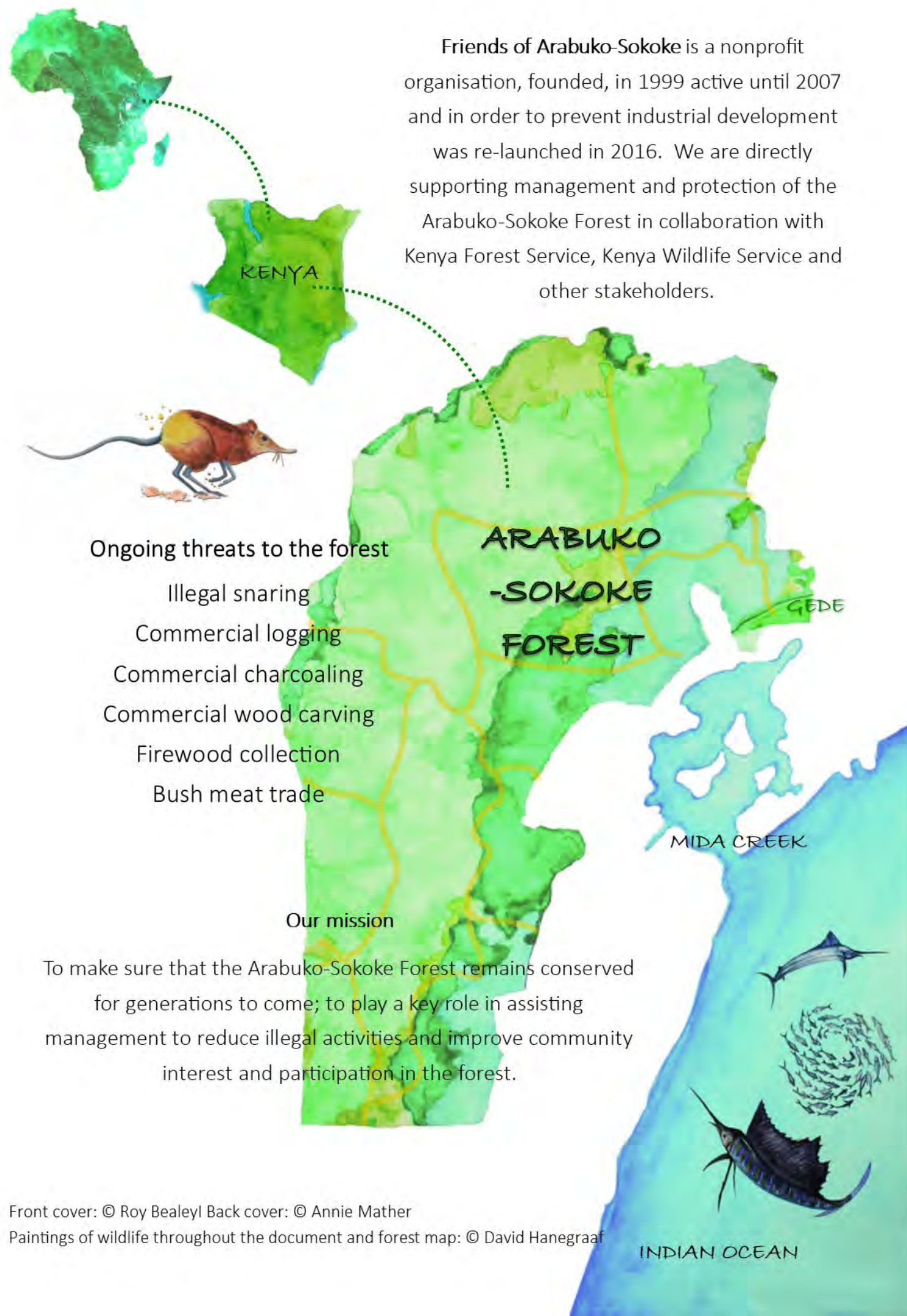


Annual review 2019



FRIENDS OF ARABUKO-SOKOKE FOREST



Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke is a nonprofit organisation, founded, in 1999 active until 2007 and in order to prevent industrial development was re-launched in 2016. We are directly supporting management and protection of the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest in collaboration with Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service and other stakeholders.

Ongoing threats to the forest

- Illegal snaring
- Commercial logging
- Commercial charcoaling
- Commercial wood carving
- Firewood collection
- Bush meat trade

Our mission

To make sure that the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest remains conserved for generations to come; to play a key role in assisting management to reduce illegal activities and improve community interest and participation in the forest.

Chairman's message

Things have moved on considerably since our last annual review. The Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest became a company limited by guarantee and we have formed a board. The members are myself Tukero Ole Kina (chairman and also chairman of the committee), Dr Dino Martins (executive director of Mpala research centre and research scholar and lecturer in ecology and evolutionary biology at Princeton University - USA), Andy Thomas (chief executive officer of Captain Andy's fishing boats in Watamu), David Martin (an honorary warden from Diani with wide ranging experience in conservation) and Deborah Goodhart (secretary). We are establishing ourselves and had three meetings in 2019.

I want to thank the wonderful committee who for more than four years have volunteered their time running the Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest. The board has made a decision that it is time to move in a more professional direction. We have stood the committee down but will continue to utilise their expertise and the equivalent of a chief executive, the role Lissa Ruben has been in effect been holding incredibly well, will report to the board.

One of the reasons for this decision is that our marvellous field and administrative assistant Alia Moller is moving on. Thus, we are recruiting to her position and looking to form a more professional structure to the Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.

Our habitat protection programme, funded by the Minara and Oak foundations has been extremely successful. African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW) has been enormously supportive during the year. With their help we purchased a new Isuzu DMAX 4x4 single cab pickup. Having this vehicle based with the scouts has enabled greater areas to be patrolled and quicker responses to emergencies. They also helped us renovate outposts in the forest that were in a state of disrepair and where there is a high incidence of illegal activity.

With AFEW's help again, in January 2019, we took on a liaison officer to oversee our community scouts' team, coordinate patrols with Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and engage with the local communities. This position has quickly become a key part of our team.

My thanks go to the Minara and Oak foundations and to AFEW who have been extremely supportive and to all the other organisations and individuals who have generously donated to the Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke. Special thanks go to Andy and Erica Thomas who continuously support our organisation and the forest. Not forgetting our loyal friends, the local ones who often attend the bi-monthly early morning walks in the forest.

Arabuko-Sokoke Forest is officially recognised as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO. This was announced at a meeting of the UNESCO Man and Biosphere International Co-ordinating Council in Paris in June 2019. We are now well and truly on the international map and the eyes of the world are on our wonderful forest.

