

**REINTRODUCTION OF MOUNTAIN BONGO (*Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci*) AND BLACK RHINOCEROS (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*) TO MARANIA AND MUCHIENE FOREST OF MOUNT KENYA FOREST**



*A photograph of a Mountain bongo (left) and Black rhinoceros (right)*

**November 2020**

**PROJECT OUTLINE**

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Mountain Bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci*)<sup>1</sup> and Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*)<sup>2</sup> are listed as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The two species have undergone significant reductions in numbers and range due to various factors. In Kenya, through public private partnership, the Black rhinoceros increased to 795 animals in 2019 (KWS, 2020)<sup>3</sup> up from a low of about 300 individuals in the 1980s. However, the Mountain bongo has witnessed minimal gain with only about 96<sup>4</sup> and 55 animals in the wild and captivity in Kenya, respectively, today. The strategic efforts to recover this antelope are detailed in the recently launched National Recovery and Action Plan for the Mountain Bongo (NRAP), 2019-2023.

Strategic Objective 3 of the NRAP recognises the potential to use captive-bred bongos to supplement wild populations. Similarly, the Black Rhino Action Plan, 2017-2021 identifies the need to establish new areas to expand the population and achieve the Plan's vision.

It is on the basis of these two Plans that the Meru County Government and the Community Forest Associations (CFAs) of Kamulu and Ntimaka, located on the northeastern section of the Mount Kenya Forest, propose to establish a phased Mountain bongo and Black rhino sanctuary within the Forest. Phase I targets the repatriation of mountain bongo from the USA by April 2021. The founder population will be intensively managed in holding paddocks and management sections adjacent to the greater Mt. Kenya ecosystem. Thereafter, the F1 and F2 generations will be gradually introduced into expanded areas which will overlap with the Rhino sanctuary. Phase II targeting the Black rhino will follow thereafter.

Through this high-level project outline, the proponents, Meru County Government and the two CFAs, have requested the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Kenya Forest Service (KFS)— the lead state conservation agencies in Mount Kenya Forest for permitting— technical collaboration in the project's cycle starting from conceptualization, development and operations. The Meru County Government and the CFAs have also approached Lewa for technical guidance and fundraising leadership in all the phases of the project. This project will comply with all policy and legislative requirements in Kenya as well as international Conventions.

As of October 2020, KWS and KFS have approved the project to proceed to the assessment phase through a multi-stakeholder Technical Committee that is overseeing the entire implementation and operations of the project. Plans are also underway to form a fully

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<sup>1</sup> [https://mountainbongo.org/document/Red\\_List\\_write\\_Up\\_for\\_Mountain\\_bongo.pdf](https://mountainbongo.org/document/Red_List_write_Up_for_Mountain_bongo.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/import/downloads/black\\_rhino\\_v3.pdf](https://www.iucn.org/sites/dev/files/import/downloads/black_rhino_v3.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> KWS (2019). Population status of rhinos in Kenya in 2019. Kenya Wildlife Service (2020). Unpublished Report.

<sup>4</sup> KWS, (2019b). National Recovery and Action Plan for the Mountain Bongo (NRAP), 2019-2023. Unpublished Report.

represented legal Trust/Special Purpose Vehicle that will manage and operationalise the project.

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Wildlife is an essential component of Kenya's heritage with important economic, social, and cultural values. The importance of the wildlife sector to Kenya's sustainable development is highlighted in Kenya's Vision 2030. Kenya is also a world leader in wildlife conservation. The diverse and dynamic landscapes of protected areas—including National Parks, Forest Reserves and increasingly community and private conservancies— provide the backbone for Kenya's wildlife conservation activities.

The Mount Kenya Forest ecosystem, one of the five water towers in the country, consists of Mount Kenya National Park, Mt Kenya Forest Reserve/ National Reserve and other connected ecosystems including Ngare Ndare Forest, and northern rangeland areas of Laikipia and Samburu through the Mount Kenya Elephant Corridor. The Mount Kenya Forest Reserve was gazetted in 1932 and placed under the jurisdiction of the Forest Department (currently Kenya Forest Service (KFS)), with the National Park under the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS). The overall goal was to protect and conserve its water catchment and biodiversity, especially endemic, rare and threatened species. In the recent past, the Mount Kenya Forest ecosystem has faced several threats ranging from logging, fires, encroachment, illegal livestock grazing, and wildlife poaching. This has led to system-wide biodiversity loss, as evidenced by two critically endangered species: the Mountain Bongo (*Tragelaphus eurycerus isaaci*), reduced to a few individuals and the Black rhinoceros (*Diceros bicornis michaeli*), becoming locally extinct across the ecosystem.

