



# Annual Report 2019



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Colobus Conservation Limited  
P.O. BOX 5380-80401, Diani, Kenya.  
[www.colobusconservation.org](http://www.colobusconservation.org) +254(0)711 479 453.  
[enquiries@colobusconservation.org](mailto:enquiries@colobusconservation.org)



Dear Readers,

First some really good news .....

If you have visited us, or are a previous reader of our Annual Reports, you will know that one of our key activities is educating around 1,000 local school children each year on the importance of conservation and environmental matters. This is achieved by us hosting groups of around 35 children and their teachers each week for a day long programme of informative lectures, demonstrations of practical examples and a walk through the grounds on an EcoTour – often ending with a football kick around or paddle on the beach! However, it has always been frustrating that our efforts have been somewhat hampered by having to do this within the limited space provided by our offices and the lack of specialized teaching

aids.

But that has all changed now! Thanks to a very generous education specific donation from some Nairobi based benefactors we have been able to build and fit out a purpose designed classroom capable of seating up to 50 pupils complete with a 65-inch smart board. (For those like me brought up in the analogue era a smart board is like a very large computer screen that you can ‘write’ on, show videos or films, pull up pre-written material, etc.). The school kids love being able to come up to the board and participate by interacting with what is being shown on the screen; definitely giving a new meaning to ‘hands on’ learning!

However, it’s not just the school children that have benefited as we have also incorporated it into our EcoTour programmes by using it to show a short, purpose filmed video highlighting all the activities of CC and it is also used during our inhouse staff training sessions.

But unfortunately, there is also some extremely bad news .....

I am writing this in mid-2020 when the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic has had a disastrous negative impact on our income streams and actually now threatens the continued existence of the organisation with obvious detrimental effects on the environment and primates of Diani. Am I exaggerating? Definitely not! In 2019 international volunteers and research students paying to stay with us, plus tourists taking EcoTours, contributed approximately 60% of our income but due to international travel restrictions that has now reduced to virtually zero! Our staff have taken major cuts to their salaries and taken unpaid leave plus there has been a necessary cost driven reduction in our external activities. But these measures alone are not enough and more than ever before we need your financial support by you making a donation, via our website, to help us survive until ‘normality’ returns. I sincerely thank you in advance for any donation, however small. Every shilling makes a difference.

And on a personal note - stay safe and well.

Kind regards,  
John Buckley, Chairman.





## WHO WE ARE

Colobus Conservation hereafter referred to as CC for brevity, is a not-for-profit organisation based in Diani Beach, Kenya. The organisation works in partnership with local communities to promote the conservation of the Vulnerable 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. CC programs focus on habitat conservation and community linkages as well as human/primate conflict management, welfare, education and research.

The objectives and work of CC 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.



## Highlights of 2019

- Completed the construction of a new classroom fully equipped with ultra-modern education facilities.
- CC featured in the Nairobi Santa Run 2019 as one of the recipient charity organization.
- Awarded a top Tripadvisor rating of 4.5-Stars.
- A sixth indigenous tree sale in Diani promoting local forest conservation efforts was hosted successfully.
- 171 primate welfare call-outs attended;
- Rescue, rehabilitation and release of 11 vervet and 5 Sykes monkeys in the month of November.
- GEF SGP education awareness program was rolled out to Kaya Duruma schools with 100 school children, 20 teachers and 40 kaya elders reached.
- 1200 children from 36 schools visited CC for one-day workshops.



# Our work in 2019

## Habitat Conservation

Deforestation is causing a slow but gradual decline in the population of Colobus monkeys within their range, with over 80% of the coastal forests already lost due to human activities. CC are actively combating this in several ways;

- CC held more than 36 education workshops for school children. A tailored programme to enlighten school going children is rolled out to this group every week. This is to expose them to the aspects of forest conservation and ecological significance of the coastal forest indigenous species conservation.
- A sixth indigenous tree sale was hosted at Baharini Plaza, specifically for residents within the Diani community.
- Monitoring of the survival and growth rates of 261 indigenous trees that we had previously planted was carried out in July.
- CC held a workshop for roadside tree sellers during which the wording of document for a proposed Association was finalized prior to the Diani Indigenous Tree Growers Association being registered with the local social services department. A subsequent survey found that as a result of the workshop three sellers had increased their indigenous trees to more than 10% of their stock.
- Simon Mungai and Mwituu Khalifani, visited the Mbegani conservation group to offer their technical expertise on environmental conservation and restoration.