However, we are not complacent! Near Arabuko-Sokoke Forest is Mwangea Hill. This is a forest under enormous pressure from human settlement. In order to encourage Government authorities to protect it, we are proposing the use of a multi-sectoral approach for funding and implementation of the project.


Tukero Ole Kina
Chairman



Executive summary

The Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest (FoASF) is a working group that advocate for the conservation of the forest through participatory approaches. It was launched in 1999 and was active until 2007, when it fell dormant. With a critical threat to the forest in 2014 from oil and gas exploration surveys, it was decided that there was need to protect this unique and internationally renowned forest by re-launching the FoASF which happened in 2016.

FoASF has nearly 200 Friends from people from academia, business sector, researchers, individuals and the community who are passionate about the conservation of the forest.

Both 2017 and 2018 were years of growth, improvement and cooperation for an evolving FoASF; a number of goals were set and many achievements made. Moves were made in 2019 to strengthen the operations of the FoASF anti-poaching community scouts' team, along with strengthening of relationships and collaborating activities with the two government agencies KWS and KFS, without whose co-operation nothing would have been possible.

The Arabuko-Sokoke forest is undoubtedly the most unique forest in East Africa. It is the remnant of what was a vast tract of forest stretching down the coastline of Eastern Africa from Somalia to Mozambique. The forest now covers a total area of 420 square kilometers.

We desperately need to protect the Arabuko-Sokoke for its biodiversity. There are birds and animals, plants and trees that are found nowhere else in the world. Within the fenced forest area there are six globally threatened species of birds: in Africa, the forest ranks second in importance for the conservation of birds and was officially recognised as a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in June 2019.

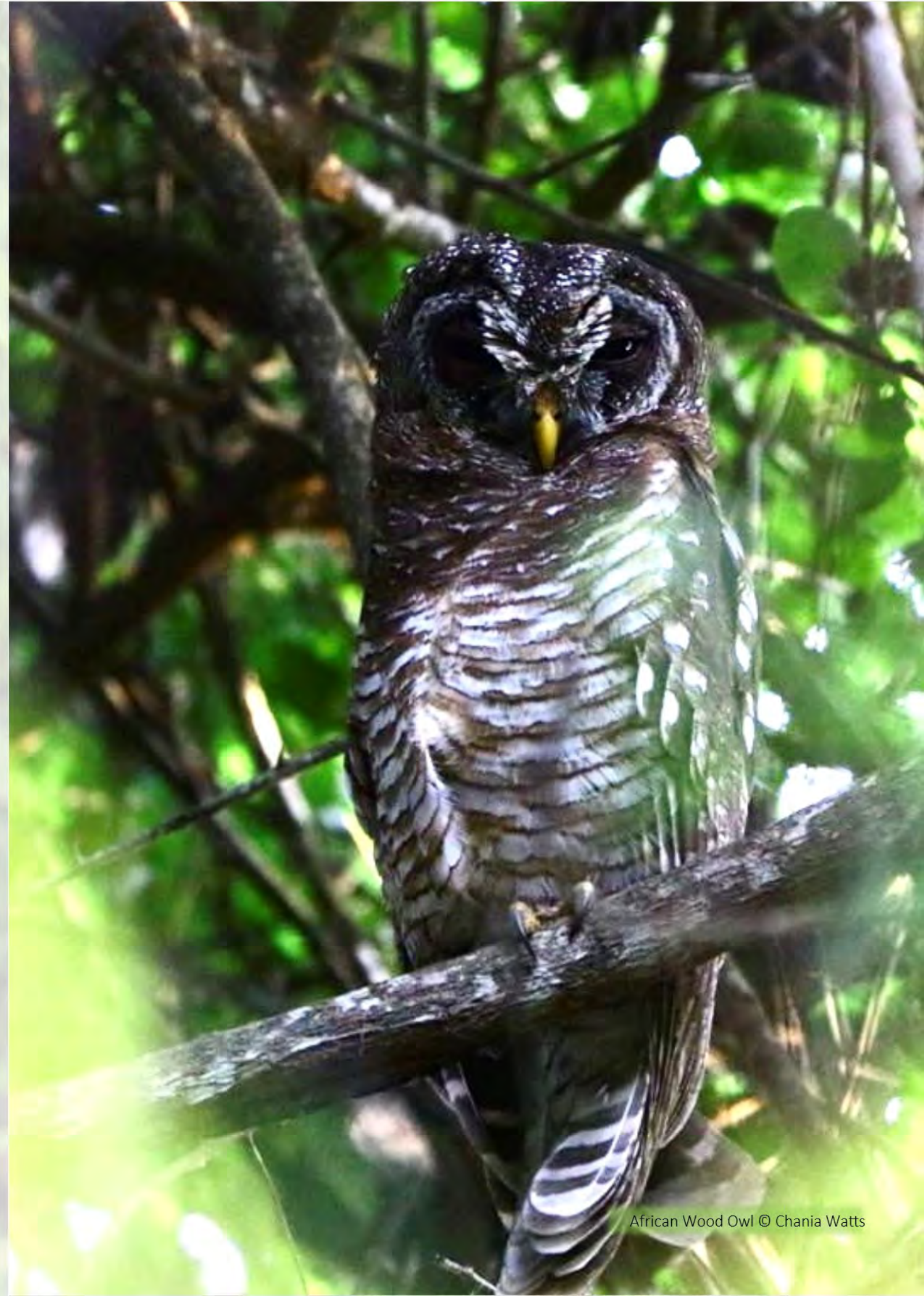
With four endemic butterfly species, 50 globally or nationally rare plant species, three species of mammal, which are globally threatened and approximately 150 elephants, this is truly an irreplaceable ecosystem.

The community around the forest is vital to its survival. It is estimated there are 250,000 people living there. The poverty is dire and although much money has been pumped into the forest over the years it does not seem to have made a noticeable difference. We would like to change that, by engaging the community in conservation protection activities and other methods of farming although there is honey and butterfly collection, which brings in some income.

The Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest is supporting KFS and KWS in addressing the many problems the forest has. Some of the areas FoASF is helping the management team address are:

- stopping illegal logging.
- stopping illegal poaching of all animals.
- supporting the upkeep of roads, signage and maintenance of the electric fence.
- engaging with local communities in conservation protection activities.

Our continued goal is to conserve the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and all its inhabitants for generations to come in partnership with KWS, KFS, the adjacent communities and other stakeholders.



African Wood Owl © Chania Watts

Highlights of 2019

- ⇒ Addition of a liaison officer Joseph Kanundu and driver Jackson Furaha to the FoASF team.
- ⇒ Formation of a board of five in July 2019.
- ⇒ Training of the 10-man FoASF community scout team at Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Laikipia.
- ⇒ FoASF scouts continue to collect meaningful data and observations during patrols on SMART since April 2018.