To achieve the long-term goals of conservation and natural resource management in the Mount Kenya ecosystem, local communities around the constituent Marania and Muchiene forests, in partnership with Meru County Government, have proposed a long-term rehabilitation programme. Reintroduction of Mountain bongo and Black rhino into the forest sits alongside other actions, including capacity building in conservation to protect all Mt Kenya biodiversity, water conservation and development of Mt Kenya as a tourism destination. The initiative seeks to reintroduce the two species into the northeastern section of Mount Kenya Forest. The two forest blocks are managed through Community Forests Associations (CFAs) of Kamulu and Ntimaka as part of a recognised mechanism of community participation in forest conservation and management under KFS.

The National Recovery and Action Plans for the two target species promote community participation in natural resource management to complement ongoing government conservation programmes, and as a way of enhancing the livelihoods of these communities. The proposed project therefore falls in line with both national strategies for the two species. In addition, this project will promote environmental conservation and improve community livelihoods through socio-economic benefits and enterprises aligned with the Meru County Government's development agenda.

## **2.0 POPULATION STATUS OF MOUNTAIN BONGO AND BLACK RHINOCEROS**

### **2.1 Mountain Bongo Population and Conservation Status**

The Mountain bongo is classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. The Mountain bongo population has declined dramatically over the past 40 years, a reduction attributed to habitat fragmentation, poaching, predation, disease and other human factors. With about 96 Mountain bongo in the wild and 55 in captivity respectively in Kenya today, recent studies show that the only individuals remaining in the wild are confined within four completely isolated patches of forests in Mount Kenya, Mau, Eburu, and the Aberdares Ranges (Elkan and Smith 2013, Mountain Bongo Surveillance Project 2015). On Mount Kenya, where only a single female bongo remains, natural recovery cannot be achieved without the sustained introduction of captive-bred animals. The founders for this sustained reintroduction process will come from the most successful bongo-breeding programme in the U.S.

In recognising the threats facing Mountain bongo, the Kenyan government, through KWS, has formulated The National Recovery and Action Plan for the Mountain Bongo, 2019-2023, detailing specific actions to recover and grow Bongo populations in suitable historical range areas. The Action Plan relies on support and collaboration of relevant government agencies, local communities, and private organisations to fulfil its goal. This project takes the next steps recommended in the Action Plan.

Previous efforts have demonstrated feasibility of methods and approach. In 2004, as part of a U.N. Foundation World Heritage Site initiative, mountain bongos were repatriated from the USA to the Mount Kenya Game Ranch (MKGR) with the intention of producing a self-sustaining managed population from which wild-population recovery options could evolve. The repatriation was a complete success, with the bongo initially breeding very well, and providing proof of concept. However, despite repeated interventions, shortfalls in private management at the facility over the past 8 years resulted in reduced immunological vigour and reproductive success, and therefore reduced fitness over time, stifling herd growth and making offspring unsuitable for release. As a result, this captive population in Kenya, whilst representing about 36% of Kenya's total mountain bongo population, is unfortunately not immediately helpful to urgent conservation and recovery efforts<sup>5</sup>. This project will bring a

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<sup>5</sup> The critically low numbers of wild bongo make immediate population augmentation urgent. Longer term, it is hoped the fittest captive animals from MKGR can be moved to uninfected habitat, freed from pathogens, and incorporated within the overall captive-management plan for bongo in Kenya.

new group of socially adapted, physiologically fit, successfully reproducing and disease-free bongo, bred in semi-wild conditions in Florida, to Kenya as a new starting point for seeding mountain bongo to their former range, beginning on Mount Kenya. Crucial lessons were learned from the first repatriation, which have led to the robust platform of partners evident in this project outline, and the development of a Special Purpose Vehicle (see below) dedicated to ongoing project management that will ensure the future for both sustainably managed and reintroduced Mountain bongo across the greater Mt. Kenya ecosystem.

## **2.2 Black Rhinoceros Population and Conservation Status**

The Black rhinoceros is also classified as Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Although Black rhinoceros existed in the Mount Kenya Forest up to early 1980s, there have been no verified sightings since then and they are now considered locally extinct in the area.