## Primate Conservation

- Human-primate conflict management is targeted in the Diani area of Kwale County. This location is CC focus area as it contains Kenya's second largest population of Angolan colobus monkeys.
- CC worked closely with Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) including participating on the KWS committee, the National Primate Task Force overseeing primate issues across the country.



### *Primate-vehicle collision management ;*

- ▶ Thirty-two colobridges over the Diani's beach road were assessed weekly for repairs and maintenance. These canopy bridges reduce the number of primates at risk to traffic accidents, injuries and death.
- ▶ On average, each bridge requires major maintenance and/or rebuilding approximately once per year.



- ▶ Phase II of public service vehicle awareness campaign was carried out in June where 121 drivers were reached.

### ***Electrocution management:***

- ▶ Two to three primates suffered electrocutions on average in each month in Diani.
- ▶ During 2017 and 2018 CC had participated in a project funded by Kenya Power & Lighting (KP&L) to insulate approximately 12 km of power cables and relocate and insulate several transformers. During 2019 approaches were made to KP&L to further extend this initiative to another 12km of power lines based on a further statistical study of electrocution 'hotspots'.
- ▶ A campaign to support insulation of power cables within electrocution hotspots was initiated in 2019. This campaign targets to raise funds for insulating the remaining 12km of power cables identified as hotspots.
- ▶ Pending funding for the requested additional insulation CC partnered with KP&L to trim trees near 1.5km of power lines and thereby make the power lines less accessible for primates.

### ***Snaring of primates.***

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. To mitigate against snaring of wildlife, CC, in collaboration with KWS carries out de-snaring activities which consists of walking through targeted areas of snaring activity, dismantling and removing snares. Two follow up surveys were organised to Nomads Forest and plots near Nakumatt and no evidence of illegal activity was witnessed.

### ***Primate pets:***

- ▶ Holding primates and other wildlife as pets is illegal in Kenya. KWS a mandated custodian of wildlife in Kenya confiscates any wildlife kept as pets.
- ▶ In 2019, we received a total of two pets (owls) all confiscated from the pet trade by KWS.

### ***Primate pests:***

- ▶ Conducted surveys, produced literature and given advice to many different levels of the community regarding Primate Pest Management including crop raiding, local businesses, hotels and private residents such as Leopard Beach Resort, Diani Sea Resort, Leisure Lodge and Kosovo.
- ▶ CC is working with Diani Reef Resort to implement primate pest mitigation measures.





## Animal Welfare

CC 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.

CC has partnered with ANAW (Africa Network for Animal Welfare), an international organisation promoting welfare standards for domestic and wild animals. Within ANAW's veterinary program, recently graduated veterinarians come to CC for their internships. CC attended 171 welfare call outs in 2019 to give attention to;

- 54 Sykes monkeys
- 43 Colobus monkeys
- 40 vervet monkeys
- 12 Greater Galagos
- 10 Baboons
- 5 birds
- 3 Hedgehogs and 2 others (zebra).



Out of these welfares, 41 were road traffic accidents, 40 natural illness, 19 electrocutions, 11 from natural fighting, 8 injuries, 8 abandoned, 15 from abuse/pest behavior/poisoning, 3 dog attacks, 5 poaching and snares, 3 infanticides, 3 pets, 15 other causes and 10 were unknown.

Out of the 171 incidences 54 were found dead, 28 put down, 21 alive not captured, 18 died under treatment, 11 put under treatment, 9 treated and released, 7 entered long term rehabilitation, 7 not found, 7 released, 3 not captured, 2 died either under orphan care or rehabilitation, 2 under orphan care and 2 others.

### ■ Sykes Release Programme;

- Five Sykes monkeys were released onsite the 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. Prior to their release the Sykes were exposed to both predator awareness and electrocution tests and foraging tactics.
- Eleven vervets were released onsite on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2019. Prior to the release of the vervets pre-release data was collected on various aspects not limited to predator awareness, electrocution and foraging ability. Post release data collection is ongoing with surveyors following the troops daily from 6am-6pm.
- For monitoring purposes GPS collars were mounted on one Sykes and two vervets.
- The released troops are being monitored for behaviour data collection for a period of one year.