- ⇒ Purchase of one Isuzu DMAX 4x4 single cab pickup with extra fittings for patrolling with the FoASF scouts in the forest.
- ⇒ Renovation of the KFS Malanga and Kakuyuni outposts.
- ⇒ Creation of a new map and leaflet for visitors to the forest.
- ⇒ Completion of the Kilifi Gold Triathlon education project bringing 1376 children from 37 schools into the forest.
- ⇒ Procurement of the first uniform for the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Guides Association (ASFGA).
- ⇒ Purchase of 10 Nikon 7572 PROSTAFF 10X50 binoculars (in black) for the ASFGA guides.
- ⇒ Procurement of a cassava processing machine and solar drier for the Songa Mbele user group.
- ⇒ Donation of 187 fence posts to KWS for fence maintenance.
- ⇒ Publication of 2018 forest biodiversity data to the GBIF open source database.
- ⇒ Donation of signage to the Kenya Forest Service attracting visitors into the forest.
- ⇒ Engagement with the three Community Forest Associations (CFAs) through de-snaring and scout patrolling activities.
- ⇒ Continuing to attract donor support to the forest.



FoASF scouts (left) © Alia Moller | Malanga outpost renovated: © FoASF

Law enforcement

FoASF continue to assist KWS and KFS in reducing illegal forest activities and preserving the biodiversity in the forest through scout patrols and by increasing boots on the ground.

In March 2019 the 10 scouts travelled to Ol 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.

Hotspot areas identified by the forest management team and data collected in 2018 were focused on for patrols in 2019. These areas include Malanga, Matsangoni, Jilore/Arabuko and Kakuyuni, each showing a high density of foot patrols in 2019.

FoASF continues to improve their presence on the ground, using data collected in SMART and additional information from the field to provide clear visuals of the illegal activity hotspot areas in the forest.

The data collected by the team continues to be used to identify illegal activity hotspots and areas under greatest threat. Data collected is gathered and used to produce a report on a monthly basis for all forest stakeholders .