Since the 1990s, the focus of Black rhinoceros conservation in Kenya has been intensive management through public-private partnership. The success of this partnership has contributed to the steady recovery of the species: the national population estimate in 2019 was 795 individuals, and is currently growing at 4% per annum as a result of ongoing improvements in policy, security, monitoring, and biological management strategies.

With the gradual increase in populations, and the ecological carrying capacity for Black rhinoceros being exceeded in some of the sanctuaries, there is need to secure new habitats which have the potential to accommodate large populations in the long-term. To realise this objective, one of the strategies is to promote the establishment of public, private and/or community-based rhino sanctuaries, and the generation of goodwill from communities in all rhino conservation areas. Within this objective, a specific indicator of success is to identify and establish new novel, public, private or community rhino conservation areas.

The community conservation network in northern Kenya has shown success in addressing conservation challenges at a landscape level, creating secure areas for wildlife through integrated wildlife and livestock management across a vast area. Sera Rhino Sanctuary, one of the conservancies under the umbrella of the Northern Rangelands Trust in Samburu County, continues to set the benchmark for community-owned and driven rhino conservation, and this model has been identified as a key blueprint for community rhino conservation efforts on Mount Kenya Forest.

## **3.0 PROJECT AREA AND SUITABILITY**

### **3.1 Marania Forest**

Marania Forest is part of the Mount Kenya Forest Reserve (Map 1). It is a state-owned montane forest covering an area of 7,280 ha. Administratively, the forest is located in Meru County, and is divided into three management units. The forest is co-managed by a local CFA known as Ntimaka, and KFS.

### **3.2 Muchiene Forest**

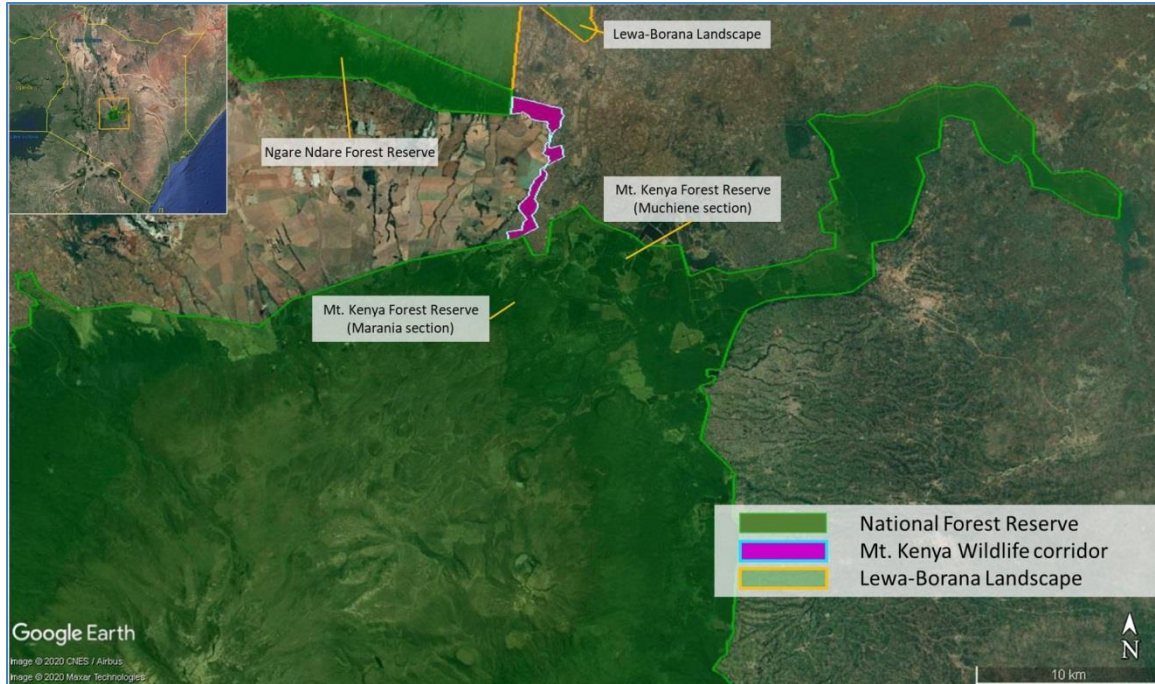
Similar to Marania, Muchiene Forest is part of the Mount Kenya Forest Reserve, a state-owned forest that forms part of Mt. Kenya ecosystem (Map 1). This forest block, which is also in Meru County, covers an area of 10,200 ha. The forest is divided into six management units. Like Marania, Muchiene is also co-managed by a local CFA called Kamulu, and KFS.

