



Annual Review 2018



Vision

To ensure that the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest is appreciated and protected, and the adjacent communities are better supported; advocates for the forests' long-term future.

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.

List of committee members

The Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest is run by a committee working on a voluntary basis:

Chairman - Tukero Ole Kina is a leading Malindi high court advocate and environmentalist.

Vice-chairman - Ray Muremi is a businessman in Malindi.

Treasurer - Lissa Ruben's background is in film production both in the UK and in Africa.

Secretary - Deborah Goodhart - was a communications specialist in the health sector in London.

Sammy Safari - a community liaison officer in the Mida Area for Local Ocean Trust.

Andrew McNaughton - a full-time artist with recycling of Marine Waste.

Lynn Njuguna - a research assistant at KWS at Gede.

Dr Rose Kigathi - the current editor of the Horticultural Association of Kenya Journal and employed by Pwani University under the Department of Biological Sciences.

Johnson Kafulo - a forest guide and the current chairman of the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest guides association.

Crispin Sharp and **Jonathan Baya** stepped down from the committee at the annual general meeting on 29 September 2018 and were thanked for their considerable contribution.

Becoming a company limited by guarantee and forming a board

At a special general meeting FoASF resolved to become a company limited by guarantee.

This was confirmed at the annual general meeting on 29th September 2018. A board of six is presently being formed and will be confirmed soon.



Chairman's message



Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest has made huge strides in 2018. Having started with three scouts, two tents, paper data collection and no reporting system in 2017, we now have a fully operational 10 man team that works alongside Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service. We also have a permanent field and administrative assistant producing daily and monthly data reports for stakeholders and donors using electronic data collection known as SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool).

Our impact on the ground has improved with the addition of two motorbikes and a tractor/trailer for patrols in the forest. Additionally, a motorbike was donated to KWS and KFS with a monthly fuel allowance for patrols increasing the 'boots on the ground' and enforcing a firm presence in the forest.

With funding received from the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife we renovated the KWS Education Centre and created a short film to be shown there and to students around the forests. We were chosen to receive the proceeds from the Kilifi Gold Triathlon in September 2018. Schools from around the forest are now visiting the forest and benefiting from the refurbished education centre and our video. By continuing to encourage future generations to conserve and protect this wonderful ecosystem, we hope it will be preserved for generations to come.

Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke is aware that conservation is fraught with challenges especially in these tough economic times. Communities living adjacent to the forest are constantly engaged to implement projects tailor made to improve their financial wellbeing without damaging the forest. I would like to acknowledge and thank committee member Sammy Elijah Safari for his continuous efforts to engage and encourage communities to look after their heritage.

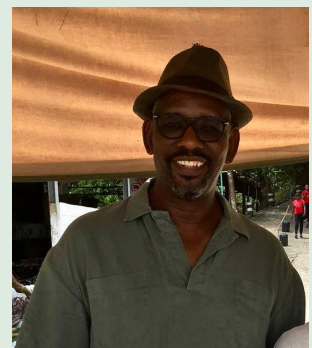
I believe that thanks to our generous funders, we have now established ourselves as an active and key stakeholder in the forest.

Our sincere gratitude to the Minara and Oak foundations who have provided funding for the forest protection programme since 2017. Thanks to this initial platform we have built a strong support base with other organisations including the African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW), Nature Kenya, Royal African Safaris and Blue Marmalade Supermarket. And to many more people and organisations both here and abroad who have given their time and resources to the Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke, with an extra special thank you to Andy Thomas of Captain Andy's Fishing Supplies, who has ensured the availability of water to the wildlife of the forest since 2015 and provided transport to key individuals in the forest.

Lastly, I would like to thank our main strategic partners, the Kenya Forest Service and Kenya Wildlife Service with whom we work daily. My appreciation to my committee for their guidance and to our dedicated staff that continue to fight for the health of this unique forest.

Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest look forward to an even more productive 2019.

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. The membership of FoASF is drawn from people from the local community, from academia, business sector, researchers, individuals and members of the community who are passionate about the conservation and sustainability of the forest.