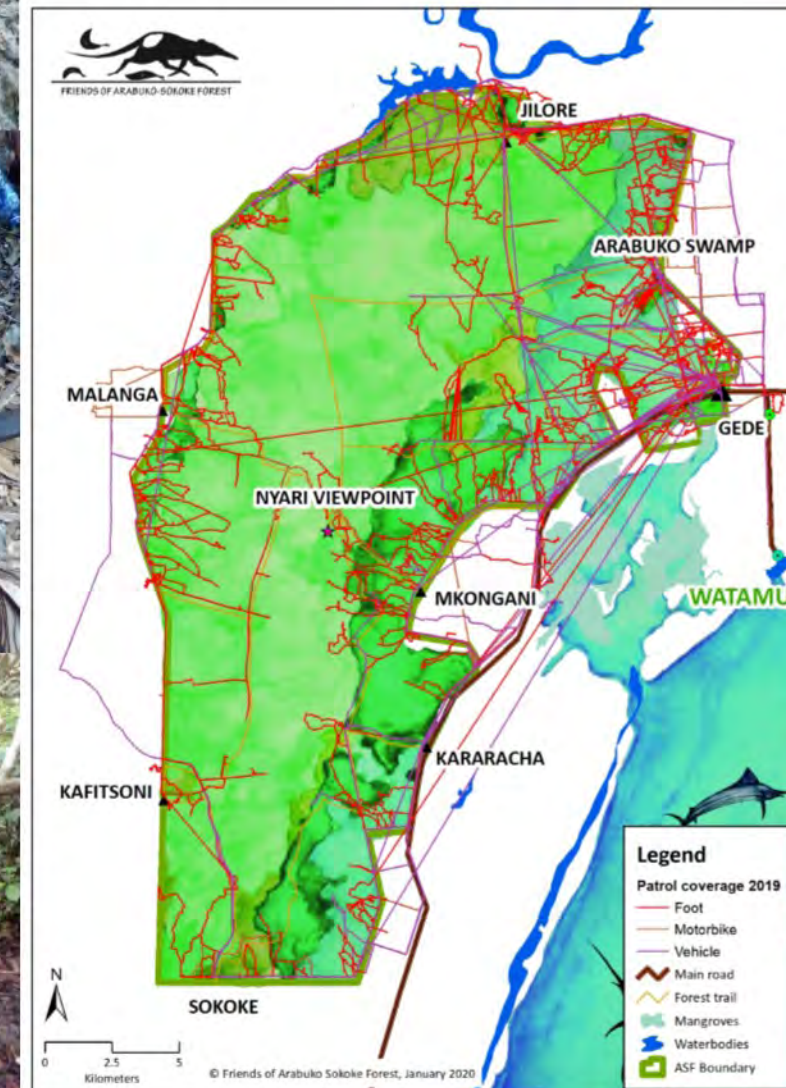


FoASF scouts (top) © Alia Moller



A total of 1029 patrol days/year

An average of 86 patrol days/month



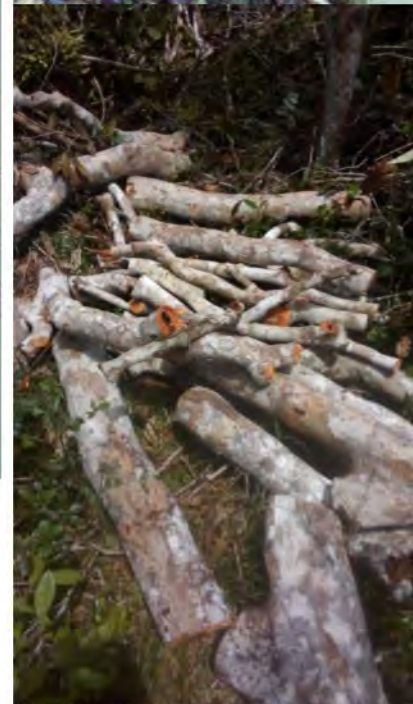
ON FOOT
3,384 km

BY MOTORBIKE
2,195 km

BY VEHICLE
6,514 km

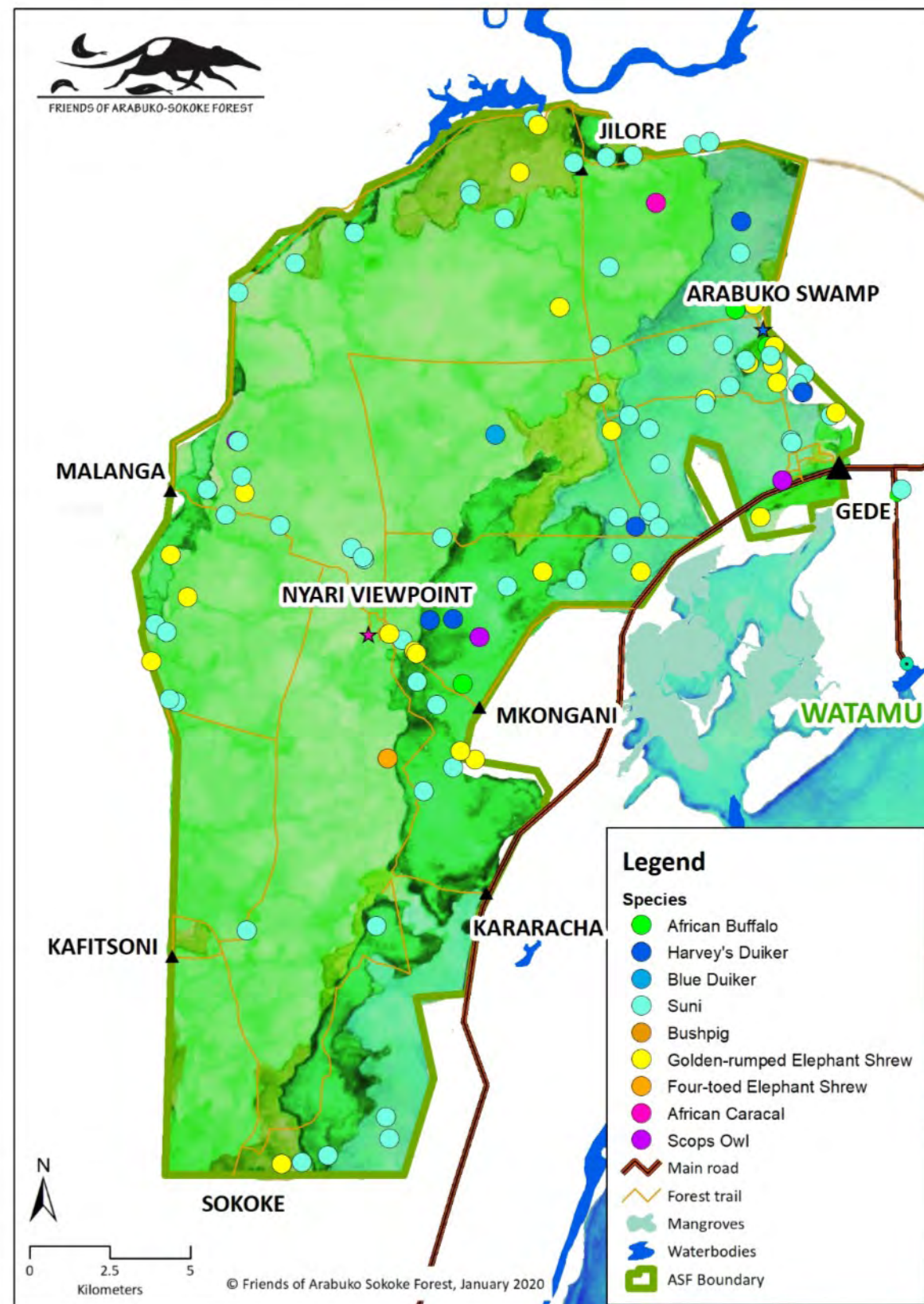


Map represents patrol coverage of the forest © FoASF



Forest biodiversity

In March 2019 the FoASF 2018 biodiversity data, collected by the scout team on SMART, was published by AROCHA Kenya on the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) open source database. FoASF will continue to publish this data annually, adding to the digitized biodiversity data for the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest

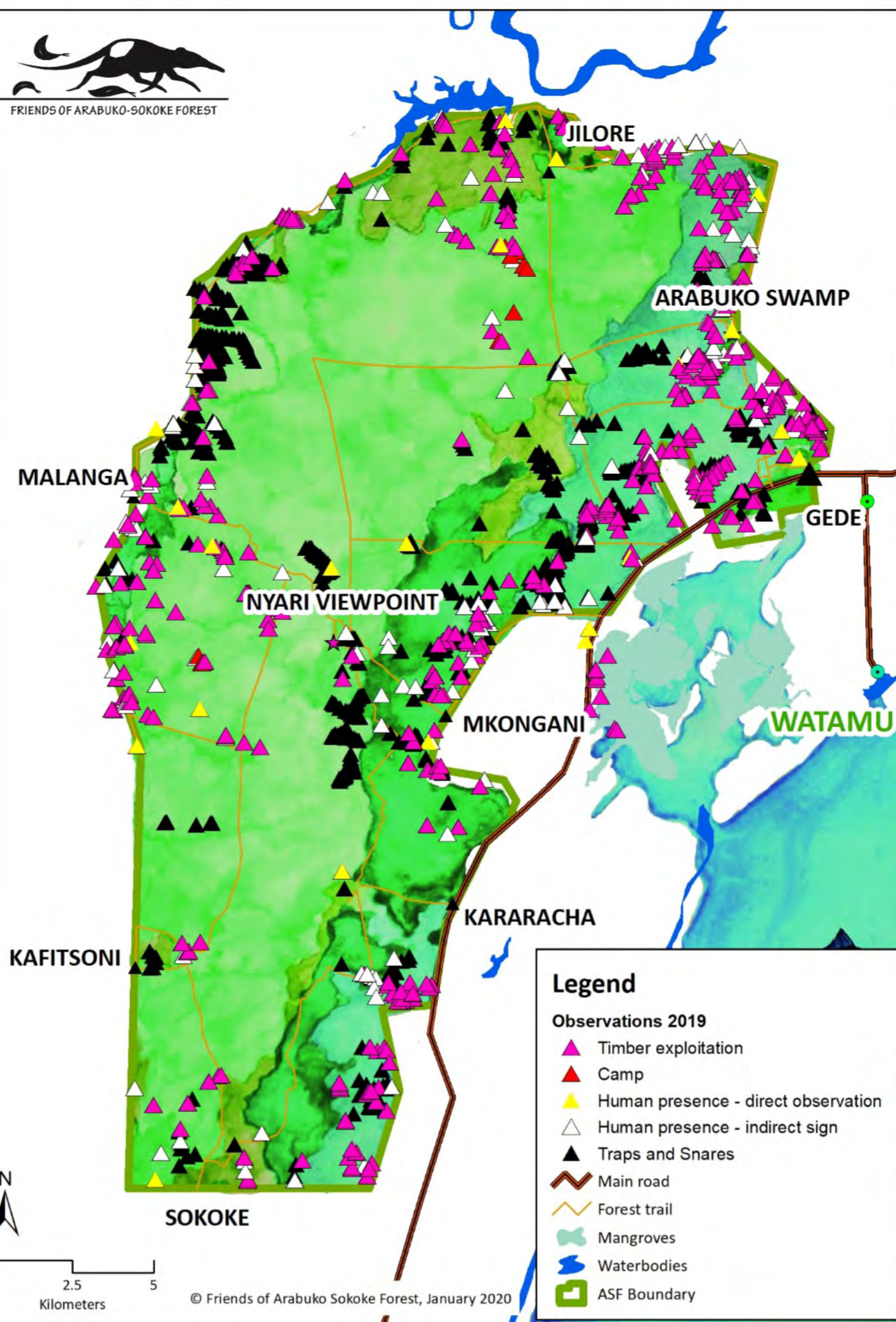


Map represents key wildlife species observations (without elephants) in the forest recorded in 2019.