- As a member of PASA tries to ensure the highest possible animal welfare based on their recommended standards and international best practices as set out in the PASA Operations Manual. During 2019 we further enhanced these for the primates in enclosures awaiting release by incorporating enclosure



enrichment programs based on recommendations from an MSc student from Oxford Brookes University in England who was resident with us for a period.

## Conservation education

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

- 1200 school children from 36 schools attending our one-day on-site education workshop.
- Adult education programmes were held in June for the public service vehicle drivers in the form of awareness campaign with 121 drivers reached. In addition to the drivers' workshops, roadside tree sellers' workshops were held at the centre in the month of November.



## Our research

Key conservation issues are addressed by working in partnership with national and international universities and other research bodies and by promoting information sharing. Five research projects were conducted at CC during the course of 2019 including;

- How behavioural, environmental and morphological factors affect the likelihood of electrocutions of colobus monkeys (*Colobus angolensis palliatus*) in an anthropogenic environment, Isabella Santarsieri of the University of Roehampton, UK.



- Pre-release and post release activity time budget data collection for the Sykes and vervet monkeys release troops.
- Primate presence survey at Base Titanium and its environs of Miembeni and Vumbu villages.
- Annual census of Diani's diurnal primates; each year CC carries out an annual census of the four monkey species in Diani: colobus, Sykes, vervets and baboons. The outcome of the October 2019 census indicates that in spite of massive development in the area, the population numbers of each species remain stable;

