

# KAPTAGAT FOREST VOICES



An unbroken spirit of endurance and commitment to conserve our environment. We appreciate the efforts of all our partners, stakeholders and the community.

Sports for  
conservation

Birds Nests  
Sanctuary

Experience  
Kaptagat Forest



# Kaptagat Forest

Section of Kaptagat Forest Aerial View

The Eco Journal is an eyewitness account of the going on activities in Kaptagat. The bulk of the magazine is the ecotourists experience of the Forest. The stories are mainly advocacy for conservation of Kaptagat Forest ecosystem and its biodiversity. If you intend to write for the Journal, please document what you observe for accuracy and fair reporting. Kaptagat Forest in Mau complex is located in Rift Valley, Kenya. The elevation is 2527 metres (estimate) mean temperature of 22°C and rainfall of 150mm (estimate). The Forest is an important source of livelihood for communities Kaptagat area. The Forest is not only a wildlife habitat rich in recreation and tourism sites, but a source of water, fuel wood, honey, grazing land, building materials and medicinal herbs. It is a vital carbon restoration unit, biodiversity hotspots and a water catchment.



Athletes training in Kaptagat

Saw millers harvest trees right into the riverbanks laying the soil bare. Water levels have dropped significantly. The freshness of forest air, the pristine atmosphere and high altitude are ideal training grounds for local, domestic, regional and international athletes training. The future of this sport is under extreme threat if conservation strategies and interventions are not put in place to mitigate the situation.

### Charcoal burning in Kaptagat Forest, agricultural activities

Kaptagat Forest is one of the 70 new water towers cited in government policy documents. Rivers from Kaptagat Forest supply water to Lake Victoria and Lake Turkana basins. Yet, the forest cover has severely been depleted by illegal human activities. The Forest is experiencing significant amount of pressure from demand for agricultural land and grazing ground, also increased illegal logging. Satellite images of the forests show scattered patches of trees with huge chunk of bare land. Continuing destruction of the Forest does not only undermine conservation work but discourage tourists and visitors attracted by pristine forest environment.



A wind  
of change

Strawburg Fc Team

## Strawburg FC

The first thing that strikes Strabag Football Club (SFC) when they came to Elagerini on xxxx was its clean fresh air. Most months of the year, experiences a breezy forest wind blowing through trees gently shaking the leaves and moving the downhill across the pasture. The club heard the birds sing in trees and bees buzzing over the flowers. If they came during the January–March season, the violent winds would be tearing leaves from the trees, bouncing over the tented roofs. The strong gust of air rush transverse the fields scooping and throwing dust westward along its way. The grass is no longer at peace. Stress and sunlight turns them gold. There isn't much food on the land. SFC brought a wind change to Elagerini.

The Club came looking for sponsorship from Elagerini. Elagerini wanted a partner for the advocacy for conservation of Kaptagat Forest through marathon. The idea was to use the marathon to rally support from stakeholders for awareness creation and advocacy for the conservation of Kaptagat Forest. Moreover, the marathon was expected to generate income to support youth conservation–based enterprise.



# Sports for Conservation

**8 Mens team | 3 Womens teams | 7 Athletic Camps**

Elagerini and SFC agreed to blend sports talent development and eco entrepreneurship. The theme 'Sport for Conservation' was muted. To widen the sports for conservation base, football clubs and athletic training camps within the periphery of the forest were engaged. Greater Kaptagat Green Association (GreKGA) was created on xxxx to bring the groups together. The groups were flagged of by GreKGA Soccer Tournament organized by Elagerini in collaboration with SFC. The event publicized Project 6:4; the principle underpinning the project is the establishment of the practice in which GreKGA members plant 6 exotic trees for commercial purposes and 4 fruits trees for food. The clubs and affiliate schools, 7 June 2018 implemented the 6:4 programmes in seven: Cheptigit, Kiluka, Kongasis, Kapsemwo, Tendwo and Uhuru, primary schools as well as Chepkosomo Secondary School. Cider trees and loquat fruits were planted.

Thirteen football clubs participated in the tournament - eight men clubs: Chirchir, Cheptigit, Strabag, Kapsemwo, Uhuru, Tendwo, Kimore and White Stars; and three women clubs: Cheptigit, Kiluka and Miriam Generation. Kimore White stars and Kiluka (women) were the champions. The runners up were Strabag and Cheptigit. The third position was clinched by Cheptigit. Miriam Generation received a consolation prize of Ksh2, 000 and ten fruits trees. The winning teams got a cup, Ksh xxxx and each member of the team got a loquat fruit tree. The first runners up got Ksh xxxx and fruit trees. The second runner got a certificate and fruits.