Scops owl (top) © FoASF | Papilio constantinus © Annie Mather

2019 By numbers



ARRESTS

49

SNARES REMOVED

2519

COLLECTED POLES

685

FIREWOOD HEAD- LOADS

59

CUT TREES

774

FIREWOOD LOGS

359

CUT BRANCHES

179

RECOVERED PLANKS

48

CHARCOAL BAGS

55

RECOVERED WITHIES

524

CHARCOAL KILNS

16

CARVING LOGS

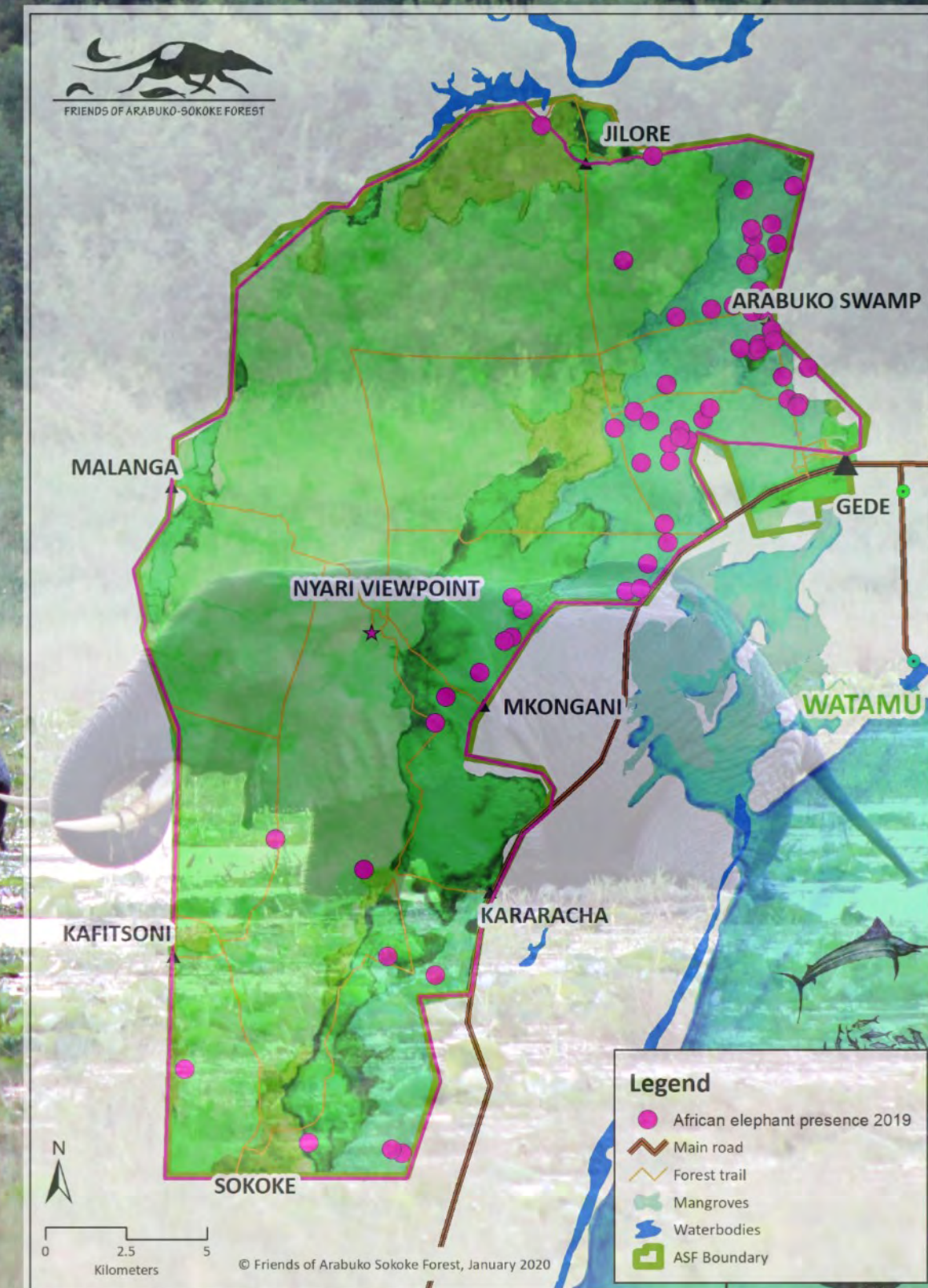
19

Map (left) represents illegal activities observations in the forest recorded in 2019.

Elephants of the forest

Elephants play a vital role in the ecosystem and Arabuko-Sokoke Forest supports healthy population of elephants, estimated to about 150 individuals. Elephant - human conflict was reduced in the past by electric fencing of the forest, but challenges facing the future of elephants in the forest are concerning.

In 2019, Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest participated in review of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Conservation Action Plan 2013., together with Nature Kenya and lined up actions to understand, protect and manage Arabuko-Sokoke Forest elephant population. Our scouts are continuously collecting data about elephant distribution and herd size in the forest and our Board member directly supports the functioning of generator and water supply to Arabuko Swamp, the only permanent source of water in the Forest.



Community engagement

Empowering women

To provide an alternative means of living for the forest adjacent communities and to halt their need to capitalize on illegal products from the forest.

Committee member, Sammy Safari, guided and mentored a Songa Mbele self-help group of 17 local women and one man (the Songa Mbele self-help group) to cultivate a one-acre cassava plot near the Arabuko swamp on the edge of the forest. In November 2018, with funding from African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW), the group was able to increase their yield by renting another two acres of land and through the procurement of a solar food drier and motorized processing machine (chipper) for reading their harvests for retailing.

Due to a lack of rains and the threat of forest fire, the group extended the growing season and began to harvest the crop in September 2019. The machines are being used to produce flour for cakes, ugali and chapatis. The group plans to use the cassava plot as an area to educate the adjacent communities about cassava planting and processing and to raise awareness of the forest's importance.



