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# ANNUAL REPORT 2020

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Dear Readers – I am definitely not the first person to describe 2020 as “very strange times” but sadly that is exactly what it has been!

We started January in high spirits and looking forward to hosting local schools in our new education facility, accommodating the many overseas volunteers who had pre-booked to stay with us and showing tourists around our increasingly popular Eco Tour.

However, by the end of February the worldwide emergence of the Covid virus had meant that international travel restrictions had become the norm and volunteers and tourists were just a memory. Then local schools started shutting down and throughout April there were internal regional lockdowns that prevented travel between Nairobi to the Coast and vice versa. And the immediate effect

was a drying up of our income streams which meant we had to cut back on all non-essential expenditure and shelve most projects that were not directly related to emergency callouts and the continued rehabilitation of the primates already with us. It also meant we had to ask the staff to accept significant reductions in their already not over-generous salaries. Which to their credit all did with grace and understanding of our financial situation.

But I am both pleased and proud to say that we did get through the year thanks to our staff and generous financial support from a range of donors, of which the main ones are listed in the report that follows. And in particular, PASA, the Pan-African Sanctuaries Association, which is the US based umbrella organisation for 21 sanctuaries across Africa who fully recognized the serious nature of our financial situation. To those organisations and all individuals who made a personal donation I say a big ‘Asante Sana’ on behalf of all of us at Colobus Conservation. And, as the Covid pandemic is still with us as I write this foreword, I hope that you will continue to support us through 2021 or as long as it takes until ‘normality’ returns to the world along with our traditional income streams and we again become largely self-sufficient.

Again, my sincere thanks for your support – and stay safe.

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 recognized 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 2020

- Held the inaugural online tree sale event necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak.
- 203 primate welfare call-outs attended;
- We continued with the implementation of Small Grants Programmes' project where six schools adjacent to Kaya Mstwakara and Gandini forest were reached;
- 356 school children from 9 schools visited CC for day-long conservation workshops;
- Initiated Trees4Kids project to inspire school children into growing trees and caring for the environment;
- Implemented 75% of the GEF-SGP project activities which included but not limited to primate census, completion of Miyani education classroom, education workshops, kaya visits, promotion and distribution of conservation related comic books;
- Conducted the colobridge survey 2020 to assess their usefulness as a mitigation measure for primate-vehicle collisions.
- Conducted the annual census to monitor the long-term population changes for four species of diurnal primates found in Diani.





## Our work in 2020

### 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 is actively involved in restoration, protection and conservation of the coastal forest. Some of project activities rolled out during this period to restore, combat habitat loss and conserve the remaining forest patches include:

A tailored programme to enlighten school going children on conservation and protection of forests was rolled out to this group every week; a total of 8 workshops were held during this period.

- Held the inaugural online tree sale event necessitated by the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak; a total of 183 trees were sold online;
- We planted 100 trees in the following schools: N'ngoiri (22), Hermana (18) and Mwaroni (20), and hotels: Diani Reef (20) and Safari Alliance (20).
- Monitoring follow-ups were made to check on the survivorship of the 101 trees planted in schools; unfortunately, 65% of the trees died or were cleared by 'Kazi Mtaani' youths contracted to maintain public places when schools were on recess
- CC was represented by the conservation manager at the GEF's Expanded Consistency workshop that was hosted in Nairobi to train member countries, organisations and community groups on funding, reporting and monitoring of projects for sustainability and enhancement of livelihoods.

### Primate Conservation

- Human-primate conflict management targets the Diani area of Kwale County. Diani has Kenya's second largest population of Angolan colobus monkeys which is the organization's flagship species.
- 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**

- Twenty-nine colobridges over the Diani Beach Road and four within private beach accesses were assessed weekly for repairs and maintenance;



- They reduce the number of primates at risk to traffic accidents, injuries and death; and increase habitat connectivity; these colobridges were surveyed 77 times for major and minor repairs and maintenance, 8 of them brought down for revamp with 7 of them re-installed within two weeks;

■ Conducted colobridge survey to assess their usefulness as a mitigation measure for primate-vehicle collisions; a total of 60 youths participated in the survey; with 1301 crossings recorded over the 2-day exercise;

- Derek, a resident sponsored one colobridge which was built and installed within his property to provide an alternative route for monkeys using his roof.