# Kaptagat Forest Half Marathon

Kaptagat Forest Half marathon 2018  
21Km Senior Mens' Race



**Kaptagat Forest Half Marathon 2018  
21Km Senior Womens' Race**

Elagerini Camp & Safari Villastays sponsored the Kaptagat Forest Half Marathon held on September 9, 2018. The race was organized by Athletic Kenya (AK) in collaboration with Keino Sports Event (KSE) Ltd. The aim of the marathon was to create public awareness Kaptagat Forest and make a strong advocacy on protection of the Forest ecosystem. Mr Benjamin Kinyili, North Rift Head of Conservancy lead in the 5K RACE along with his team. He later launched a youth managed tree nursery. The guests of honour — H E Jackson Mandago, Governor, Uasin Gishu County; the renowned athlete, Mr Kipchoge Keino championed the conservation of Kaptagat Forest. The Marathon was a great success with international and local coverage where it attracted 10 world class champions and young promising and upcoming athletes from neighbourhood schools and training camps. A total of 300 participants were registered. The sensitization was a good success since the launch attracted the school going children in both primary and secondary school, the youth, corporate and the community where the key speakers underscored the importance of conserving Kaptagat forest for sports

Sponsored by:





# Beekeeping Apiculture

GreKA held a conference on 27 October 2018, which was sponsored by Elgerini Camp. The participants resolved to set up three major conservation-based enterprises:

- 1) beekeeping (apiculture)
- 2) tree nurseries
- 3) Eco tourism.

Of beekeeping - Kaptagat Ecovillage Development Society, aimed at empowering families living within the borders of Kaptagat, undertook to re-launch its beekeeping business in Sabor Forest. In 2015, the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) allocated the area space in Sabor Forest for the beekeeping. The business has a huge untapped potential for improving the income of Kaptagat household consequently reducing their overdependence on the forest by the local community. KEDES is in the process of re-applying for forest space for apiculture after suspending the activity for two years following the destruction of the beehives by illegal loggers.





## Resource Centre

**Tree Seedlings being planted by Youth Run Conservation-Based Enterprises in Kaptagat**

Of tree nurseries - the 27 October Conference observed that GreKGA clubs required support to start group nurseries. The participants proposed the establishment of a resource centre for community education and development (CE&DC) of tree nurseries. The purpose of the CE&DC is to build the capacity of individuals and groups to start and manage own nurseries within local communities. Rule 6:4 underpins the development of nurseries under the 'Sports for Conservation' banner. The rule is simple: for every 10 trees you plant four are exotic (for commercial purposes) and four are fruits tree (for food). On a large scale 60% is exotic and 40% fruit trees. The end result is to turn Greater Kaptagat green. For the conservation of Kaptagat forest, the rule encourages the development of bamboo nurseries for Kaptagat Forest conservation and avocado nursery for alternative cash crop in Kaptagat. Sport is used for raising funds and awareness of programme among the communities. Reports reaching the Eco-Journal indicate that some Kaptagat residences have applied the 6:4 initiatives.

Funds raised from Kaptagat Forest Half Marathon go to the funding of the 6:4 Project and for conserving Kaptagat Forest. The choice of the tree nursery project was informed by the current high demand for tree seedling in the country. Kenya plans to increase by 10% forest cover by 2022. To realize this objective the Government is set to increase the planting of seedlings from the current 170 million - 360 million annually.



Experience

# Kaptagat Forest

**Big Daddy | Largest tree in Kaptagat Forest**

Of eco tourism - GreKA and Elagerini Camp collaborate in running the newly created Ecotourism Club, which organises eco hiking, bush trekking and bird watching programmes in Kaptagat Forest. Eco tourism event is one of the best ways of conserving Kaptagat by exploring the magic of Kaptagat Forest. Participants learn more about the need to protect Kaptagat Forest ecosystem. After the hike eco tourists may respond to the need for conservation as much as they feel the need. In addition, they be request to write the views and opinion and views or advocate for the conservation of Kaptagat Forest in our Eco Journal — Kaptagat Forest Voices. KFS Kaptagat Forest rangers are eco tourism guides, which takes place every first Saturday of the month and Public Holidays.



## Eco Hiking

Kaptagat Forest eco hiking absorb you into nature world away from the bustle and hustle of your busy work environment. Have a taste of forest waters, landscapes, forest greenery, of bird songs, and of colobus swing from branch to branch. Enjoy the serene pristine wildlife. But dispose not waste in the forest. Take all your trash with you out of the forest. Leave what you find in the forest – resist the urge collect rocks, seeds or plants on your trail. Leave them for the next eco tourists to enjoy. Carry water in reusable water bottle.

## Bush trekking

Elagerini Camp is a great place to start your bush trekking often in social media. The bush trekking offers a non-threatening trail for fitness building and exploration of almost perfect places of interest in Kaptagat Forest. Know your way around a map, compass or a GPS for safe and confident trekking. Though, KFS rangers will be your guides. Though observe landmarks as you trek. This is can be points of reference should you become disoriented, should you stray from the group. Check the weather forecast before your plan to know what to expect, the clothing and gear to take.



## Bird nests sanctuary

Choose your hike well within the limits of your time and distance. If you love birds you will chose Cheminden chemichemi (wetland) walk particularly during wet seasons. Hundreds of birds come to nest here. Sadly, these nests are destroyed by grazing cows, sheep and donkeys from nearby village. GreKGa plans to work with the local youths to protect threatened bird nests at the Cheminden wetlands. Birds such as the crested crane and Ibis come to nest here. Some members of the community love the birds show keen interest in them. GreKGA in partnership KFS, CFA and these youths can protect bird nests of Cheminden wetland from grazing livestock. This activity is critical for the survival of these water birds.



