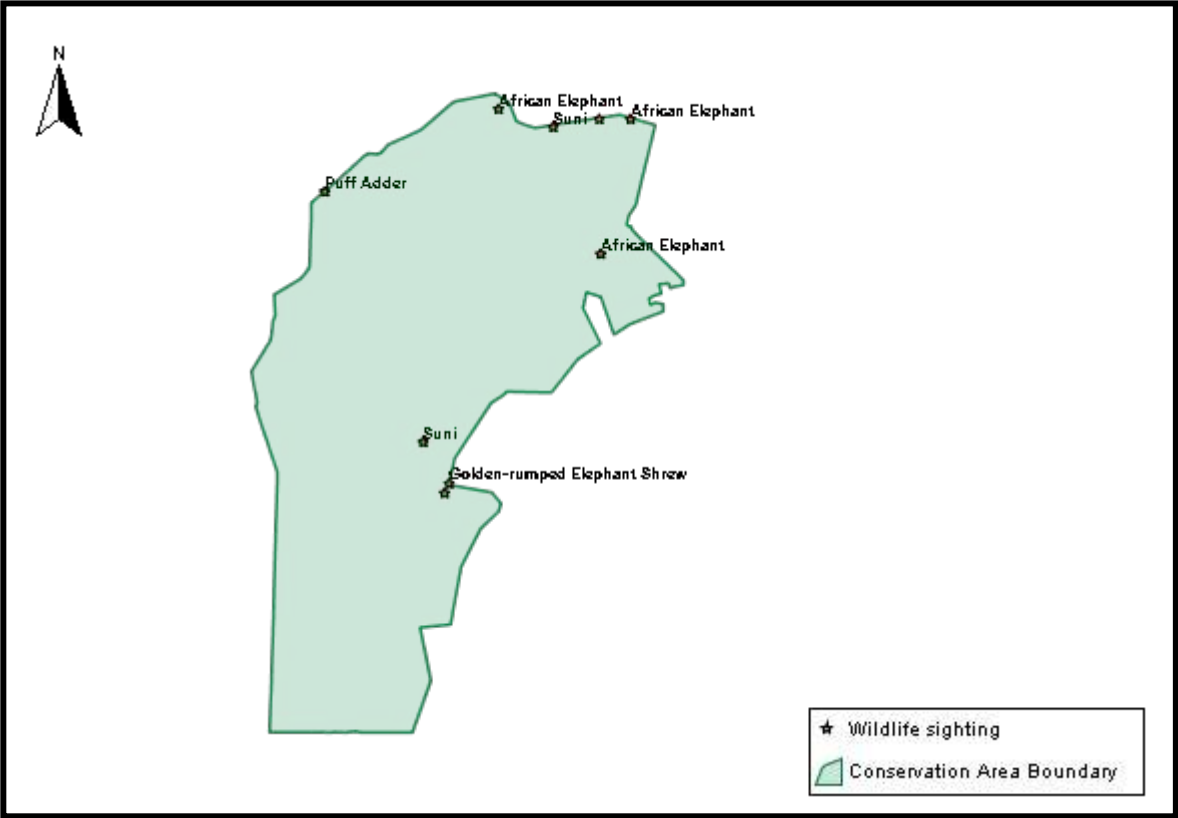
Arrests

Arrested for	No. of incidents	No. of People	Average person's age	No. of male
Charcoal burning	1	1	51.00	1
Logging	6	6	37.83	6

