



# Annual Report 2014



For more information, references or detailed project information on Colobus Conservation activities or results, contact the Conservation Manager at:

**Colobus Conservation**

P.O. Box 5380

80401 Diani Beach

Kenya

Tel: + 254 (0) 711 479453

Email: [enquiries@colobusconservation.org](mailto:enquiries@colobusconservation.org)

Web: [www.colobusconservation.org](http://www.colobusconservation.org)



Dear Reader,

This last year has been a most challenging financial time for Colobus Conservation for a variety of reasons beyond our control but we have still managed to carry out our core primate welfare and related research projects and, encouragingly, we have managed to expand our forestry and educational conservation activities.

This success is largely due to the dedication, enthusiasm and unflagging efforts by all the on-site staff and management and the 'hands-on' directors that I collectively label as 'Team Colobus'. But there is only so much they can do on their own so please can I ask you to become part of Team Colobus by supporting them however and whenever possible. For example by responding to any online appeal for project specific donations, planting indigenous trees if you have a property in Diani, encouraging your visitors to take part in our highly informative Eco-tours or even just slowing down if you drive in Diani so we have fewer welfare cases to cope with!

In my opinion one of the most evocative and calming sights of the Diani coast is seeing a troop of the beautiful colobus sat in the tree tops peacefully browsing on leaves. But we all need to do what we can to ensure that generations to follow will be able to see that same sight.

Enjoy the read and I hope we can rely on your support,  
John Buckley  
Chairman

## Introduction



Colobus Conservation (CC) is a not-for-profit organization based in Diani Beach, Kenya. The organization works in partnership with local communities to promote the conservation of the Angolan black and white colobus monkey (*Colobus angolensis palliatus*), along with other endemic primate species, and the unique coastal forest habitat on which they depend. Colobus Conservation programmes focus on habitat conservation and community linkages as well as human/primate conflict management, welfare, education and research. The objectives and work of Colobus Conservation are recognised internationally by AZA Colobus Species Survival Plan (SSP), Pan African Sanctuary Alliance (PASA) accreditation and are supported by well known conservationists Jonathan and Angela Scott through their role as Patrons.

The main activities carried out during 2014 were:

### Habitat Conservation



The forest ecosystem of the coastal areas of Kenya and Tanzania is listed as one of the top global biodiversity hotspots by Conservation International. With high levels of endemic and near endemic species, these forests abound with plants and animals found nowhere else in the world. In Kenya the once extensive coastal forests on which the Angolan colobus depend, have been reduced to a fragmented patchwork along a narrow coastal strip. This fragile resource is made up of gazetted forest reserves and conservation areas; community managed forests and woodlands, including culturally important sacred "kaya"

forests; and privately owned forest and woodland patches. Sadly, forest loss and degradation is continuing due to pressures from agricultural expansion, urban development, tree cutting for firewood, charcoal, carving wood, and clearance for mining. To promote habitat conservation Colobus Conservation has conducted the following activities.



- Promoted tree planting aimed at enhancing fragmented and isolated forest patches by encouraging local residents, community groups and land owners to replenish the natural environment with indigenous trees. A detailed catalogue of recommended species is available on our website.
- Planted 1,424 indigenous tree saplings in four Kaya's and adjacent school land, covering an area equivalent to 7 hectares.
- Post planting monitoring of the 1,424 saplings conducted to record survivability.
- Trained 67 community representatives in 'Practical Tree Planting' to ensure that 1,424 saplings were correctly nurtured post planting, with the aim to increase survivability.
- A plot by plot survey of Diani and Galu was conducted detailing habitat type and usage. These data will be used to increase our understanding of census results, inform our Colobus Corridor tree planting programme and monitor habitat changes yearly.
- Arranged an indigenous tree sale aimed at land owners within the Diani community. Post planting monitoring of the saplings recording survivability and growth rates conducted in July on an annual basis.
- Strengthened the capacity of community elders to protect and manage the Kaya sacred forests through activities such as provision of technical advice, lobbying support, education and training activities.
- Target forest adjacent communities and schools with environmental education programmes to raise awareness of biodiversity values and advocate against forest destruction and poaching.
- Botanical surveys documenting tree and shrub species within Kwale District.
- Consultative meetings with Kaya elders to identify conservation priorities for habitat conservation.



### Human/primate conflict management

Human-primate conflict management is targeted in the Diani area of Kwale district. This location is Colobus Conservation's focus area as it contains Kenya's second largest population of Angolan colobus monkeys.