FoASF was launched in 1999 and active until 2007. Unfortunately, the focus diminished and in 2014 the forest came under threat after a company called CAMAC Energy (now Erin Energy) announced the planning of two transects across the forest to conduct seismic surveys for oil and gas. It was at this point it was decided to protect this unique and internationally renowned forest by re-launching the FoASF.

The official re-launch of FoASF was on Wednesday 30 March 2016 in the forest.

Both 2016 and 2017 were years of preparation, progress and goal setting for a revitalised FoASF; a year in which a number of goals were set and many achievements made. Moves were made throughout 2017 and 2018 to raise the profile of the forest through public awareness efforts, along with the creation and strengthening of relationships within KWS and KFS, without whose cooperation nothing would have been possible.

The Arabuko-Sokoke Forest (ASF) is recognised as one of Kenya's most valuable natural assets and has been ranked as the second most important forest for conservation of threatened bird species in Africa. The ASF is also part of the East African Coastal Forest complex that ranks amongst the top 25 global biodiversity hotspots, covering a total area of 420 square kilometers.

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

The Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest is supporting the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) and Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) in addressing the many problems the forest has.

Some of the areas the FoASF is helping the management team address are:

- stopping illegal logging which unfortunately is prevalent.
- stopping illegal poaching of all animals, which is increasing.
- encouraging more tourists and local people to visit once the infrastructure is back in place.
- raising funds to help with the upkeep of nature trails, roads, sign boarding, picnic and camp sites and the education centre. Today much is lost or in poor repair.

The friends work with like-minded people for the conservation of the forest ecosystem for enhanced ecosystems services for humanity and more so the communities dwelling adjacent to the forest.

Progress during 2018



- Addition of a field and administrative assistant Alia Moller to the FoASF team.
- Change from a community based organisation to a company limited by guarantee (not-for-profit).
- SMART data collection was implemented in April 2018.
- FoASF scouts continue to collect meaningful data and observation during patrols.
- Purchase of four motorbikes for patrols in the forest. KWS, KFS, FoASF scouts Team Blue and Team Red each have one.
- Transfer of donated motorbikes from FoASF officially over to KWS and KFS.
- Completion of a basic first aid training course by Alia Moller and the ten scouts.
- Continue to attract additional donor support to the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest.
- Recipient of the 2018 Kilifi Gold Triathlon funds.
- Renovation of the KWS education hall.
- Procurement of an FMD tractor for scout patrols and logistics.
- Creation of a short film for educational purposes.



Forest protection project



Assisting KWS and KFS in reducing the amount of illegal activities and preserving the biodiversity in the forest by increasing the manpower on the ground. Funding from the Minara and Oak Foundations enabled a 10 man community scouts team to be formed. The data collected by the teams during patrols is be used to identify illegal activity hotspots and areas under greatest threat.

Threats to the forest

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



In March 2018 Alia Moller the FoASF field and administrative assistant attended a three days training course with the Zoological Society of London (ZSL) on SMART data collection. This method was then implemented in April and has been used since creating a database for the forest.

Objectives and goals:

- Continue to work with KWS and KFS effectively patrolling the forest.
- Reduce the amount of illegal activity in the forest by increasing manpower on the ground.
- Continue to use SMART to process the data collected by the scouts.
- Continue to assist the forest management team, especially KWS and KFS to conserve and enhance the biodiversity of the forest.
- Increase the capacity of local communities through employment and participation.
- Use data collected to guide management and to identify illegal activity hotspots and areas for focused protection.

The data collected is gathered and used to produce reports on a monthly basis for the forest stakeholders and funders. Below is a summary of the data collected by the FoASF scouts for 2018.