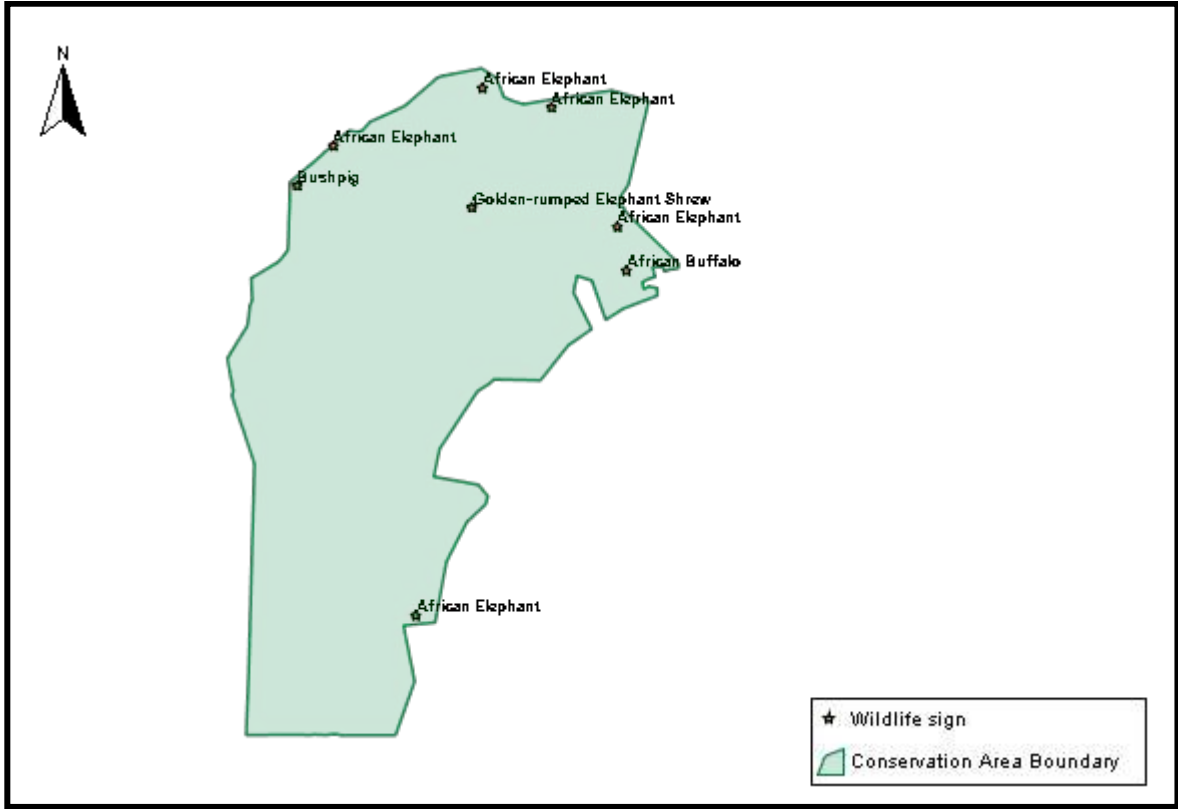




Wildlife activity



Wildlife signs (including tracks, dung and pathways)



## Recent news

### Visit by Mount Kenya Trust

On 5 December a group of 40 from the Mount Kenya Trust visited the forest. They were welcomed at the Gede entrance by members from the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Guides Association (ASFGA), Kenya Forest Service (KFS), Kenya Wildlife Service's (KWS) and FoASF personnel.

After a short briefing, the group walked through the forest to the Arabuko swamp, discussing the ASF's unique environment. At the swamp Sammy Safari gave a talk on the forest adjacent communities and projects that have been implemented. He gave the group some freshly harvested cassava crop from the Songa Mbele self-help group.

On return to the KWS education centre, the FoASF liaison officer gave a presentation on the work FoASF is undertaking in the forest. Our short educational film was shown and received a wonderful response. This was followed by a talk from Local Ocean Trusts (LOC) project manager Justin Beswick. The Mount Kenya Trust ended the visit by showing their film and giving a presentation on their incredible, wide ranging work.

Thank you to all those involved in making the trip a huge success.



### Committee trip to Mwangea Hill

On 7 December the FoASF committee, led by Chairman Tukero Ole Kina, drove to Mwangea Hill to observe the severe ongoing illegal logging and charcoal practices.

An interesting day out where indeed urgent action needs to be taken if any of the remaining forest is to survive.

However, the day was made considerably more cheerful after a great barbecue was had by all - organised by committee member Ray Muremi.

### Nature trail

Information stickers were placed on the drums in December. KWS and KFS gave the go ahead to place the drums along the Nature Trail shortly after - this will be done in January.





## SMART data collection refresher training

The FoASF 10 community scouts conducted a data collection refresher course on 17 December. FoASF field operative and administrative manager provided the training, focusing on the newest member to the FoASF patrol team, the driver Jackson Furaha. All members proved to be extremely competent using the data phone.



## The Songa Mbele self-help group – cassava plantation

In October, FoASF, with the support of African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW), procured a cassava chipper and solar drier for processing the Songa Mbele self-help groups cassava produce. The group managed to harvest 300 kilograms of cassava in October for selling to the local communities. Markets in Malindi and Kilifi were also identified.

The short rains started in October, which are still ongoing, flooding the entire three-acre cassava plot. Seedlings that were planted on the two-acre plot, rented with funding from AFEW, reached a height of 1.5 – 2 feet and have been submerged throughout November leaving them deceased. The mature cassava crop from the groups starting one-acre plot has unfortunately rotted with the rain. Thankfully the group was able to collect stems for replanting in the new year.

The group is currently looking into planting a rice seed bed until the rains have passed. Cassava planting will resume once the water levels have reduced.

## KFS dry rations donation

On 11 December, Team Blue leader Julius Mbitha, received two boxes of dry rations (combo 10) from the KFS Regional Commander Harrison Afwata.

Also, in attendance was the acting Ecosystem Coordinator Elvis Fondo; The Gede, Sokoke and Jilore Foresters and Gede Community Forest Association (CFA) chairman Charo Ngumbao.

Thank you to KFS for their generous contribution.



## FoASF liaison officer's activities

FoASF liaison officer, Joseph Kanundu attended a community meeting at the Oshwal Primary school, Mkongani, with the area chief, KWS Sargent Tinga and 40 community members.

Joseph introduced himself and explained the role of FoASF in the forest. He and Sargent Tinga raised awareness on the importance of conserving the forest and the dangers therein. The area chief urged the community to take precautions and discontinue entering the forest to conduct illegal activities.



On 14 December Joseph participated in a beach clean-up, nature walk and day of fun at A Rocha, Watamu. The event was organised by ASFGA member Albert Baya.

151 participants attended from 18 conservation groups around the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, KWS Watamu, A Rocha and the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Guides Association (ASFGA). A total of 52 kilograms of waste was collected from the Watamu beach.

Special thanks to the Albert Baya and his sponsors - Blue Marmalade supermarket, Turtle Bay Beach Club, Scott Memorial Trust and A Rocha Kenya.



## Community Forest Association (CFA) scout patrols

In December the Jilore CFA completed their 10 days of patrols funded by FoASF.

Human activity noted by the Jilore CFA during 10 days of patrols:

- 17 cut stumps observed
- 1 cut branch observed
- 2 poles collected
- 5 logs recovered
- 49 snares removed
- 1 beam found
- 10 head loads of firewood collected
- 1 warning given

A meeting will take place with the three CFA's to discuss the project and review their reports.





### Direct support to KWS and KFS

FoASF activity	Cost (\$) justification	Total (\$)
KWS fuel	Assistance with fuel for motorbike and vehicle patrols with scouts.	300
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>450</b>



*All pictures in the field taken by FoASF scouts (December 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 - of Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest