News From Eburru Forest
March 2026

Quotation: "Plant for Today for Protecting the Future. We are not waiting for the Future. We are Growing In It!"

Forest News

In the long rains (April and May 2025) we planted 1,161 seedlings with a good survival rate. All seedlings were 3ft tall. Species were Podo, Cedar, Olive, Prunus, Warbugia, Albizia and Cape Chestnut.

These trees were planted along the Kimololosh track, in the enrichment zones.

These areas are weeded every 6 months, by members of the Community Forest Association (CFA).

Planting in the short rains (November 2025) was postponed due to the lack of rainfall.

We thank Gary Hopcraft of Loldia Farm for nurturing 1,500 seedlings in his nursery. These have been grown to 3ft tall before translocation to a planting site in the forest. We also thank Josphat Macharia for safe-guarding and watering 1,500 seedlings in black bags until mature enough to be transplanted in prepared sites in the enrichment zones.

Wildlife News

Problems we are now facing is due to the expanding wildlife populations. A good sign of the health of the Forest,
The Bushbuck in particular who have an insatiable appetite for the leaves and bark of the Olea (African Olive).

The 14 Camera Traps supplied by the Calgary Zoo continue to capture images of buffalo, leopard, Giant forest hog, bushbuck, Colobus monkey and others. But no sightings of Mountain Bongo. However, Rhino Ark and Wilder Institute of Calgary Zoo have started the statutory requirements to re-introduce Bongo into Eburru forest, with written intentions to the KWS.

Funding

Eburru Rafiki is entirely dependent on donations. We are most grateful to the following corporations who have made contributions of shs50,000 or more in 2026. These organisations are entitled to display our logo on all their promotional advertising. Thanking our Corporate partners for supporting our vital conservation effort.

Bilashaka Kapi Ltd Kenya Educational Trust (Pembroke House)
Interplant Ltd Vitaplant Ltd J W Seagon
Groove Ltd Governors Camp Ndume Ltd
Jan Spek Rozen Anonymous

The estimated cost of a 3ft seedling (purchase, land preparation, pitting, transport, planting and nurturing for two years) is shs250. We plant 250 seedlings to the acre, spacing 9ft by 6ft.

Forest Access

Via the Eburru KFS Forest Station. The newly repaired gate at the Kengen geothermal generating plant is manned 24 hours a day. This gate in the Rhino Ark fence serves arrivals to both KFS and Kengen.

All visitors to the Forest may then continue following the signs to the KFS office to make payments to enter the forest. Those wishing to hike must take a guide with them. Names and contact for guides are listed on our Eburru Rafiki website.

Roads and Trails

The main road through the forest to the Mpesa gate has been severely damaged by the Kengen seismic survey team. They have assured us this road will be repaired when the weather is dry.

Entering the Forest by vehicle should only be undertaken in a 4x4 car.

The hiking trails to the Eastern summit and the Western summit are cleared every two months.

The roads to the Marua Glade campsite as well as picnic sites at the Kimololosh and Olongubei glades are mown every three months with a tractor and giro-mower most generously provided by the Loldia Eburru Eco Camp.

Community Outreach

Eburru Rafiki have financed ten local farmers from the Songulei community to undertake a week long permaculture course with Josphat Macharia on his farm at Ndabibi to improve their farming methods as an alternative to trespassing into the Forest for nefarious activities.

The CFA Tuck shop situated at the KFS forest station is now open on weekends. Refreshments are served.

Visitor Arrivals

The Forest Manager has recorded a total of 1,682 visitors between August 2025 and January 2026 in his Ecotourism report. This is an average of 280 per month, the majority of whom are Kenya citizens.

Adult Entrance Fees:
Kenya Citizen Shs240
Kenya Resident Shs470
Non Resident Shs700
Add 16% tax
Security escort Shs1500 per ranger.

Payments only by Mpesa to the Kenya Forest Service.

The Eburru Forest Manager is Mr Jacob Chebet. Phone 0721 412527 or 0792 4525100.

Promotion

Eburru Rafiki took a stand at the Pembroke House Christmas Fair on 5 December 2025. Many donations for trees were made. We also sold Guide books, the new medicinal and herb books and Eburru honey with income going to the Community.

We also take a half page advert in the Old Africa magazine published every two months on line.

We plan to hold an evening at Gilgil Country Club in the middle of 2026 presenting the history and objectives of Eburru Rafiki.

Kengen

At the Loldia/Eburru Corridor public meeting on 4 March 2026 a senior representative of Kengen assured the meeting that Kengen have no plans to expand drilling new geo-thermal wells outside their leased area of the forest.

Eburru Rafiki Committee Members

Tony Church Chairman
Chris Outram
Hugh Gibbon
Alistair Nicklin
Josphat Macharia
Shyam Gosrami
Lydia Nyota
Shel Arensen
Joseph Mutongu

Note:
We bank at Stanbic, Naivasha
Paybill 600100
Account 102125

Hope to see you visiting the forest. Greetings to all our Friends/Rafikis






LAKERS
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EBURRU RAFIKI

EBURRU FOREST COMMUNITY GROUP