



Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest monthly report

January 2021

Four-toed Elephant Shrews confiscated from poacher.

Key achievements

- We have just analysed the 2020 data collected by our scouts during forest protection patrols, we covered 4,866 kilometres on foot over 1,530 patrol days. As a result, we recovered 3,496 snares and traps, confiscated 1,459 poles and logs and destroyed 74 charcoal kilns. And more, we arrested 74 suspects for committing illegal activities in the forest! More details will come soon...
- Thanks to the support of the Thin Green Line Foundation, we managed to keep all 35 community scouts working full time and they covered 869 km on foot during the forest protection patrols.
- We engaged with the community forest associations in a capacity building, needs assessment, work planning and budgeting exercise. These are crucial steps to the development of sustainable participatory forest management.

Law enforcement

FoASF has adopted a law enforcement strategy that focusses on protecting specified areas in the forest. There are four teams stationed in these areas as well as two mobile teams to carrying out reconnaissance patrols and responding effectively to incidents. In January, FoASF community rangers working with Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) achieved the following:

- 5 suspects arrested for illegal activities in the forest from 3 incidents
- 113 patrol days were executed, with 869 km covered on foot
- 241 snares and traps removed
- 338 poles confiscated
- 169 stems cutting recorded
- 81 logs confiscated
- 4 charcoal kilns destroyed

Infrastructure

We are working with the community forest associations (CFAs) to maintain the road network in the forest. In January 2021, we side-cleared a total of 13km of roads, opened 1 km of an abandoned road and dug six metre drains. The road maintenance programme offered CFAs 136-man days earning them 94,600Ksh (USD\$946) in wages. Additionally, we cleared seven fallen trees blocking roads at different locations in the forest.

Community engagement

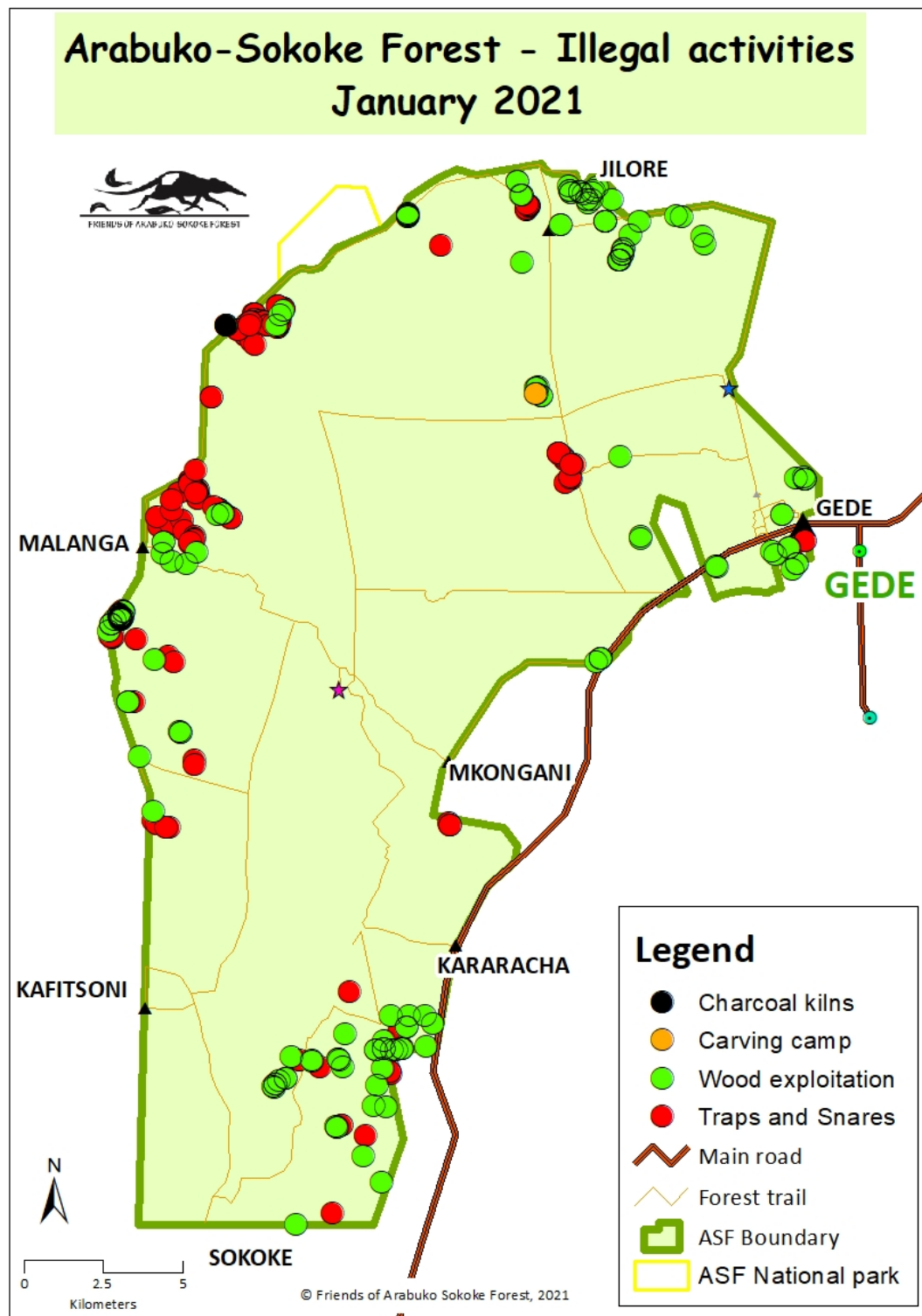
We held three planning meetings with the community forest associations (CFA) at their respective forest stations to introduce the new management and executive committee members to workplan development, finance management and budgeting, and prioritizing of programmes. These sessions offered the new CFAs committees an oversight on important project management principles which they will have to adapt to, in order to successfully run their associations in the future.

To further strengthen the new CFA committees' capabilities to effectively run their respective associations, we identified Dzarino community based training organization to conduct capacity building needs assessment for the CFAs. Dzarino successfully carried out the needs assessment for the three CFAs independently and has produced a report which will serve as a baseline for their capacity building priorities.

Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest is committed to support communities around the forest and continue engaging with community members through CFAs towards sustainable participatory forest management.

We also continued with the socio-economic survey and have collected data from over 930 households bordering the forest.

Map showing distribution of illegal activities discovered during January 2021.





Active carving camp found during an ordinary patrol, showing continuous demand for hardwood and its products offered in carving industry.



The new Sokoke Community Forest Association management committee and executive committee during a needs assessment session facilitated by Dzarino CBTO from Mtwapa.



Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest is a Company Limited by Guarantee, is a non-for-profit organization registered in Kenya. Our mission is to ensure optimum professional management of the forest, building upon a strong foundation with appropriate management practices, funding, and good governance to secure the future of the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest, valued by communities that embrace and benefit from its biodiversity and integrity.

We work closely with the Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service, and Community Forest Associations.



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