



Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest (FoASF)

Monthly Report

March 2019



Recent news

Scout training

On 4th March FoASF ten scouts traveled to OI Pejeta Conservancy in Laikipia to conduct a three-week training course on bush craft, patrol techniques, drills, map reading, communications, biodiversity data collection, care and management of wildlife, first aid and report/analytical skills.

The scouts returned to the forest on 29th March and so no patrols were conducted during March.

Thank you to OI Pejeta Conservancy, particularly the CEO Richard Vigne together with Samuel Mutisya and Daniel Mwaniki for facilitating this training and the skilled instructors involved.





Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Kenya Forest Service (KFS)

The management working group meeting held in February reported issues of transport and fuel re patrols for KFS at the Jilore and Sokoke stations. After receiving a proposal from the Sokoke Forester, FoASF contributed towards their fuel allowance for one month.

A comprehensive report was submitted and with this donation the Sokoke station was able to:

- Arrest one man who was cutting trees for carving.
- Respond quickly to a fire outbreak in the Kwa Donyi area along the Kilifi – Malindi road.
- Patrol the Kahingoni, Mwambani, Kaembeni and Vimburuni areas (all areas of high illegal activity).
- Recover 16 poles, bundles of firewood, logs for charcoal and over 20 snares.



(Three photos above taken by the KFS Sokoke station March 2019)

Due to forest fires, reports of community feeding the elephant and ever-increasing litter, we got together with KWS and KFS who requested signs to be fixed along the fence line.



On 26th March FoASF donated a printer with scanning and photocopying capabilities to the KWS Arabuko office.



Fence posts

FoASF have donated a total of 153 fence posts to KWS to urgently replace a 1.5km stretch of fence line running from the Arabuko swamp to the Kakuyuni area.



Alia, FoASF field and admin assistant handed the posts over to the KWS Warden, Madam Ntindi and Moses Waitere, who is in charge of the electric fence.

Education programme

Since volunteer Roxie Davies returned to her job in the UK at the end of February 2019 no schools have visited the forest. This program is now under the directorship of KWS warden Madam Ntindi Kassim and the KWS education officer Madam Jamila Mohammed, who has been on leave. 11 schools have already been identified and approached for visiting, and when the school exams and holidays are over the education officer will make plans to complete the student visits. The FoASF secretary will arrange payments for the expenses from the remaining budget.

Direct support to KWS and KFS March 2019

FoASF activity	Cost (\$) justification	Total (\$)
KWS vehicle running costs	Warden Sokoke vehicle donated by Captain Andy's Fishing Supplies.	460
KWS field staff rations x1	40\$ per person for rations while complementing our scouts in the forest.	40
KFS field staff rations x1	40\$ per person for rations while complementing our scouts in the forest.	40
KWS fuel	Assistance with fuel for motorbike and vehicle patrols with scouts.	200
KFS fuel	Assistance with fuel for the Gede Forester motorbike patrols around the forest.	50
Total		790



All pictures in the field (unless otherwise specified) taken by FoASF scouts or field and admin assistant Alia Moller (March 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; Committee members; Community volunteers; and numerous supporters and funders who have made all this possible.

Report compiled by Alia Moller - of FoASF