## **Electrocution management**

- Two to three primate suffered electrocutions on average in each month in Diani. To mitigate this, we partnered with KPLC to trim overgrown branches in areas classified electrocution 'hotspots' based on statistical study carried out in 2017. A total of 400 metres were trimmed in Moringa House, Zawama and Leisure Golf Course.
- We also continued with the campaign aimed at supporting insulation of powerline cables within electrocution hotspots.

## **Snaring of primates.**

- In Diani and its environs wire snares are set by poachers to capture Suni antelope for bush meat. Though, they might not be the target, ground dwelling primates are also at risk of being caught in these snares. To mitigate against snaring of wildlife, CC, in collaboration with KWS conducts de-snaring activities by walking through targeted areas, dismantling and removing snares and ultimately creating awareness.
- During 2020, a 40m long of goose net was confiscated at Manyatta plots during a de-snaring survey exercise organized by Nomads Hotel following several snared animal incidences.



## 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 pet. In 2020, KWS surrendered to CC two pets confiscated from pet traders.
- Conducted surveys, produced literature and created awareness to various community groups on primate pest management. Some of these groups included but not limited to local businesses, villages, private residents and hotels such as Leopard Beach Resort, Diani Sea Resort, Leisure Lodge;
- CC continued to work with Diani Reef Resort to implement primate pest mitigation measures.

## Animal Welfare

CC operates a 24-hour animal rescue service and responds to community welfare callouts. Majority of the welfare calls involves primate-vehicle collisions, electrical shocks and electrocution, animal cruelty and snares. 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. In 2020 CC attended 210 welfare callouts which were distributed as follows:



- Colobus 59
- Vervet 43
- Sykes 73
- Baboon 6
- Galago 10
- Others 19

Out of these welfare callouts, 40 were primate-vehicle collisions, 56 illness, 28 injuries, 24 electrocutions, 12 poaching cases, 7 abuse, 8 dog attacks, 5 infanticides, 10 orphaned, 12 from abuse/pest behavior/poisoning/pets, and 8 unknown cases;

Out of the 210 incidences 36 were alive not captured, 68 were found dead, 4 died while on transit to the centre, 27 died under treatment, 3 entered orphan care, 3 entered long term rehabilitation, 17 were put down, 3 were not found, 1 died while undergoing rehabilitation, 1 was reunited with the mother, 2 were transferred to another facility while 45 were treated and released.

## Release Programme;

- We continued to follow the 2019 released groups of Sykes monkeys and vervet monkeys to collect behavioral data
- As a member of PASA, CC tries to ensure the highest possible animal welfare standards based on their recommended standards and international best practices as set out in their Operations Manual;



- Also, CC strictly observes the KWS animal release protocols and guidelines before any release or animal translocation;
- During 2020 we overhauled the orphan care nursery to create a secure, spacious and conducive area for careers and orphans.

## Conservation education

Weekly education workshops are hosted in the CC classroom where school children are taught about the beauty of the wildlife and their surroundings, and the importance of the forest conservation. In addition, CC has an information centre which is also open to the public to visit during a guided Eco-tour. During this period:

- 356 school children from 9 schools attending our one-day on-site education workshop. These schools are: Mikaela Swikunda, Tiwi, Mwabungo, Mwakigwena, Mwachema, Mwaligulu, Taqwa, St. Angelo and Ngoiri Primary schools. They also took part in organized staff-led games to break monotony. At the end of the day, they were given tree seedlings to grow in their school compounds.
- A total of 50 indigenous tree seedlings were given as a token to the kids to plant back in the schools. The facilitators took time to explain to the learners the process of planting to ensure the seedlings thrive and increase the survival rates.

