



18 March 2017

Eburru Rafiki sponsors & donors

We are approaching the start of the long rains. Let us hope that we will see a period of recovery after this devastating dry period.

As we enter 2017 – we have some updating of events to share with you.

Eburru Rafiki (ER) logo:

We are using it here for the first time. It depicts a sturdy tree and a bongo with the words below: "Eburru Forest Community Group."

A special thanks for its creation goes to Colleen Outram of Naivasha who prepared the design.

Registration as a Community Based Organisation (CBO):

We have submitted our CBO application to the Gilgil County District office. It is a long process. We will update you as to progress.

Tree hole preparation:

The team under Chege, our caretaker, will dig holes in preparation for a major tree planting during the long rains. Each hole is being dug 2 ft deep x 3 feet wide. Each will be partly refilled in preparation for the actual planting day.

We will notify you of this day in good time before it takes place.

Next Tree planting date (Planting 5):

We will make this decision nearer the time in view of the current very dry weather. Great Rift Valley Lodge and Carlson Wagon-lit's Travel have both committed to planting trees in the long rains.

We do invite you **and ask you to encourage your friends** to make further donations by March 30 to complete the 1000 trees we are targeting to plant to complete the 6 acre area.

Each tree costs ksh 60 (i.e. ksh 6000 for 100 trees) - holes dug, prepared,

and trees purchased from the local community. We welcome your further donations

Donations

Please follow either the Mpesa or cheque routing for payments.

Our accounts are managed by Rhino Ark.

The Mpesa routing is as follows:

1) Go to Lipa na Mpesa

Paybill: Enter Business Number 952100

Account No: Eburru Rafiki

Enter Amount:

Enter Mpesa PIN

SEND

2) Cheque payments should be made to:

Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust

and directed on the back of the cheque to: Eburru Rafiki

You will receive a confirmation of receipt.

Tree site visits:

The Crater gate at the site is kept locked. Should you plan to visit to see the trees that are growing well now, please call Chege our caretaker. **This is imperative as the gate is locked.** Chege can show you around.

Chege's Mobiles: **0772 536 484** or **0728 319 143.**

Forest Track – update

Much work has been done. Recently the entire 10 kms was graded and drains dug. Please enjoy your visits to the forest.

Walking Trails

Trails for hikers are being developed under Rhino Ark with the first already open. It starts in the Marua glade, follows the forest track and then turns west on a moderate gradient to a high point of 2.828 meters at a distance of 4.1 kms. For the longer hike the same trail descends to the Lengina dam and exits at Morop gate. The full distance from Marua to Morop is 6.4 kms.

Bird lists: Two studies have been done – one exclusively in the forest itself. To date this records 96 bird types.

The other is the comprehensive bird list of Eburru Forest and wider forest edge ecosystem. 189 birds have been recorded with input by Washington Wachira and Fleur Ng'weno in 2015 and the Kenya Bird Map survey group. Sightings of local birders and visitors have been added. Names and

sequences are available from the *Checklist of the Birds of Kenya 4 ed 2009* bird committee of the East African Natural History Society.

Forest Gate House:

Plans have been drawn up for a forest entrance gate complex. It will have an office for KFS but also a second room that could be used for the sale of community products such as honey in due course.

Its is to be sited near the KFS office beyond the Kengen Geothermal plant. The fence will be aligned to join up with the gate. KFS, Kengen and Rhino Ark have been involved in the planning of the gate building. We are actively trying to secure ksh 2.5 million for the gatehouse complex as a stand-alone project. Once complete it will greatly assist overall supervision, collection of forest entry dues and management of forest access.

We welcome donations for any of the above-mentioned projects as we approach the "April rains planting event."

Our sincere thanks once again for your support.

Eburru Rafiki Committee:

Colin Church – Chair

Tony Church – Vice chair

Hugh Gibbon – Treasurer

Alistair Nicklin – Secretary/ Database info