Display plantation

In 2018 a display plantation was developed using funding from Blue Marmalade Supermarket, Watamu. The two-acre plot was used to supply the local community with low cost food as well as a place to learn about sustainable methods of farming, including permaculture.

Tree planting

FoASF took part in a replanting activity in the burnt area of the Jilore sector of the forest to prevent further encroachment from the local farmers onto forest land.

A total of 1,834 seedlings were donated by KFS and planted over a 4.5 -hectare area of burnt forest.





De-snaring activities

The relationship between biodiversity conservation and poverty is a huge threat and its thought that engaging the adjacent communities is key to protecting it. Facilitating activities such as de-snaring and scout patrols with the Community Forest Associations (CFAs) will help to enhance their feeling of ownership and involvement in the protection of the forest.

Community scout patrols

Five CFA scouts from the Gede, Jilore and Sokoke CFAs were supported for 10 days of patrols in the forest. Patrols were conducted in October, November and December 2019. Again, participants were taken from the CFAs, local community, rangers from KFS and KWS and scouts from FoASF.

These activities provide employment to the local communities reducing their need to enter the forest and capitalise on illegally harvested products, as well as providing a situation for developing relationships, networking and collaboration between the local communities, the government agencies and the FoASF scouts.



Suni recovered from poachers (left) © FoASF
Cut stumps (right) © FoASF

Community efforts by numbers

ARREST

4

CUT STUMPS

36

FIREWOOD HEAD-LOADS

19

COLLECTED POLES

58

MANGROVE POLES & FITO

155

CUT BRANCHES

7

SNARES REMOVED

230

RAT TRAPS REMOVED

4

SUNI RELEASED

1

DEAD ANTELOPES IN SNARE

2

Conservation education

With funds raised from the Kilifi Gold Triathlon in September 2018, the planned education programme to bring local school children into the forest started in January and finished in November 2019 with the winners of the essay competition visiting Tsavo. More than 1300 children from 37 schools took part.

The programme was run by Jamila Mohammed KWS education officer, under the direction of KWS warden Madam Ntindi. Roxie Davies an environmental educator from England volunteered eight weeks of her time at the start of the project

The school children arrived at the KWS education center at Gede, where they are shown the film created by FoASF, followed by a talk by the KWS education officer. Special emphasis was given to the importance of managing the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest sustainably to maintain the ecosystem benefits that the forest provides, such as clean air, clean water and a diverse habitat.

The children were then driven just down from the Gede forest station to the Nature Trail where they are taken on a guided, sensory walk for 45-50 minutes. Each child was asked to write an essay about the trip into the forest. These were judged and the winners presented with certificates and prizes at an event at the forest in October 2019.

The main prize for the winners and their teachers was a visit to Tsavo National Park accompanied by KWS researcher and FoASF committee member Lynn Njuguna.



Children during environmental education programme (both sides) © FoASF



Eco - tourism

Forest maps

To encourage and educate tourists, FoASF put together an illustrated forest map and leaflet with pertinent information about the forest. The forest guides are well trained and dedicated to the protection of the forest, however, they did not have literature for their guests and potential visitors. The map and leaflet were designed by 4Shore Limited in Kilifi.

An initial run of 500 copies of the forest leaflet have been printed and placed at the Gede ticketing office for selling to visitors by the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Guides Association (ASFGA). An MPesa buy goods till number was opened to collect the money from sales. The forest management team will meet at the end of each calendar year to discuss which forest related project the collected funds will be used for.

Equipment and uniform for forest guides

Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke purchased 10 Nikon binoculars for the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Guides Association (ASFGA) with funding from AFEW. In addition, with support from Kobe Suite Resort in Watamu, the first uniforms for 10 members of the ASFGA were purchased.



Tourist guides with new uniforms and equipment (top) © FoASF | New map (right) © David Hanegraaf



Institutional information

Until November 2019 the Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest was run by a committee, working on a voluntary basis. The FoASF committee was disbanded at a meeting on 23 November 2019.

Committee

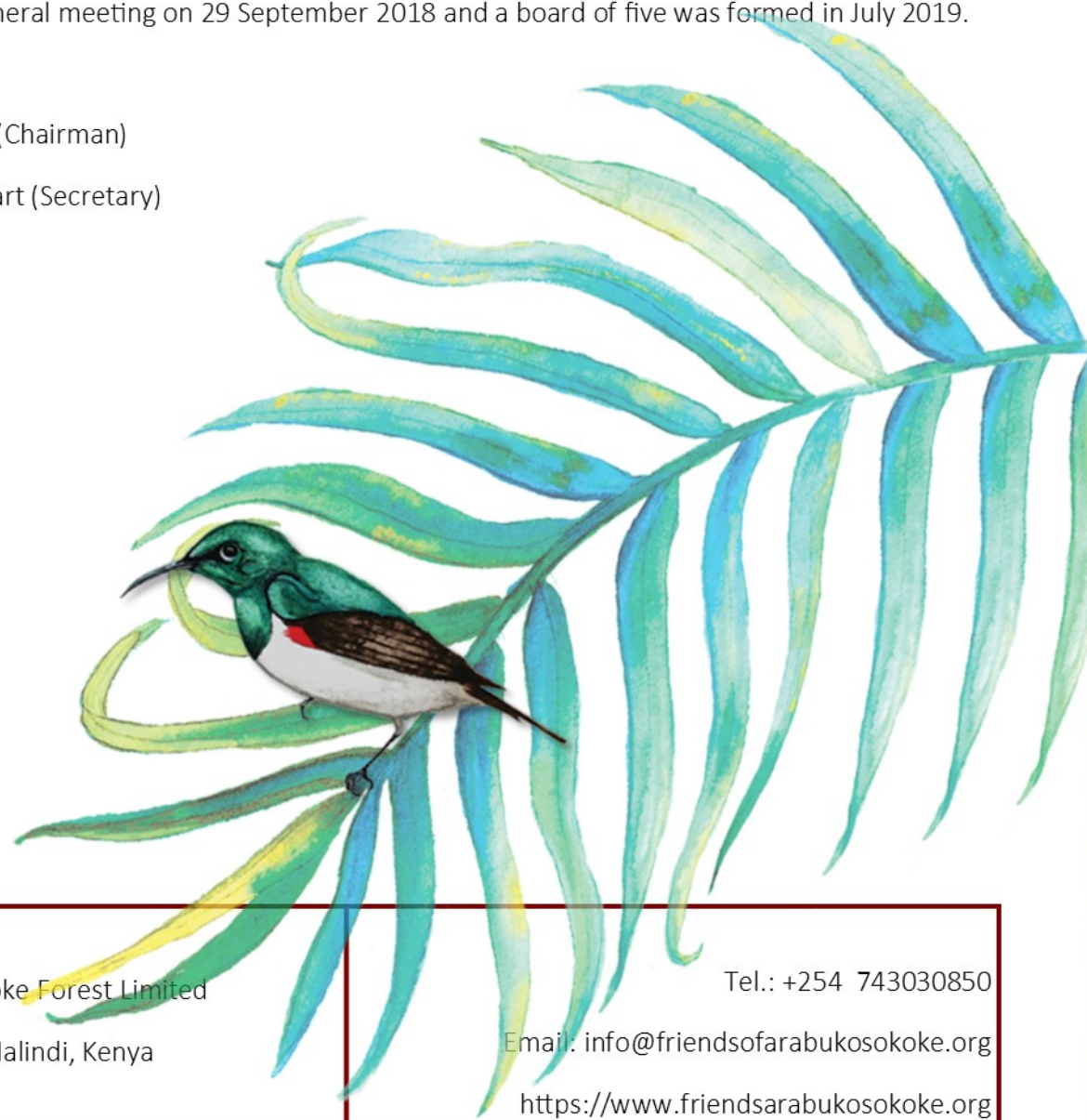
Tukero Ole Kina (Chairman)
 Ray Muremi (Vice-chairman)
 Lissa Ruben (Treasurer)
 Deborah Goodhart (Secretary)
 Dr Rose Kigathi
 Andrew McNaughton
 Lynn Njuguna
 Samuel Safari Elijah