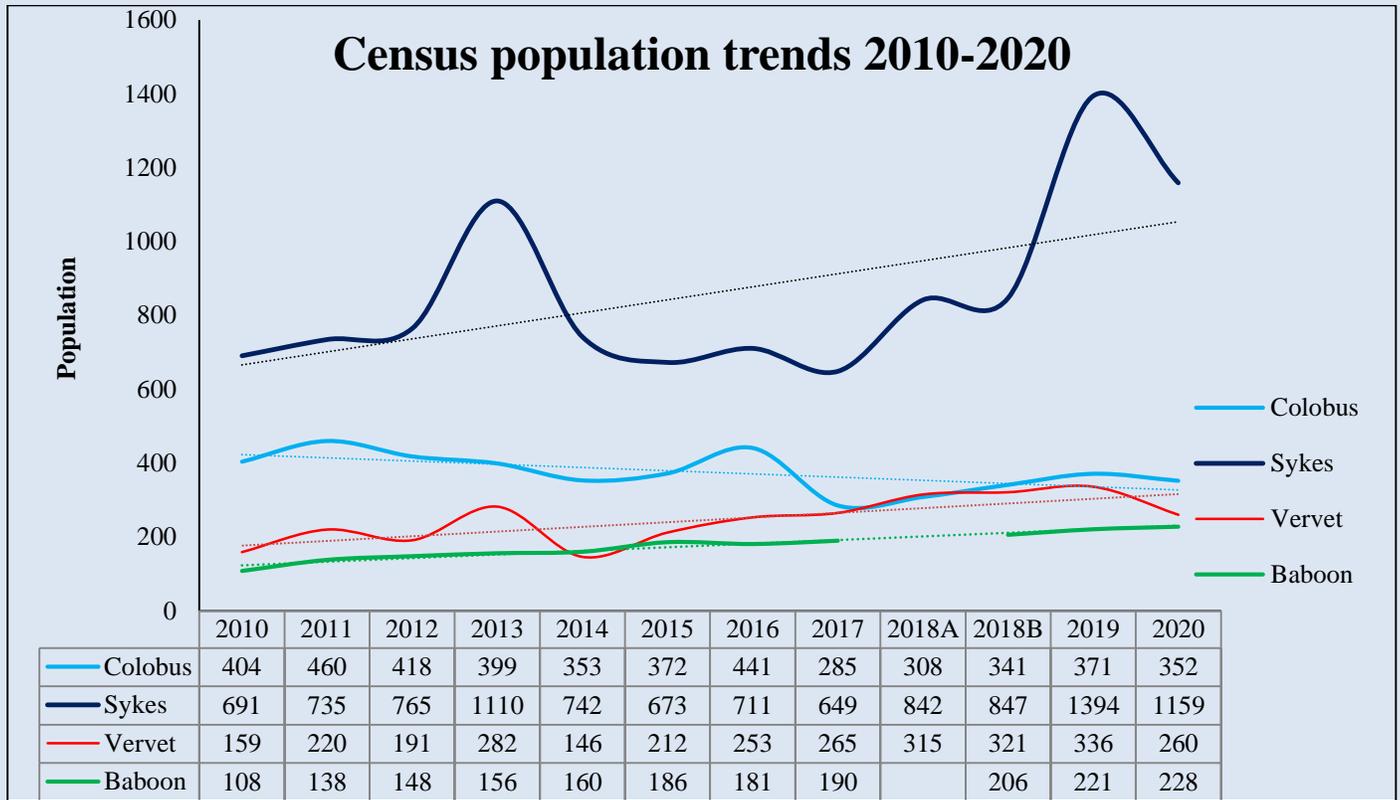
## Our research

Key conservation issues are addressed by working in partnership with national and international universities and other research bodies and by promoting information sharing. The following milestones either in terms of MoUs, publications or securing of research students were realized in 2020:

