

WHV – The Eastern Arc Coastal Forests (Arabuko-Sokoke Forest)

The Eastern Arc Coastal Forests (Arabuko-Sokoke Forest and Shimba Hills National Reserve), Kenya

PROJECT DATES

Natural property inscribed on the Tentative List (2010)

07 August - 27 August 2023

THE SITE - The Arabuko Sokoke forest provides a significant natural habitat for the conservation of rare and endangered species, including the Golden-rumped Elephant shrew and Ader's Duiker, the forest being where the only populations of these two species occur. This forest also serves as an important bird area in that it supports populations of the Clarke's Weaver bird (vulnerable) and the Sokoke Scops Owl (endangered) that are restricted to this forest.

OBJECTIVES - The project aims at strengthening sustainable cooperation between non- profit organizations, site management, communities and authorities and at creating awareness in the community surrounding Arabuko-Sokoke forest on the importance to preserve and conserve the forest with its wildlife and ecosystem.

ACTIVITIES - The essential problem faced by the Arabuko-Sokoke forest is the ongoing degradation of the forest biodiversity: with the increasing pressure due to the demand for forest and wildlife-related products, the forest biodiversity is under constant threat and its protection needs to continually adapt to this evolving threat of illegal logging, charcoal production or poaching. Together with the community forest associations volunteers will be trained and participate in de-snaring actions, with the objective of removing a maximum number of this cheap and indiscriminate method of poaching that is threatening several wildlife species in the forest. Participants will also work with schools bordering Arabuko- Sokoke Forest to reach out to the school-going children and help the learners to understand the importance of the forest and environmental conservation, aiming at bringing up a conservation-conscient generation.

PARTNERS - Kenya wildlife service, Kenya forest service, National Museums of Kenya, Kenya Institute Research, Community scouts and community conservancy organisations, Friends Of Arabuko Sokoke Forest

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