Both forest blocks are hotspots for indigenous and plantation-forest biodiversity. They are part of the wider Mount Kenya Forest, within the historical range of mountain bongo in Kenya.

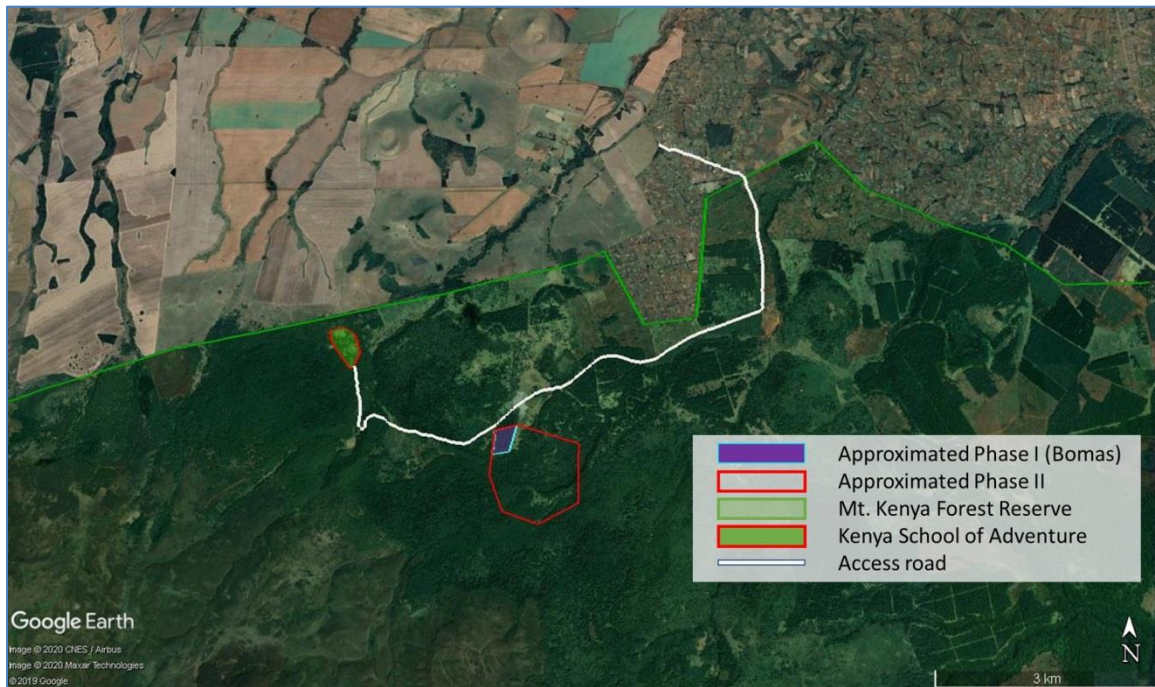
### **3.3 Selected Site**

The actual area selected for establishment of the bongo sanctuary is indicated in Map 2. This area is accessible from the main Kibirichia market – Kenya School of Adventure and Leadership road. The area is flat, well drained and with flowing fresh water. The cover and understory are enhanced. The sanctuary will be fully fenced starting with capital investments including construction of a 10 to 20-acre paddocked area for the founder population, *in situ* quarantine and intensive management. This will be followed by fencing of an expanded 250-acre area for the F1 generation. A further expansion will be completed to accommodate the F2 generation.





**Map 1: Location of Marania and Muchiene Forest sections in Mt. Kenya Forest Reserve**



**Map 2: Actual area for establishment of the Bongo sanctuary in Mt. Kenya Forest Reserve**

## 4.0 MAIN ACTIVITIES

A comprehensive tabulation of the main activities to be implemented in this project is indicated in Table 1. Table 2 provides a timeline and budget of the main activities envisioned to be part of this project. This timeline will continue to be updated as appropriate. The needs for the Mountain bongo and Black rhinoceros will be different but are interlinked. Phase I, mainly targeting the Mountain bongo, will be implemented first. This will be followed by Phase II which will focus on the Black rhinoceros. Multi-stakeholder collaboration is being pursued to actualize this project.

