



**May 6 2018**

**e-shot news**

### **Community awareness project – Phase 2**

Eburru Rafiki (ER) has secured funding for two further community awareness programmes – for 2018 and for 2019.

The projects enable direct barazas with all the community centers around the 46 km Eburru fence line. Several hundred-forest edge farmers attended the launch events in 2017. In 2018 great emphasis will be placed on 'hot spot' areas where illegal activities have led to arrests.

### **Site One Tree Planting completed.**

The six-acre site at Fire Tower is now fully planted with 3200 indigenous trees. Douglas Chege, our site caretaker says all the trees are 'doing just fine'.

### **'Eburru's Got Talent' – wildlife clubs complete Tree Site One.**

A Bongo Surveillance Project (BSP) led outreach supported by Rhino Ark and Calgary Zoo brought 70 community members from Eburru, Ndabibi, Kiambogo and Olrai to complete ER Site One tree plant. Judges and family members accompanied their children all of whom participated in the 'Eburru's Got Talent' event for members of the BSP led wildlife clubs in each area.



*KFS Forest Samuel Mundia welcomes the 'Eburru's Got Talent' Group on Easter Monday before the heavy rains started to fall!*

**ER Site Two opened with 1000 trees planted during April**



*Site two started with 1000 trees.  
FM Samuel Mundia and KFS corporal Gideon Waswa*

Located on the new track from Marua Glade to Ndabibi gate, 1000 trees were planted in April and a further 1000 will be completed in May. The area chosen had suffered severe tree loss prior to the Rhino Ark fence completion. Its soil is very fertile. Tree growth is expected to be fast.

“Eburru Rafiki tree sites will witness natural recovery once the new canopy grows. Natural re-seeding will occur under it. As this happens, the undergrowth of nettles and other weed cover will retreat over time,” explained KFS manager Samuel Mundia.

Special thanks go to **Green Park residents** and other nearby donors, **Bunson Carlson Wagon Lits, Governors Camp (Musiaru Ltd)** and **Great Rift Valley Lodge** for the donations to the tree planting projects.

### **Funds for new projects and other news.**

ER has secured funds to start a website.

There are plans afoot to support de-snaring sweeps by community teams and to support guide training.

Livestock and dead wood collection in Eburru Forest has been stopped.

EA Wildlife Society Journal Swara in its April 2018 edition quoted the ER chairman, Colin Church:

*“Eburru does not have elephants which are perceived as the biggest culprits of crop raiding. But the (Rhino Ark) fence is keeping other animals -such as buffalo, bushbuck and porcupines out of shambas. It’s a very simple concept – like with the Aberdares. You provide the forest edge farmers with a benefit, which is the fence, and their crop value, their security value and their land value escalates.*

*“Each mountain system (once fenced) needs to continue as a public/private partnership. If Eburru is to position itself as a nature reserve then discussions need to continue with forest users to ensure all detrimental activities are prevented.”*

See EAWS website for full interview: <https://swara.co.ke/>

**EBURRU Guide book** – Colin has some in stock – or buy a copy from the Rhino Ark office at KWS HQ Nairobi.

We appeal for further support.

We do hope these activities demonstrate that your donations are being used for the best interests of Eburru and its Community.

Share the achievements with others: Please give a thought as to someone you know and send this e-shot and who would like to participate.

We appeal too to institutional donors to give added major support.

The Picnic site at Marua Glade is proving very popular. It makes a perfect place to stop for a break during a visit to Eburru. Remember to stop at the KFS office to pay your entry by Mpesa.

Tree site visits:

The Crater gate at Site One is kept locked. Should you plan to visit the tree site, please call Chege our caretaker beforehand. This is imperative as the gate is locked. Chege can show you around. Chege's Mobiles: 0772 536 484 or 0728 319 143.

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  
Njenga Mungai – Great Rift Valley Lodge  
Lydia Nyota – Eburru Community

Donation routing:

Please follow either the Mpesa or cheque routing for payments. Rhino Ark manages our accounts.

1) Go to Lipa na Mpesa  
Paybill: Enter Business Number 952100  
Account No: Eburru Rafiki  
Enter Amount: .....  
Enter Mpesa PIN  
SEND

2) Cheque payments are made to:  
Rhino Ark Kenya Charitable Trust  
and directed on the back of the cheque to: **Eburru Rafiki Fund**  
You will receive a confirmation of receipt.