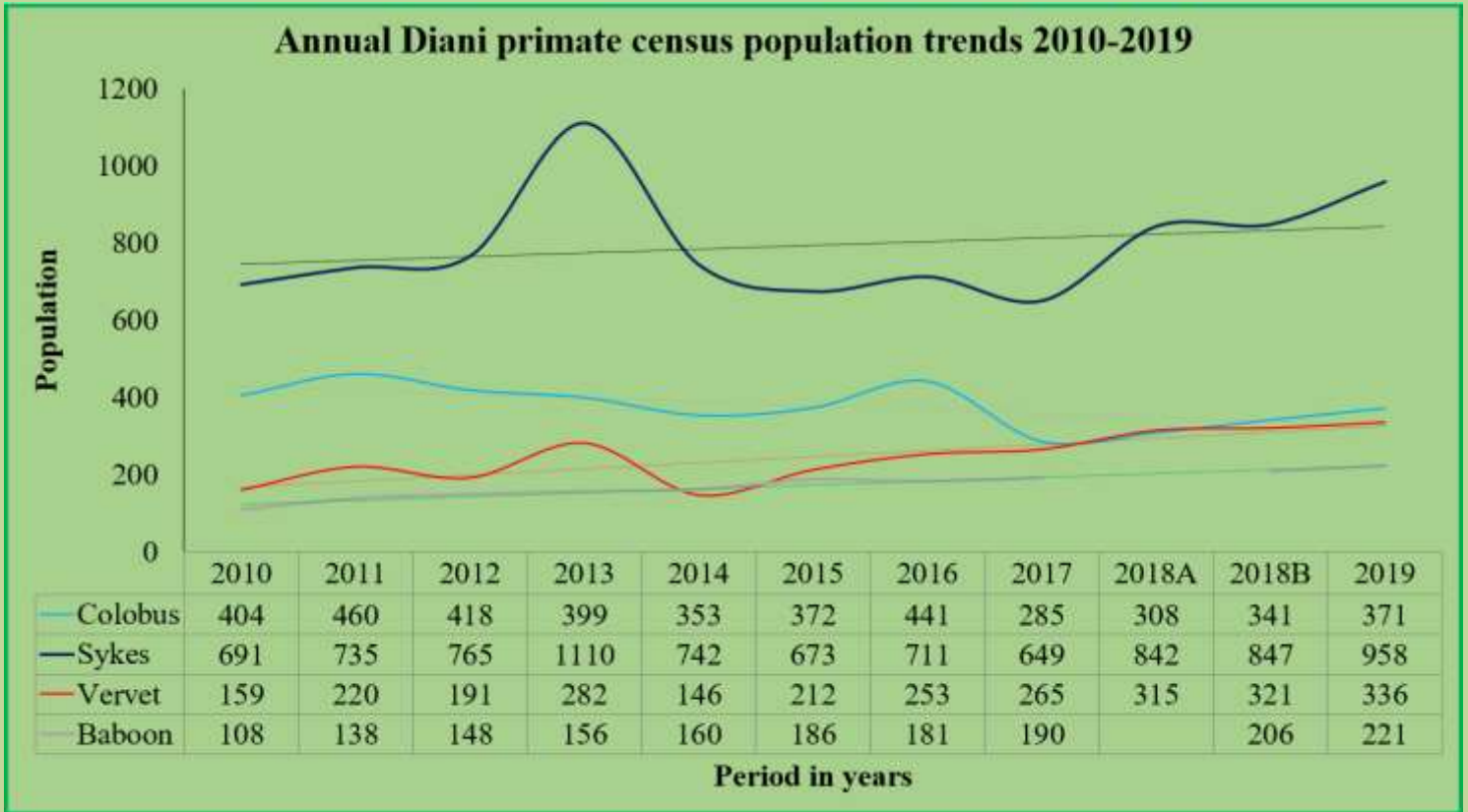


Figure 1: Annual Diani primate census population trends over the last 10 years

## Colobus visibility and publication





## ■ Publications and Media

- CC participated in the Nairobi Santa Run which was publicized and aired on Citizen TV Kenya.
- All the social media handles of twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and emails were active in 2019.
- BBC Africa and a German Radio station covered Colobus work.
- Membership
- CC continued to meet the requirements and remained members of Pan Africa Sanctuaries Alliance (PASA) and Kenya's National Primate Conservation Task Force (NPCTF).
- Kwale Natural Resources Network (KNRN).

## ■ Workshops and Conference attended

- APS Conference 2019, Primate conservation in Africa: challenges and opportunities. Entebbe, Uganda.
- Global Environmental Facility's Small Grants Programme workshop on Kilifi landscape projects and financial accountability, Kilifi, Kenya.
- IKI project workshop: Public-private-people partnerships for biodiversity conservation of threatened and degraded Kenyan coastal forests, in Kwale.
- PASA Strategic Development Conference 2019, Johannesburg, South Africa
- Vets' workshop; Setting a foundation for future veterinary capacity building for PASA members. Yaoundé, Cameroon.

## ■ Volunteers and Interns

- 49 volunteers, 16 interns and 4 researchers donated their time to gain future experience and help CC achieve our goals. They came from 14 countries including Kenya, Holland, USA, Britain, France, Australia, Japan, Italy, Russia, China, Denmark, Poland, New Zealand and Spain.
- Volunteers stayed from 2 weeks to 6 months.



# Finances



CC 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 2019, we received grants and donations from the following organisations and individuals:
  - International Primate Protection League (IPPL), USA
  - Safarilink Aviation, Kenya
  - Columbus Zoo, USA
  - San Antonio Zoo, USA
  - Taronga Conservation Society, Australia
  - Global Environmental Facility's Small Grants Programme, UNDP.
  - Base Titanium Limited, Kenya.
  - Woodland Park Zoo, USA
  - Omaha Zoological Society
  - Tier service Park Zoo, Germany.
  - Plus, numerous individual donations from local, national and international supporters and business which combined totaled more than \$20,000.
  
- Several local fundraisers were held in 2019, these included:
  - Golf on the Beach at Nomads the Sands
  - Craft Fair at Nomads the Sands
  - Petanque tournament at Diani House
  - Cruise for Colobus

A breakdown of income and expenditure can be seen in the following tables:





### CC Income

Source	Ksh
Grants	4,471,591
Donations (individual, online)	3,100,323
Local Fundraisers	374,934
Volunteer Programme	4,308,051
Eco-tour income	2,113,743
Shop sales	547,534
Adoptions and sponsorships	439,053
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,355,229</b>

### CC expenses

Education	<b>4,169,011</b>
Animal and husbandry	3,311,557
Colobridging, insulation and tree trimming materials	105,875
Research and travel expenses related to programmes	387,864
Field staff	551,501
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>8,525,808</b>
<b>Others</b>	
Administrative and office support	1,277,572
House support (volunteer and staff accommodation, food and associated living expenses)	1,858,921
Vehicle maintenance and associated running	604,872
Staff support	1,409,030
Marketing	498,706
Legal, audit and banking	375,240
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>6,024,341</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,550,149</b>



# Thank you for all your support in 2019!



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

**Colobus Conservation Ltd.**

P.O. Box 5380- 80401 Diani Beach, Kenya

Hotline: + 254 (0) 711 479453

Email: [admin@colobusconservation.org](mailto:admin@colobusconservation.org)/Web: [www.colobusconservation.org](http://www.colobusconservation.org)