**Table 1: Some of the main activities to reintroduce Mountain bongo and Black rhinoceros in Mt. Kenya Forest Reserve**

No.	Activities	Who	Time
<b>Phase 1 - Mountain bongo</b>			
1	Meetings with Director General of Kenya Forest Service to brief, define projected activities, and garner buy-in from the Service	Meru County govt, CFAs Chairpersons, COO LWC	Q1 2020 - completed
2	Meetings with Director General of Kenya Wildlife Service to brief, define projected activities, and garner formal approval from the Service	Meru County govt, CFAs Chairpersons, COO LWC	Q2 2020 - completed
3	Formation of project Technical Committee	Key partners (Meru County Government, KWS, KFS, CFA)	Q3 2020 - completed
4	Implement activities mapped in (1) and (2) above. These include feasibility, ecological, security and veterinary assessments, Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, Management Planning, establishment of facilities and equipment including fencing of paddocks, erecting holding pens, staff accommodation, installation of power and water, purchase of a vehicle, radio communication and associated equipment.	Meru County Govt, KWS, KFS, LWC, defined stakeholders	Q3-Q4 2020

5	<i>Founder</i> population of ~25 Mountain bongo introduced and managed in defined paddocks located within an area surveyed for establishment of the Mountain bongo and Black rhinoceros sanctuary	Meru County govt, CFA, KWS, LWC, RSCF	April 2021
6	<i>F1</i> generation reproducing and managed in the ~500-acre enclosure located in area demarcated for establishment of the sanctuary	Meru County govt, CFAs, KWS, LWC, RSCF, identified partners	2021-2025
7	<i>F2</i> generation released and managed in the Management area of the Bongo and Rhino sanctuary	Meru County govt, CFAs, KWS, LWC, RSCF, defined partners	2026 onwards
<b>Phase 2</b>			
1	Operationalise NE section of Mount Kenya to receive founder population of Black rhinoceros	Meru County govt, CFAs, KWS, LWC, defined partners	2023 onwards
2	Introduce and manage founder population of Black rhinoceros and subsequent generations	Meru County govt, CFAs, KWS, LWC, defined stakeholders	2026 onwards

To date, November 2020, activities 1-3 have been completed with the KWS and KFS committing support with completion and approval of all the assessments as shown in Table 1. Part of activity 4 (i.e. feasibility, ecological and land tenure assessments) were completed in September 2020. The results will be presented to the KWS Board before end of November 2020.

Once approved, the activity 4 (i.e. an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment, Management Plan as well as security and veterinary assessments) will be undertaken immediately thereafter. This will be followed by the establishment of facilities and equipment including fencing of paddocks, erecting holding pens, staff accommodation, installation of power and water, purchase of a vehicle, radio communication and associated equipment. Implementation of these activities is being overseen by a multi-stakeholder

Technical Committee comprising of KWS, KFS, Meru County Govt and the Chairpersons of the two CFAs. Plans are also underway to form a fully represented legal Trust/Special Purpose Vehicle that will operationalise and manage the project even after it is completed.

This project is now on track to achieve the preparation, transportation and settling of the first group of 25 Bongo from Florida, USA in April 2021. To achieve this, US\$ 1,373,171 is required (Table 2). Out of this amount, US\$ 666,399 has been secured through cash and in-kind donations (RSCF are donating the bongo from Florida, as well as pre-shipment quarantine and testing, worth \$375,000). A deficit of US\$ 706,772 still needs to be secured to deliver the project by April 2021. The prospective donation of air transport will reduce this total by 70%.

The project will be operated annually with US\$ 183,999 that includes costs of feeding the Bongos, veterinary, staff costs, and repairs and maintenance of facilities, equipment, fences, water and roads (Table 3).