At a special general meeting FoASF resolved to become a company limited by guarantee. This was confirmed at the annual general meeting on 29 September 2018 and a board of five was formed in July 2019.

Board

Tukero Ole Kina (Chairman)
 Deborah Goodhart (Secretary)
 David Martin
 Dino Martins
 Andy Thomas



Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Limited
 P.O. BOX 925, 80 200, Malindi, Kenya
 No. CLG-4XXF9B

Tel.: +254 743030850

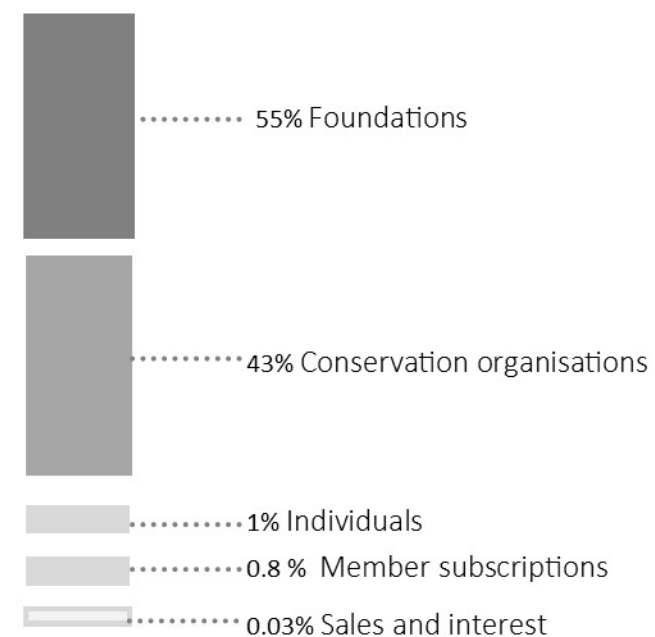
Email: info@friendsofarabukosokoke.org

<https://www.friendsarabukosokoke.org>

Financial statement

As a registered Company Limited by Guarantee (non for profit) in Kenya we operate under strict financial controls with transparent financial operations. We rely on donations and grants to run our programmes and we remain thankful to our donors as foundations (MINARA and OAK) and conservation organisation (AFEW) accounted for 98.15% of our total budget in 2019.

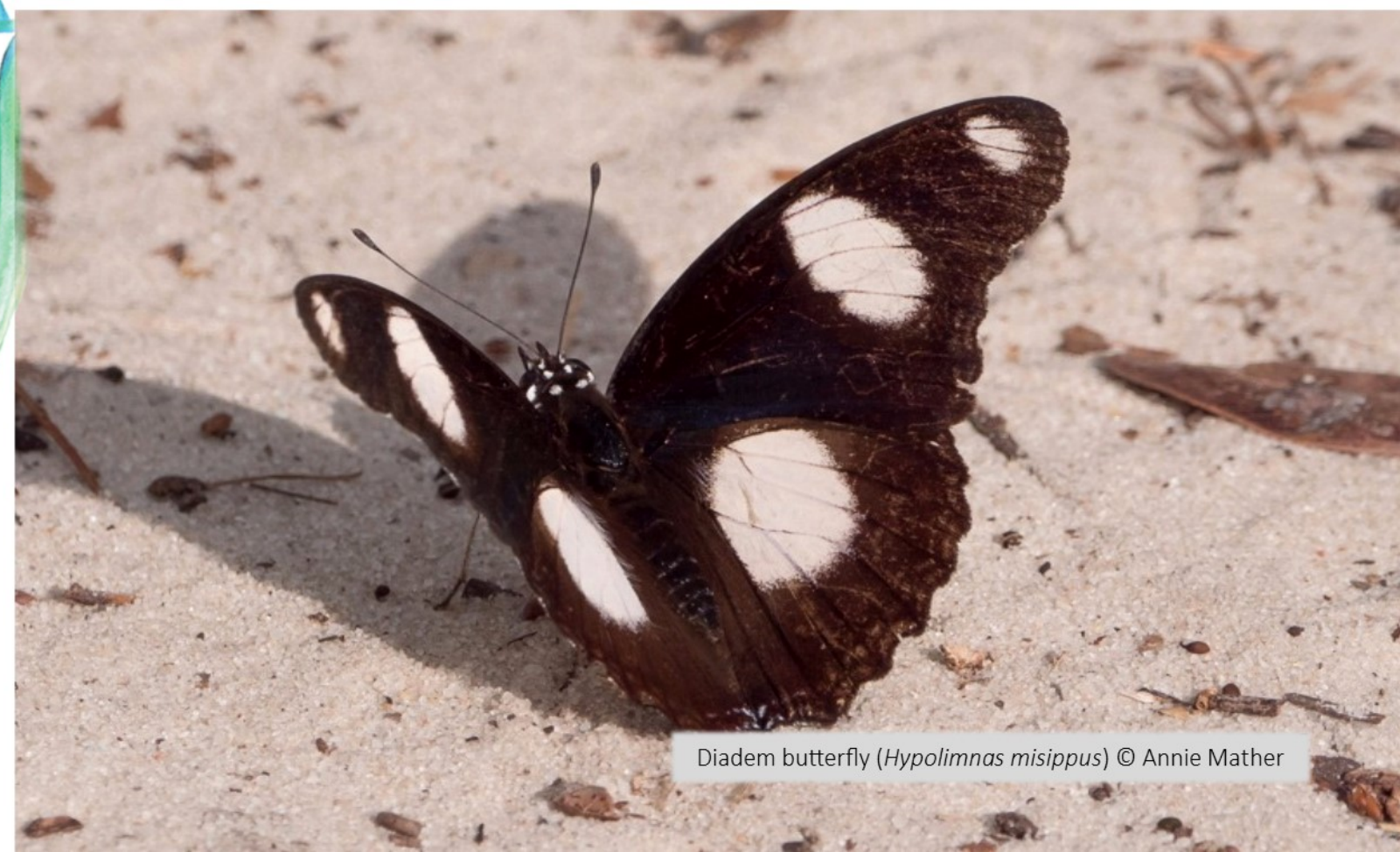
Source of donor funding:



