



JANUARY 2019

Happy New Year to all of our supporters and friends!

News and updates from Eburru Rafiki

www.eburrurafiki.com

1. Forest picnic Jan 19, 2019.

The popular annual Peter Barnes Memorial picnic (postponed pre-Christmas due to bad weather) is due to take place on **Saturday January 19** at the Marua Glade picnic site inside Eburru Forest. The site is 6kms down the well-kept forest track from the new barrier erected with funds from EBURRU RAFIKI donors (Raymond Behr and his Green Park Water Services technical team very kindly made and fitted the barrier).

Those wishing to attend (preferably in 4x4 vehicles) should meet at the **KFS office barrier at 11.30 am.**

Green Park residents can secure single day exit passes and a route map that can take them from the Green Park top gate to the barrier in 30 minutes. For those coming from the main North Lake Road up to Morgan's Corner, then left via Eburru village to the forest entry, the road is now in better condition

As in the past this is a self-provided picnic - chairs, drinks too.

Everyone is welcome.

Forest Manager Samuel Mundia has made a special arrangement whereby a single-entry fee of KSH200 PP will be collected at the barrier by Susan Church.

Guests will be briefed about the considerable forest changes and improvements that have and continue to take place.

New area plantings preparation for the long rains:

Samuel Mundia and the Church brothers will enlarge on the long rains planting programme. A further 7,000 trees, of which 5,000 are being donated by Great Rift Valley Lodge, will enable completion of Eburru Rafiki Site Two (Ndabibi track). New areas along the main forest track under the KFS 'forest enrichment' process will be started. The method selects sites within broader forest canopies for planting selected indigenous tree seedlings suitable for Eburru Forest.

This process will comply to the EBURRU RAFIKI policy of husbanding all seedlings for a period of **three years**. For those wishing to support the programme each tree costs KSH60 (purchase of seedling from local communities, hole preparation, and three-year husbandry. 100 trees require KSH6,000 and 200 trees cost Ksh12,000 etc.

We thank you in advance for your support for this project. It is starting to make a noticeable impact. Special thanks to Great Rift Valley Lodge for this major donation and to Mike Scott of Carlson Wagon Lits for his firm's donation of Ksh12,000 already.

2. New barrier and signage in the forest.

New signs are now in place for the main KFS barrier to Mpesa Gate forest track (9.6 kms) and short tracks to Kimololosh and Olengobei Craters. There are also signs to Ndabibi track, Eburru Rafiki Tree Site Two, the picnic site and the two main foot trails to the Eastern and Western summits.



The new barrier in situ erected by Green Park Water Services staff

3. Livestock entry and deadwood collection

The ban remains in place. Regeneration of forest is noticeable.

4. Community Awareness Programme 2018.

This major community targeted EBURRU RAFIKI project took place in September/October 2018. The outreach initiative with input support from Rhino Ark was modelled on the work done in 2017, and aimed to achieve the following:

- (i) Disseminate information about forest conservation (including fencing and its benefits), on-farm conservation, the Wildlife Act, and ecotourism, among others;
- (ii) Provide briefings and updates on Eburru Rafiki conservation activities by Committee Member Lydia Nyota
- (iii) Demonstrate alternative or higher efficiency domestic energy solutions;
- (iv) Share information and tools on alternative livelihood opportunities;
- (v) Identify and recruit youth to voluntary conservation champions programme;
- (vi) Provide opportunities for resource experts to engage with the communities; and
- (vii) Brief communities about the Participatory Forest Management Plan (PFMP) implementation.

A third programme focusing on experts in farm forestry, rainwater collection and distribution, crop expertise, land use improvement techniques, biogas, solar electricity and schools conservation programmes will be part of the next programme to be held in this year. A total of 846 individuals attended.



Members of the community attend the ER barazas.

5. De snaring

EBURRU RAFIKI funds are enabling the valuable work led by the Bongo Surveillance Project (BSP) on Eburru to cover more ground more frequently. As part of this programme the track and foot trails will also be maintained year-round.

6. Forest guides

EBURRU RAFIKI has undertaken a selection process whereby two Eburru Community Guides – Douglas Chege mob: 0728 319143 and Philip Kiriba mob: 0717 378229 who have considerable flora and fauna knowledge can be engaged if pre-booked. The fee is ksh 1500 p/d. KFS rangers are also available if pre-booked through the KFS manager: 0723 210 749

7. Eburru Guide book

Copies are available from the Great Rift Valley Lodge shop, Loldia House or for collection from Colin Church – cckanisa@gmail.com/mobile 0733 619 885. More information can be found here: <https://www.eburrurafiki.com/visit-eburru>

8. New committee member

Ndabibi farmer Josphat Macharia has joined the committee of EBURRU RAFIKI. Josphat's 5.3-acre small holding is a dynamic demonstration of what can be achieved when fully utilising the land for sustainable agriculture methods including; organic fertilisers, soil and water conservation, runoff water harvesting, biogas, fish farming and aquaponics.

EBURRU RAFIKI committee team wish to thank all who have so generously supported our efforts.

We ask for further support as we create a stable community on the forest edge of the Rhino Ark fence and develop non-exploitive activities inside the recovering Eburru indigenous forest.

With warm wishes for 2019.

EBURRU RAFIKI Committee.