**Table 2: Budget for establishment of Bongo Sanctuary in NE of Mount Kenya Forest Reserve**

Description of Activity	Timeline	Budget (US\$)	Funded (US\$)	Not funded (US\$)
<b>1. FEASIBILITY STUDY &amp; ECOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS</b>				
Feasibility Study: Habitat, Water, Land Tenure, Security Assessment, & Report Writing	Q3 2020	20,481	20,481	-
Veterinary/Disease Assessment	Q4 2020	9,143	9,143	-
Management Plan	Q4 2020	17,452	17,452	-
Environmental & Social Impact Assessment	Q4 2020	17,571	12,925	4,646
<b>Sub total 1</b>		<b>64,646</b>	<b>60,000</b>	<b>4,646</b>
<b>2. FACILITIES &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>				
Staff accommodation, kitchen & store	Q1 2021	28,600	28,600	-
Electrical connections & water heating	Q1 2021	3,000	3,000	-
Ablution facilities	Q1 2021	5,547	5,547	-
Holding Pens and paddocks	Q1 2021	32,798	32,798	-
Loading ramp	Q1 2021	15,037	15,037	-
Water installation	Q1 2021	5,000	5,000	-
Water troughs	Q1 2021	1,920	1,920	-
Fence - tight lock	Q1 2021	58,070	58,070	-
Sliding gates	Q1 2021	11,749	10,029	1,720
Opening & grading of roads	Q1 2021	6,000	-	6,000
Vehicle & fabrication	Q1 2021	60,000	-	60,000
Radios	Q1 2021	2,400	-	2,400
Radio batteries	Q1 2021	280	-	280
<b>Sub total 2</b>		<b>230,400</b>	<b>160,000</b>	<b>70,400</b>

Description of Activity	Timeline	Budget (US\$)	Funded (US\$)	Not funded (US\$)
<b>3. BONGO REPATRIATION</b>				
25 Bongo from USA	April 2021	295,000	295,000 (in-kind support from RSCF)	-
Pre-shipment Quarantine & Testing	April 2021	80,000	80,000 (in-kind support from RSCF)	-
Air Transport Costs of 25 Bongo on Cargo Charter (USA - Kenya)	April 2021	495,000	-	495,000
Ground Transport (Nairobi-Mt Kenya)	April 2021	15,000	-	15,000
Personnel Costs (USA-Kenya) During Translocation	April 2021	28,000	-	28,000
<b>Sub total 3</b>		<b>913,000</b>	<b>375,000</b>	<b>538,000</b>
<b>4. MOBILISATIONS &amp; APPROVALS</b>				
Community/CFAs Mobilisation & Engagement	Q2 2020-Q2 2021	10,000	-	10,000
Government & Technical Committee Engagement	Q2 2020-Q2 2021	5,000	-	5,000
Approval process	Q2 2020-Q2 2021	3,000	-	3,000
<b>Sub total 4</b>		<b>18,000</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>18,000</b>
<b>Sub-total 5 (sub total 1+2+3+4)</b>		<b>1,226,045</b>	<b>594,999</b>	<b>631,046</b>
Add: Project planning, direct staff support of project & contingency (12%)		147,125	71,400	75,726
<b>Grand total</b>		<b>1,373,171</b>	<b>666,399</b>	<b>706,772</b>



**Table 3: Annual operating costs of the Bongo Sanctuary in NE of Mount Kenya Forest Reserve**

<b>ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS</b>	<b>Budget (US\$)</b>
<b>1. STAFFING COSTS</b>	
Wages – Administration, Rangers/Keepers/ Maintenance team	79,680
Medical + Insurances	5,096
Rations	13,520
Uniforms	4,680
Travel + subsistence	1,000
Training	1,000
Welfare/hospitality	1,200
<b>Sub total 1</b>	<b>106,176</b>
<b>2. VETERINARY &amp; ANIMAL HUSBANDRY</b>	
Bongo feeding, husbandry, immobilisations, treatments	27,375
Lab. tests	1,500
Vet. vehicle costs	1,404
Wages - vet. officer	3,840
Wages - vet. driver	480
Subsistence	960
<b>Sub total 2</b>	<b>35,559</b>
<b>3. SANCTUARY VEHICLE</b>	
Fuel	2,160
Maintenance	2,400
Insurance	2,400
<b>Sub total 3</b>	<b>6,960</b>
<b>4. EQUIPMENT</b>	
Radios	2,160
Radio batteries	240
Radios licensing	150
Binoculars	1,280
Tools & consumables	500
<b>Sub total 4</b>	<b>4,330</b>
<b>5. FACILITIES &amp; SERVICES</b>	
Water charges/ maintenance, electricity and buildings maintenance	1,500
Roads maintenance	3,500
Fence maintenance	2,000
<b>Sub total 5</b>	<b>7,000</b>
<b>6. OFFICE &amp; ADMINISTRATION</b>	
Telephone	360
Stationery & IT	200