- Reduce primate road traffic injuries – Since 1997 Colobus Conservation has installed primate canopy bridges at critical road crossing points along the main Diani road that bisects the primate habitat. During 2014 Colobus Conservation continued to maintain and repair 28 canopy bridges over the main Diani Road. By the end of 2014 only 26 canopy bridges remained over the Diani Road,
  - one bridge was removed following the installation of high voltage electricity cables in close proximity to the bridge and platform, endangering monkey's using the bridge with electrocution and
  - one bridge was removed due to habitat changes which meant the monkeys could no longer access the bridge.
- Reduce incidents of primate electrocutions - Colobus Conservation regularly trims trees growing alongside the power lines and where possible, in conjunction with the Kenya Power and Lighting Company, insulates them using PVC covering. In 2014
  - 11,350 meters of trees were trimmed and
  - 1040 meters of electricity cable insulated in hot spot areas.





- Snare removal - Wire snares are set by poachers to capture Suni antelope for bush meat. Ground dwelling primates of Diani are also at risk of being caught in these snares. In recent years snaring activities have become greatly reduced within Diani however CC still conducts checks walking through known areas of snaring activity, dismantling and removing snares.
  - 13 snares removed from the local forested areas
- Conducted surveys, produced literature and given advise to many different levels of the community regarding Primate Pest Management including crop raiding, local businesses, hotels and private residents.



### Animal Welfare

Colobus Conservation operates a 24hr hotline and responds to welfare cases for all Diani primate species. Frequently these are road injuries, electrocution, snares and cases of animal cruelty. We have a veterinarian clinic and quarantine facility on site for when cases require intervention.

- Colobus Conservation attended 151 welfare call outs in 2014 of which;
  - 50 were road traffic incidents,
  - 32 were electrocution incidents,
  - 2 were individuals trapped in snares,
  - 10 were dog related attacks,
  - 1 surrendered pet monkey,
  - 23 were injuries or illness due to natural causes,
  - 33 were due to other or unknown causes.
- Of these 151 animals
  - 21 individuals were treated and release back to their territory,
  - 6 are undergoing long term rehabilitation for future release back to the wild,
  - 18 individuals who did not require human intervention,
  - 106 arrived at our facility already deceased or died shortly after their arrival.
- The 151 welfare cases attended consisted of;
  - 62 colobus monkeys,
  - 45 Sykes monkeys,
  - 27 vervet monkeys,
  - 7 baboons,
  - 3 galagos and
  - 7 other animals, including birds, hedgehogs and reptiles.

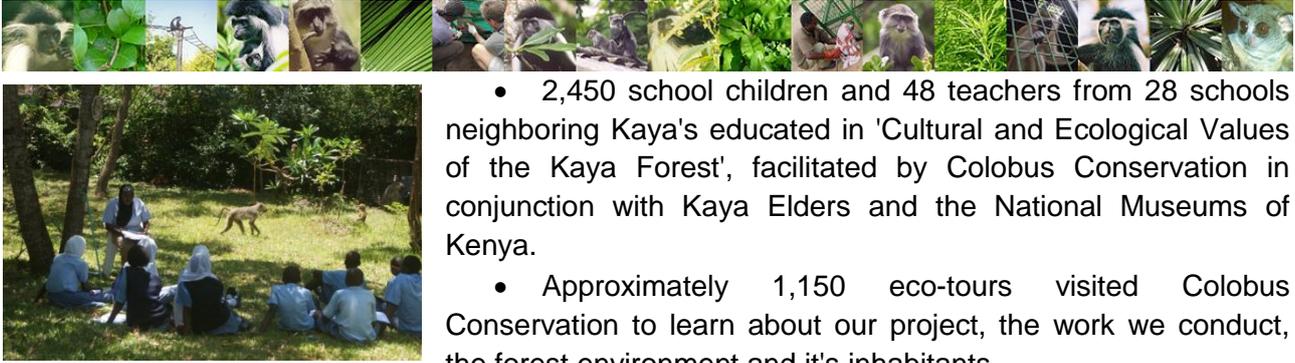


### Education

Weekly education workshops are hosted at Colobus Conservation's base, teaching children and teachers about the beauty of the wildlife surrounding them and the importance of the forest. In addition, Colobus Conservation has an information and education centre, which is also open to the public to visit during a guided Eco-tour. In 2014 Colobus Conservation educated;

- 840 school children from 32 schools attending our one day on-site education workshop.
- Adult education 121 adults from matatu and boda drivers, kiosk holders and hotel staff.





- 2,450 school children and 48 teachers from 28 schools neighboring Kaya's educated in 'Cultural and Ecological Values of the Kaya Forest', facilitated by Colobus Conservation in conjunction with Kaya Elders and the National Museums of Kenya.
- Approximately 1,150 eco-tours visited Colobus Conservation to learn about our project, the work we conduct, the forest environment and it's inhabitants.

**Research**

Key conservation issues are addressed by working in partnership with national and international universities and other research bodies and by promoting information sharing.

Colobus Conservation conducted research contributing to three projects during the course of 2014 including;

- Colobus home range and levels of aggression in relation to habitat quality
  - Data collection of three overlapping colobus troops within a semi-degraded forest area of Diani recording home range size, wildlife interaction, food selection and inter- and intra- group aggression.
- Annual census of Diani's diurnal primates
  - A census was conducted in October 2014, covering approximately 7km<sup>2</sup> from Southern Palms Hotel to Pinewood Beach Resort covering areas on both sides of the Diani Road. The primate species encountered and their numbers are detailed below.