Statement of revenue and expenses in US dollars:

Income	US\$
Foundations	100000
Conservation organisation	77389
Member subscriptions	1490
Individuals	1796
Sales of merchandise, interest	49
Total	180724
Operating expenses	US\$
Employee expenses	57488
Administration expenses	32980
Motorised vehicles expenses	9880
Environmental education	7037
Law enforcement	2052
Other operational expenses	7024
Undrawn funds*	31000
Total equity	33243

* Undrawn funds represent grants received that were not utilised in the current year. The reason for non-utilisation was either because they represent unearmarked funding that will be utilised in 2020 or because they are earmarked for specific activities that are yet to take place.



Diadem butterfly (*Hypolimnys misippus*) © Annie Mather

Looking ahead

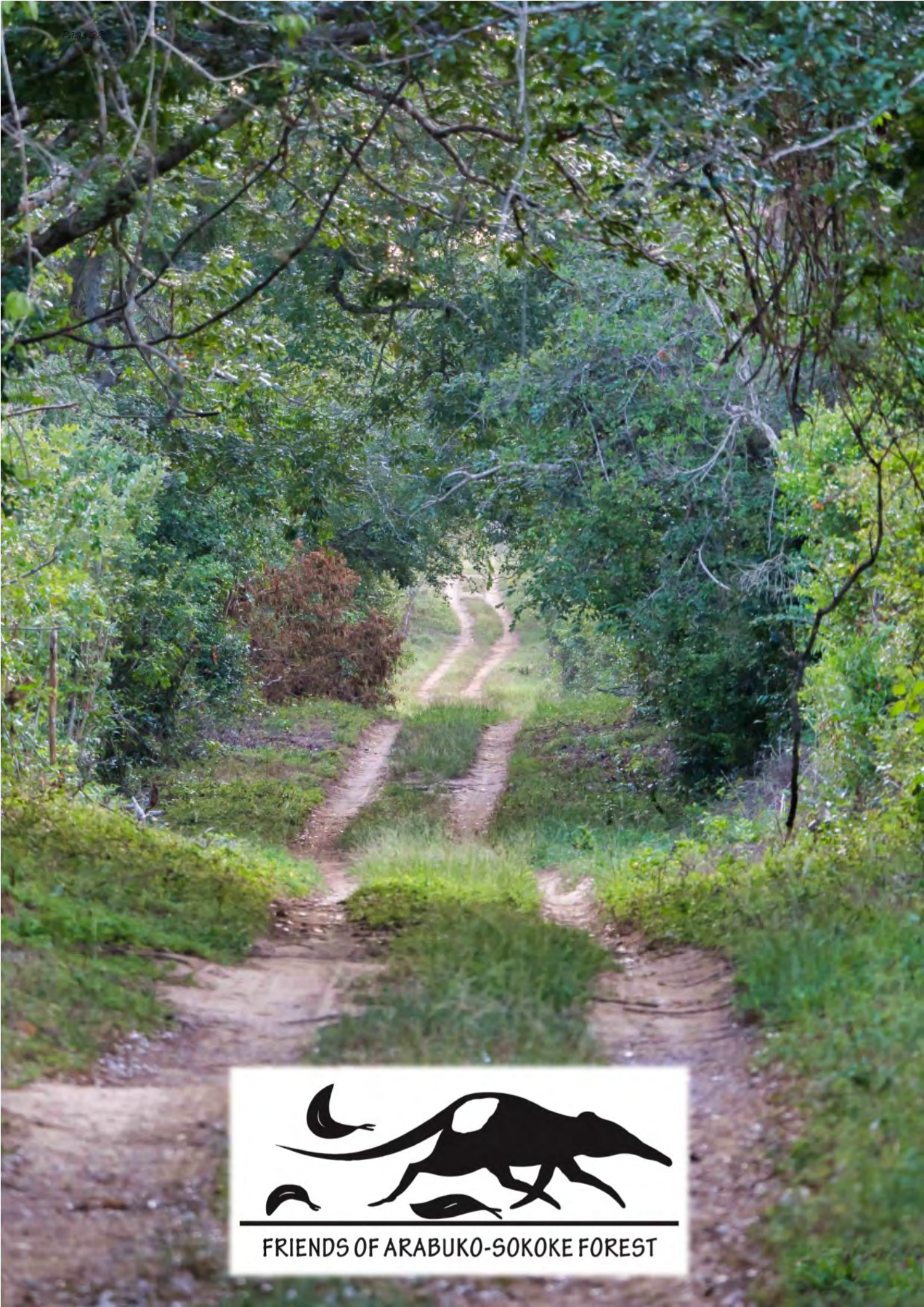
Year 2020 starts a new decade, a new challenge. Africa is continuously facing a growing population with increasing need for natural resources, climate change leading to loss of valuable habitats and cultural changes that are affecting peoples values. But positive change is also coming. People are more and more conscious about environment and climate change, about the need for improved protected areas management and ready to join international community in its efforts to protect and lessen our impact.

Natural resources in the Forest are limited, and we are ready to face the challenge and look forward to work with our Government partners and communities toward sustainable use of Forest resources, improved management and development of eco - touristic activities for the long term benefit of the Forest and local communities.

Thank you

Friend of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest deeply appreciate the generous support we receive from our donors and partners. We are grateful you believe in our organisation and together we will achieve even more. Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest will continue to protect the forest and its unique biodiversity and support local communities in their endeavor to wards improved livelihoods and education. We are confident, that our collaboration with Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service will continue to thrive and allow for all stakeholders to benefit from this unique ecosystem.





FRIENDS OF ARABUKO-SOKOKE FOREST