<b>ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS</b>	<b>Budget (US\$)</b>
Postage & courier	200
Office equipment	300
BOT & Technical Committee meetings	3,200
<b>Sub total 6</b>	<b>4,260</b>
<b>Sub-total 5 (sub total 1+2+3+4+5+6)</b>	<b>164,285</b>
<u>Add:</u> Project planning, direct staff support of project & contingency (12%)	19,714
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>183,999</b>

## 5.0 IMPORTANCE OF THE PROJECT

The proposed project is an innovative community-based conservation initiative, involving reintroduction of two critically endangered wildlife species, the Mountain bongo and Black rhinoceros, into a landscape conserved and managed by communities. The project is envisioned as a broad partnership, incorporating National and Meru County governments, indigenous community, and the private sector. Conservation within the Mount Kenya ecosystem has been subjected to multiple threats emanating from human activities. These include illegal extraction of natural resources, including logging, charcoal burning, illegal livestock grazing, poaching, and wildfires. In addition, in the face of climate change and the need for ecosystem linkage to cope with increasing drought frequency, connectivity of the Mt. Kenya ecosystem with adjacent savannah ecosystems to the north and west is critical for ensuring dispersal and integrity of dry-season refugia.

In response to the current global biodiversity extinction crisis, effective wildlife conservation demands innovative, practical approaches to species conservation. One such approach is the translocation or sustained reintroduction of species into formerly occupied habitat. As the list of threatened and endangered species lengthens, the need for employment of reintroduction as a conservation tool increases. This project seeks to contribute towards reintroduction of not one, but two flagship species, and in the process enhances the conservation of an important natural, landscape-level resource under managed the local indigenous community.

## 6.0 THEORIES OF CHANGE

1. **Strong Partnerships equals strong conservation impact:** Improving partnerships between conservation organisations in African communities and international actors for greater long-term impact. By developing more collaborative and mutually accountable approaches to partnership design,

structure, and investment, there will be a paradigm shift towards improved engagement and, ultimately, optimized conservation and development outcomes.

- 2. Incentives for land owners and communities:** Increase in livelihood incentives to communities and a reduction of costs associated with living with wildlife will enhance community wildlife coexistence and support to conservation.
- 3. Increased economic investment:** The tourism sector has the greatest potential to financially support conservation areas including community conservancies. Eco-tourism can be leveraged to grow and diversify the country's economies while protecting biodiversity. Local communities, private sector enterprises, and government can also benefit from investment in tourism, through increased market opportunities and linkages to tourism services such as eco-lodges, campsites, guided safaris, forest eco-tourism, mountain trekking, etc.
- 4. Support implementation of government policies and regulations:** The Kenya Wildlife Act 2013 provides a framework for recognition of wildlife conservation as a form of land use. Community and private wildlife conservancies are recognised, while Community Wildlife Associations, Community Rangers (Wildlife Scouts), and County Wildlife committees are among institutional mechanisms for enlisting local populations in the management of wildlife and tourism. The Marania and Muchiene forest initiative is fully aligned with and in support of the current government plan.

## 7.0 INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT AND PARTNERSHIP MODELS

The project will be run under Kamulu and Ntimaka CFAs, the Meru County government and other stakeholders who will form the project steering committee.

### 7.1 Project Management and Stakeholders' Analysis

INSTITUTIONS	ROLES
Community Forest Associations (CFA)	CFA is an institutional arrangement in Kenya that allows communities to participate in forest conservation
Meru County government (MCG)	They provide legal support in partnership with local community, and fundraising
Kenya Forest Service (KFS)	Legal mandate to manage forests in Kenya



Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)	Legal mandate to manage wildlife in Kenya
Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (LWC)	Provide technical and fundraising support for the project
Rhino Ark	Provide technical and fundraising support for the project
Mt. Kenya Trust	Provide technical and fundraising support for the project
Rare Species Conservatory Foundation (RSCF). Located in Loxahatchee, Florida, USA	Provide Mountain bongo, technical support and fundraising for the project
Tropical Conservation Institute/ Institute of the Environment (TCI) Florida International University Located in Miami, Florida, USA	Provide technical, fundraising, and administrative support for project