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number of Troops</b>	<b>Number of Individuals</b>
Colobus	53	353
Vervet	18	146
Sykes	72	742
Baboon	5	160

- Colobus numbers declined for the third consecutive year, while both vervet and Sykes monkeys decline to more normal levels following the dramatic peak recorded in 2013. The baboon population increased by just four individuals, showing a reduction in their population growth rates.

**Finances**

Colobus Conservation does not receive funding support from central or local government and therefore relies solely on grant applications and donations from individuals and organisation to cover operational and staff costs. As such funding is currently the biggest constraint on the range and depth of project implementation and limits the activities the organisation can undertake.

- Grants and Donations - During 2014 grants and donations of more than \$1,000 were received from the following organizations:
  - International Primate Protection League (IPPL), USA
  - Safarilink Aviation, Kenya
  - Chester Zoo, UK
  - Columbus Zoo, USA
  - San Antonio Zoo, USA
  - Afro Chic, Kenya
  - Woodland Park Zoo, USA



- Worldwide Fund for Nature, USA
  - Base Titanium, Kenya
  - Great Ape Giving Day, Arcus Foundation, USA
  - plus numerous individual donations from local, national and international supporters and business which combined totaled more than \$1,000.
- A breakdown of income and expenditure can be seen in the table below

<b>Income</b>	
<b>Source</b>	<b>KSh</b>
Grants	3,200,000
Donors	3,100,000
Volunteer programme	2,130,000
Eco-tour income	845,000
Shop sales	480,000
Adoptions and sponsorships	90,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,845,000</b>

<b>Expenditure</b>	
<b>Department</b>	<b>KSh</b>
Salaries	3,350,000
Staff support	1,000,000
Volunteer support	180,000
House support (including volunteer and staff accommodation, food and associated living expenses)	2,600,000
Vehicle maintenance and associated running costs	315,000
Program operations	1,250,000
Shop	385,000
Legal and banking expenses	200,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>9,280,000</b>

- In addition to monetary donations two organisations have donated equipment and products
  - Base Titanium donated a new Ford Ranger twin cab truck. Having a second vehicle allows Colobus Conservation to run more efficiently and our operations to expand outside of Diani, without compromising our welfare response times.
  - Chandarana supermarket supply us with 10,000KSh of 'shopping' per month, this may be items to increase the care of our rehabilitation monkeys, food for volunteers or cleaning products.

#### Other

- Publications
  - Donaldson, A., Cunneyworth, P. (in press). Case Study: Canopy Bridges for Primate Conservation. In van der Ree, R., Smith, D. J., and Grilo, C. (Eds.), *Handbook of Road Ecology*, First Edition (pp. 341-343). John Wiley and Sons, Oxford.
  - Numerous articles in the local South Coast Residents Association Newsletter aimed at reducing levels of human/primate conflict.
- Membership
  - Colobus Conservation gained a seat on Kenya's National Primate Conservation Task Force (NPCTF). NPCTF was formed in 2013 to advise Kenya Wildlife Service on primate conservation matters including priorities for critical conservation actions for primates, review research activities and aid in the development of policies. Other members of the task force include representatives from KWS, Institute of Primate Research, Kenya Forest Service, NEMA, Uaso Ngiro Baboon Project, Amboseli



Baboon Research Project, East Africa Primate Diversity and Conservation Program, Tana River Primates Team, Ol Pejeta Conservancy, Kakamega Primate Research Team and Papio Project.

- Colobus Conservation continued to meet the requirements and remained members of Pan Africa Sanctuaries Alliance (PASA) and Global Federation of Animal Sanctuaries (GFAS).
- Workshops and Conferences attended
  - Human and Non Human Primates - Crossing the Boundaries hosted by the University of Warsaw. 18-20th May. Conservation Manager, Andrea Donaldson was invited to attend as a Speaker and Participant.
  - PASA Managers Meeting and Workshop hosted by Lilongwe Wildlife Center, Malawi. 8-12th September. Director, Pamela Cunneyworth attended.
  - PASA Veterinary Workshop hosted by Colobus Conservation. 3-7th November. Attended by Pamela Cunneyworth, Andrea Donaldson and General Manager, Keith Thompson. The workshop brought together experts in the field of primate veterinary medicine from Kenya Wildlife Service, Chester Zoo and PASA sanctuaries from across Africa to share knowledge and learn new skills.
- Volunteers
  - 24 volunteers donated their time to gain future experience and help Colobus Conservation achieve our goals.
  - Volunteers from 7 countries joined our programme including Kenya, Holland, USA, Britain, France, Spain and Canada,
  - Volunteers stayed from 2 weeks to 6 months, with the average length of stay being 8 weeks.