TOTAL KILOMETRES COVERED DURING PATROLS

NOTE: All data displayed was collected from April (when SMART data collection was implemented) - December 2018



ON FOOT
2,111.18km

BY MOTORBIKE
839.54km

BY VEHICLE
2,959.87km

BY TRACTOR
1,516.57km



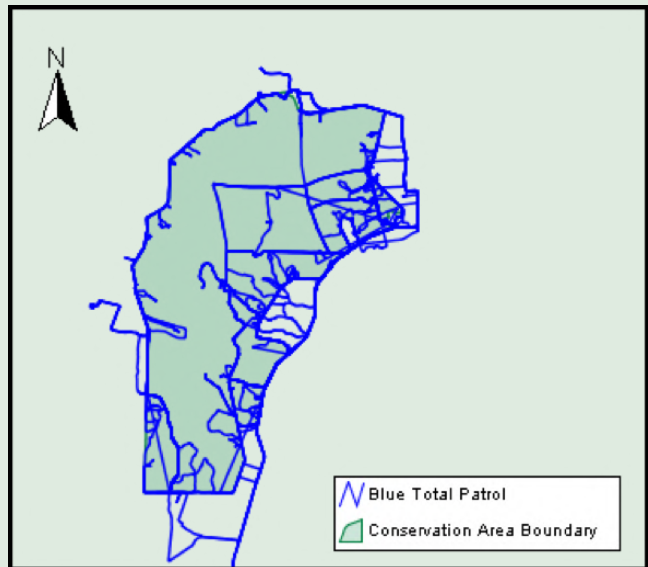
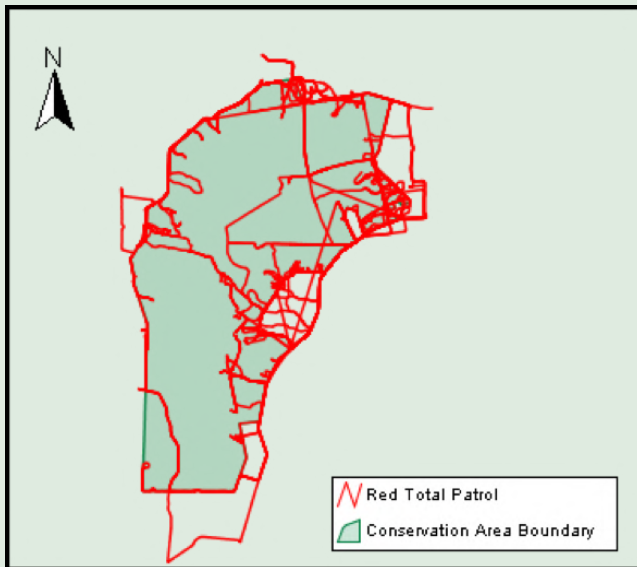
Teams Blue and Red



A total of 7,427.16 km was covered by the two scout teams. Averaging 825.24km each month from April - December 2018.

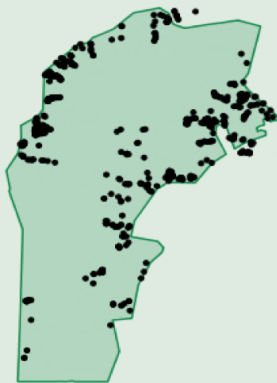
A total of 323 patrols were conducted, an average of 35.89 patrols each month.

Tracks

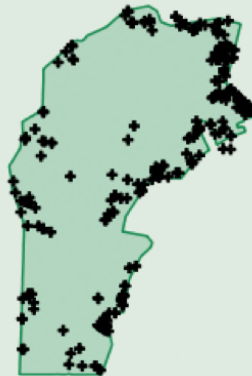


Data

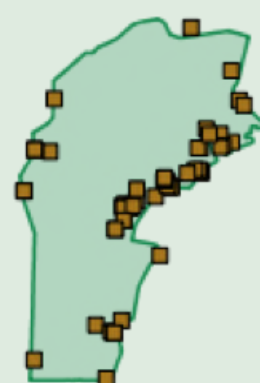
Cut trees



Snare sites



Charcoal sites



Data collected provides clear visuals of the illegal activity hotspot areas in the forest. It is well known and displayed above, that areas including Malanga, Matsangoni, Jilore/Arabuko and Kakuyuni experience the greatest amount of destruction. FoASF scouts continue to patrol these areas with KWS and KFS. FoASF funded a three day Desnaring activity with the Jilore Community Forest Association (CFA) in December 2018 covering the Malanga, Kakuyuni and Jilore/Arabuko areas and plan to continue supporting the three CFA's with these activities.