- *Colobus angolensis* assessment by de Jong, Y. A., Cunneyworth, P., Butynski, T. M., Maisels, F., Hart, J. A., & Rovero, F. (2020) The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2020: e. T5142A17945007.
- Conducted seed ball trials to test the ability and effectiveness of different indigenous tree seeds to germinate and survive. The target was to find a cost-effective yet efficient means of restoring degraded forest patches.
- 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, Buda Forest, Vumbu villages, Kaya Mstwakara and Gandini forests.
- Colobridge survey to assess the usefulness of colobridge as a mitigation measure for primate-vehicle collision along the Diani Beach Road.
- Impact of Electric Shock and Electrocution on Populations of Four Monkey Species in the Suburban Town of Diani Kenya.
- Mitochondrial genetic diversity and divergence dating of Angolan colobus monkeys (*Colobus angolensis*) in the eastern forests of Kenya and Tanzania: implications for subspeciation and reconstructing historical biogeography".



- 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 2020 census indicates that in spite of massive development in the area, the population numbers of each species remain stable;



Annual Diani Primate Census Population Trends over the last 10 years



## Colobus visibility and publication

### **Publications and Media**

- CC was recognized for exemplary work in Environmental Education and Awareness during the NETFUND-GIA, 2021. The organization took the 1<sup>st</sup> prize and cash prize of Ksh 250,000. The event was aired on online media platforms and mainstream media.
- All the social media handles of Twitter, Facebook, WhatsApp, Instagram and emails were active in 2020.

### **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**

- The Conservation Manager of CC attended the GEF's Expanded Constituency Workshop that was organized and held in Nairobi, February, 2020. The workshop training focused in grant writing, financial accountability, networking and liaison, project sustainability and upscaling.
- The Assistant Programs Manager attended the Global Environmental Facility's Small Grants Programme workshop on Kilifi landscape projects and project reporting, Mtwapa - Kilifi, Kenya.

### **Volunteers and Interns**

- 12 volunteers, 4 interns and 1 researcher donated their time to gain future experience and help CC achieve our goals. They came from 14 countries including Kenya, Italy, South Africa, UK, Sweden, Canada, China, Belgium, Australia, Kenya and USA.
- 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 - In 2020, we received grants and donations from the following organisations and individuals:

- International Primate Protection League (IPPL), USA
- Humane Society International
- San Antonio Zoo, USA
- PASA
- Global Environmental Facility's Small Grants Programme, UNDP.
- Base Titanium Limited, Kenya.
- Woodland Park Zoo, USA



- Omaha Zoological Society
- Tier Service Park Zoo, Germany.
- Joanna Toole Foundation
- 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 2020, these included:

- Golf on the Beach at Nomads the Sands
- Cager keeper
- Craft Fair at Nomads the Sands
- Cruise for Colobus

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

<b>CC Income</b>	
<b>Source</b>	<b>Ksh</b>
Grants	2,058,383
Donations (individual, online)	5,332,685
Local Fundraisers	581,551
Volunteer Programme	1,160,344
Eco-tour income	568,799
Shop sales	325,791
Adoptions and sponsorships	304,159
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,331,712</b>



### CC expenses

Education	1,601,666
Animal and husbandry	1,539,830
Colobridging, insulation and tree trimming materials	527,416
Research and travel expenses related to programs	618,433
Field staff	449,291
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>4,736,636</b>
<b>Others</b>	
Administrative and office support	1,487,876
House support (volunteer and staff accommodation, food and associated living expenses)	666,216
Vehicle maintenance and associated running	565,534
Staff support	2,013,081
Marketing	556,831
Legal, audit and banking	417,817
<b>Sub total</b>	<b>5,707,355</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>10,443,991</b>

Thank you for all your support  
in 2020!



For more information, references or detailed project information on CC activities or results, contact us at:

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