



MONTHLY REPORT

February 2021

Key achievements

1. Our management team met with Kenya Forest Service deputy Chief Conservator of Forests, Mrs Charity Munyasya and Head of Conservancies Mr Andrew Soi this to discuss outstanding issues such as forest governance, the perimeter road along the fence and the tourism development plan.
2. An illegal carving camp was destroyed; two carvers were arrested with 236 pieces of items originating from indigenous trees from the forest.
3. The Nyari viewpoint access road was cleared which allows a smooth experience for all visitors.
4. 60 Langstroth beehives were produced by local carpenters in preparation for the launch of the beekeeping livelihood support project.

Law enforcement

Unlike 2020, this year has seen a return of wood carving inside the forest, with carvers setting up camps inside the forest to fell targeted tree species and carve them into various artifacts. Unfortunately, the two suspects that we arrested were bailed at the police station and are escaping rearrest to attend court.

In February our community scouts working together with the Kenya Forest Service and the Kenya Wildlife Service achieved the following in protecting the forest against illegal exploitation:

1. 8 suspects arrested for illegal activities in the forest from 6 incidents
2. 121 patrol days were executed, with 765 km covered on foot
3. 381 snares and traps removed
4. 1 carving camp destroyed
5. 160 poles confiscated
6. 225 stems cutting recorded
7. 108 logs confiscated
8. 6 charcoal kilns destroyed

Infrastructure

In collaboration with the Gede Community Forest Association (CFA) youths cleared two kilometres of forest roads and one kilometre of forest trails. Additionally, we facilitated the removal of over 15 big trees that had fallen across the roads.

In February, our roads maintenance programme offered the local youths 60 man-days earning them over 40,000Ksh. The objective of our road maintenance programme is to allow the movement of vehicles in the forest for effective law enforcement and improved visitor experience, whilst offering the local communities job opportunities.

Community Forest Associations.

We are committed to enabling the new three Community Forest Associations (CFAs) formed in Arabuko-Sokoke Forest to be functional. After receiving a request from Gede CFA, for a field trip into

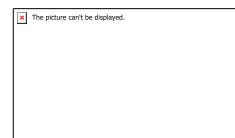
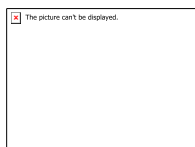
the forest for their new executive committee members, we took a team of seven of the for a half a day visit on Saturday 20 February.

A number of the new CFA management committee members had never been into the forest, and this opportunity to visit the forest allowed them to familiarize themselves with the forest in which they plan to participate in the management of with Kenya Forest Service.

To improve the communities' livelihoods, we are piloting a beekeeping project as an income-generating activity for the communities bordering the forest. In February, we contracted local carpenters in Gede town to construct 60 Langstroth beehives which have since been delivered. Moving forward, we have scheduled training for the identified farmers before we distribute hives to them.

The new Gede CFA executive committee members during a trip into the forest.

Langstroth beehives from the contracted carpenters in Gede Town.



Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest is a Company Limited by Guarantee, is a not-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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