Illegal timber activities

ARRESTS

16

COLLECTED POLES

209

SNARES

1,168

CUT TREES

691

CHARCOAL BAGS

284

FIREWOOD BUNDLES

75

RECOVERED PLANKS

95

RECOVERED WITHIES/FITO

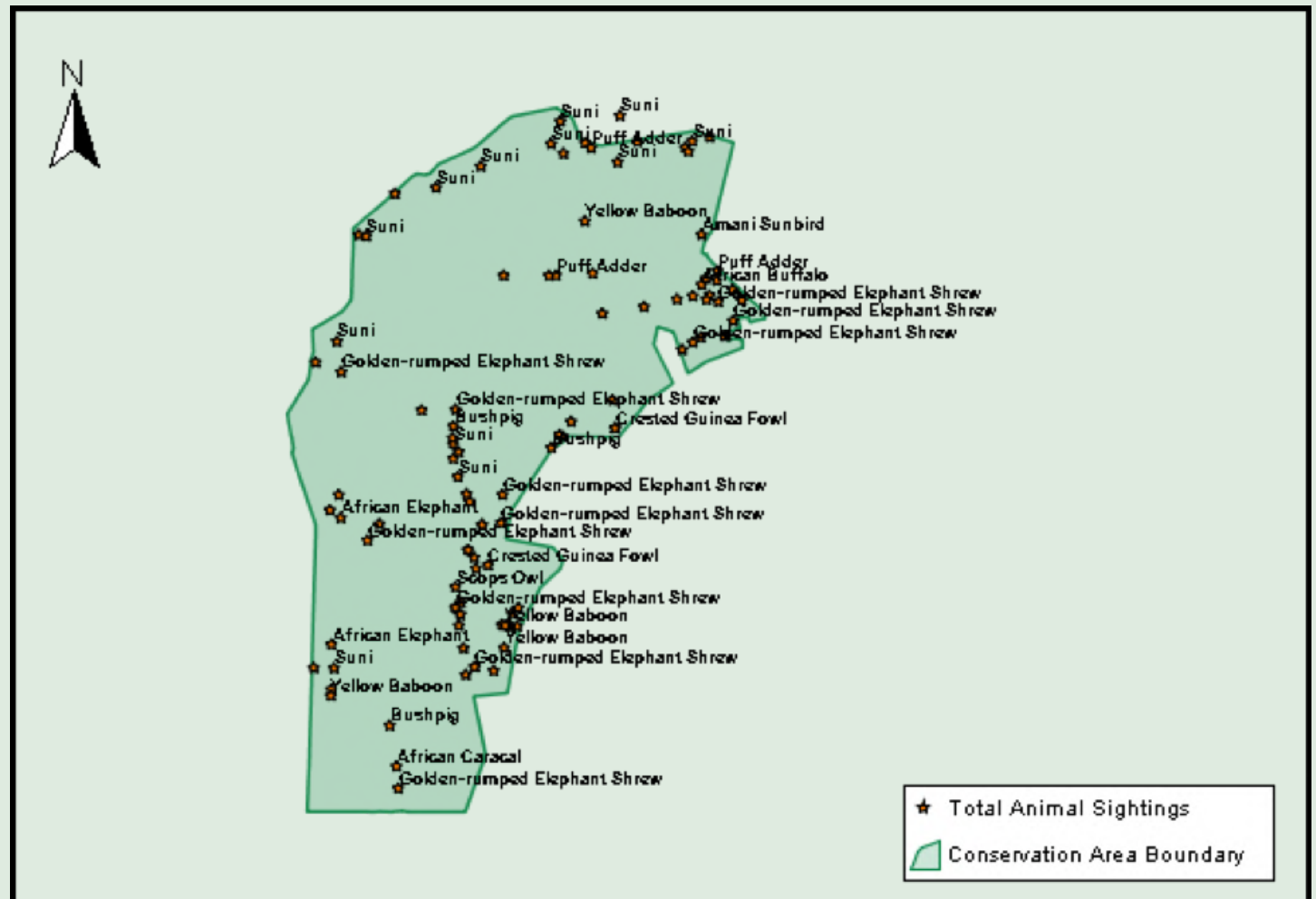
438

NOTE: data collected
between April and
December 2018

Biodiversity data



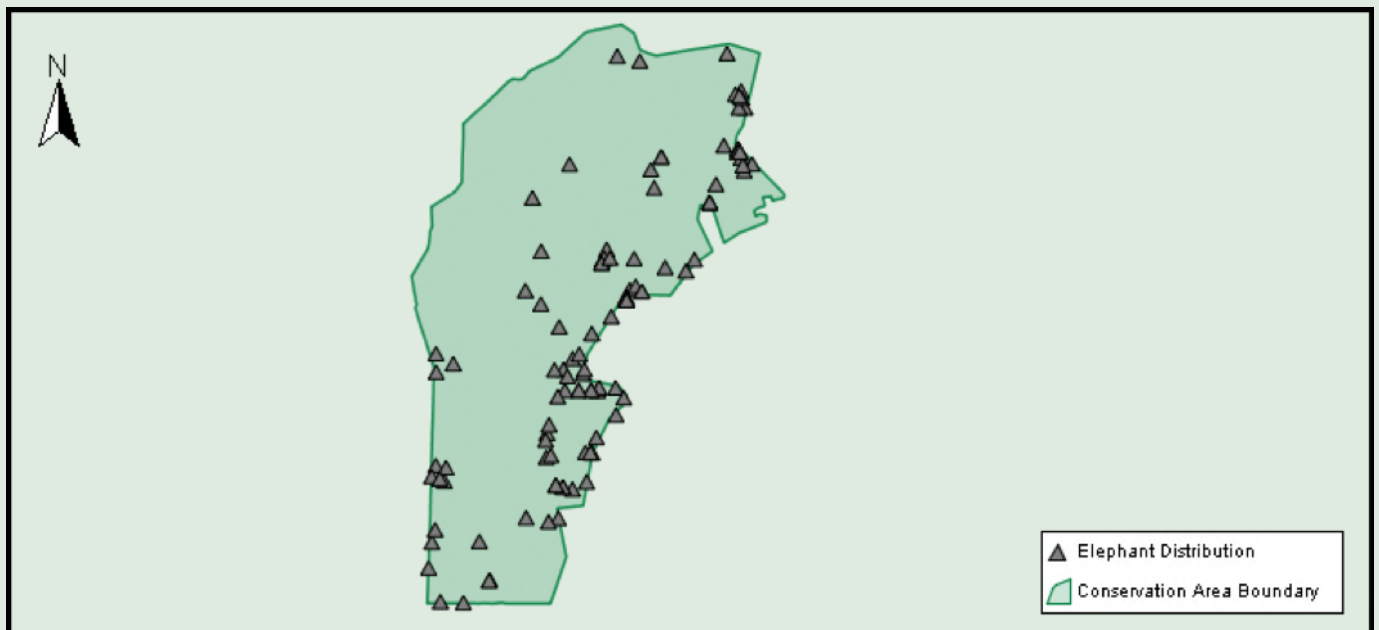
FoASF scouts have been collecting biodiversity data since the implementation of SMART data collection. In January 2019 all the 2018 biodiversity data was given to ARocha Kenya for preparation and submission to the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) at the end of March 2019.



Elephant distribution



Showing both sightings and signs of elephant activity in 2018.



© Chania Watts



© Chania Watts



© Chania Watts



Community engagement



Cassava project

To provide an alternative means of living to the forest adjacent communities and to reduce their need to capitalise on illegal products from the forest. Creating an alternative source for food and raising awareness of the forest's importance, will aid in reducing the current destruction local populations are having on the biodiversity of the forest.



Display plantation

The development of a display plantation using funding from the Blue Marmalade Supermarket, Watamu, which is currently being used to supply the local community with a low-cost source of food as well as a place to learn about sustainable methods of farming, including permaculture. Educating communities and especially the youth on alternative methods, FoASF feels is essential to the preservation of the forest.



Conservation education

Following the distribution of educational leaflets to schools and teachers by FoASF, a short film was also created and shared with schools neighboring the forest in an effort to bring ownership of the Arabuko-Sokoke Forest to the future generation adjacent to the forest and further afield.

With funding from AFEW the KWS education centre was renovated to create an engaging and modern exhibition and learning space at Gede Forest Station in which all visitors to the forest can gain information and insight into the form and content of the forest ahead of a walk or drive into the forest itself.

FoASF were the receiving participants of the funding raised by the Kilifi Gold Triathlon in September 2018. This funding is being used during 2019 to bring school children and teachers into the education centre and forest to learn about conservation and the importance of the forest.



Financial statement



Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest relies on donations and grants to run our programs. As a registered Company Limited by Guarantee (non for profit) in Kenya we operate under strict financial controls with transparent financial operations.

Statement of revenue and expenses in US dollars

Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest Summary	Audited	Audited	Audited
Year	2018	2017	2016 (15 months)
Revenue (USD)			
Donations received	23,067.71	150,343.34	2,209.25
Members subscriptions	3,030.00	2,650.00	4,063.00
Gain on exchange	-1611.06	848.57	-
Other income	1,082.59	37.2	4.64
Total revenue	25,569.24	153,879.11	6,276.89
Expenses (USD)			
Forest expenses	40,045.97	40,290.84	685.38
Administration, Logistics, Funding and Governance	24,287.17	13,126.41	78.92
Total Expenses	64,333.14	53,417.25	3,013.03
Surplus for the year	*** -38,763.9	100,461.86	3,263.86

Audited accounts converted at a rate of \$1 = 100 KES

*** Deficit for the year 2018 caused by an increase in asset purchase, including a tractor for patrols, scout camping and data collection equipment, computer etc. for the forest protection programme, which was funded from previous grants received in late 2017.

Revenue carried over to the year 2019 include funds for the education programme from the Kilifi Gold Triathlon, funding from AFEW for a liaison officer, cassava machine procurement and an education volunteer's accommodation and expenses and an additional donation of US\$2,360.00 from the Royal African Safaris for the forest protection programme.

Thanks to the ongoing support from the Minara Foundation, Oak Foundation and African Fund for Endangered Wildlife, funding was received in early 2019, allowing the forest protection programme to continue in full operation throughout 2019.

Direct support to the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Kenya Forest Service (KFS)

FoASF Activity	Cost (\$) Justification	Total (\$)
KWS Vehicle Running Costs	Warden Sokoke vehicle donated by Captain Andy's Fishing Supplies.	3,600
KWS Field Staff Rations x1	40\$ per person for rations while complementing our scouts in the forest (started June 2018).	240
KFS Field Staff Rations x1	40\$ per person for rations while complementing our scouts in the forest (started June 2018).	240
KWS Fuel	Assistance with fuel for motorbike and vehicle patrols with scouts.	1,900
KFS Fuel	Assistance with fuel for Gede Forester motorbike patrols around the forest.	1,100
KWS Ranger Support	Daily stipend for patrols with scout teams (started June 2018).	120
KFS Ranger Support	Daily stipend for patrols with scout teams (started June 2018).	120
KWS and KFS insurance	Motorbike insurance for KWS and KFS for one year.	80
KFS Motorbike Transfer	Transfer of ownership from FoASF to KFS.	15
KWS Motorbike Transfer	Transfer of ownership from FoASF to KWS.	15
KFS Motorbike Service	Service to the donated KFS motorbike.	220
KWS Education Centre renovation	FoASF with support from AFEW funded the refurbishment and renovation of the KWS education Centre.	1,200
Computer for KWS	Computer to be used for the KWS Education Centre primarily, as well as for KWS HQ for emails and reports.	400
Total		9,250

With many 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; Promaco Limited; committee members; community volunteers; and numerous supporters who have made all this possible.



All photos in the field unless otherwise credited © FoASF scouts/Alia Moller/FoASF

Report compiled by Alia Moller - of Friends of Arabuko-Sokoke Forest

