



ROCA RIVER CAMP

MASAI MARA

GIVING BACK

BEING PART OF SOMETHING BIGGER THAN A HOLIDAY

We are incredibly lucky to live and work in places like this, but landscapes like the Mara only survive if they are valued.

By choosing to visit, you are already part of that. Park fees, conservancy and Maasai Beneficiary payments go directly towards protecting wildlife and supporting the communities who live alongside it. It's easy to underestimate how important that is - so thank you for being here.

OUR APPROACH

Over the years, we've chosen to support a small number of projects doing practical, on-the-ground work — the kind that quietly makes a real difference over time.

These include the Anne K. Taylor Fund, Pangolin Project, the Mara Elephant Project, Mara Predator Project and the Mara Raptor Project and some education programs.

Each plays a different role, from monitoring wildlife and reducing conflict, to education and community support, all helping to keep this ecosystem working as it should.

If you'd like to learn more, or support any of these projects, we're always happy to arrange a talk at camp or, where possible, a visit during your stay. Support, in any form, is always appreciated.



Our Local Conservation Projects

For those who would like to spend a bit more time understanding the work behind the scenes, we can arrange more in-depth experiences with the teams we work alongside. While staying with us at Roca River Camp, guests have the opportunity to visit and support a number of trusted local organisations, including: **Mara Elephant Project, Mara Predator Conservation Programme, Mara Raptor Project and The Anne K. Taylor Fund.** These visits offer a genuine insight into the work being done on the ground — from anti-poaching and wildlife monitoring to education and community support. **These visits are arranged on request, must be booked in advance, and are always subject to availability, depending on what the teams are working on at the time.**

ANNE K TAYLOR FUND

The Anne K. Taylor Fund works across the Mara to support both wildlife conservation and the communities that live alongside it. Their work is practical and long-term — from anti-poaching patrols and wildlife rescue, to education programmes, women's empowerment, and initiatives that help reduce conflict between people and wildlife.

HALF DAY VISIT

We offer a half-day visit to the Anne K. Taylor Fund, based near the Mara Triangle.

This is a thoughtful and very personal experience, which includes:

- time with the ranger team
- a visit to the women's group
- insight into the girls' education and sanitary pad project
- an understanding of how these initiatives support families and help keep girls in school

A minimum contribution of US\$100 per person applies (minimum 4 guests).

This is paid directly to the project and goes straight towards supporting the women and the wider community initiatives.

It's a simple, humbling morning, usually followed by a picnic lunch in the Mara Triangle.



THE PANGOLIN PROJECT

At Roca River Camp, we are proud to support this important work.

Guests staying with us can contribute through donations, visit the Pangolin Project's operations room, meet the people working on the ground, and join a guided walk through this beautiful and increasingly rare forest. If you would like to learn more about the project or how you can make a difference during your stay with us, please get in touch.

Protecting the Giant Pangolins of Nyekweri Forest

High on the Oloololo Escarpment, in the forest that rises above the western Mara, lives one of the rarest and least known mammals on the continent, Kenya's only population of giant pangolins. Roca River Camp is proud to support The Pangolin Project (TPP), the team working to protect this extraordinary and fragile population before it's too late.

The Giant Pangolin: Fast Facts

- The largest of all pangolins. Giant pangolins can grow to nearly 1.8 metres and weigh up to 40kg, far larger than the more familiar Temminck's ground pangolin found elsewhere across Kenya and in the Mara reserve itself.
- A Kenyan rediscovery. Giant pangolins were long assumed to be extinct in Kenya. It wasn't until 2022, when conservationist Dr Claire Okell investigated an unusual photograph, that their presence in the Nyekweri Forest was confirmed — a discovery that extended the species' known range hundreds of kilometres east of its previous limits in Uganda and Tanzania.
- Vanishingly rare. Fewer than 50 individuals are thought to remain in the Nyekweri Forest — the only known giant pangolin population left in the country.
- Elusive by nature. Solitary, nocturnal and armoured in overlapping keratin scales, giant pangolins spend their nights hunting ants and termites with a tongue that can extend nearly the length of their own body. Their instinct when threatened — curling into a tight ball — makes them almost impossible for natural predators to harm. It does nothing to protect them from the modern dangers around them.

The Electric Fence Problem

The single greatest threat to Nyekweri's giant pangolins right now isn't poaching — it's electric fencing. As farms and homesteads on the escarpment have fenced their land against larger wildlife, low-slung electric wires have become lethal to animals that move at ground level. Giant pangolins, walking their nightly routes through the forest, are frequently electrocuted attempting to pass beneath them. At the problem's worst, TPP estimates one to two pangolins were being killed by fences every month — a rate of loss this small, slow-breeding population simply cannot sustain.

TPP's response has been to work directly with the landowners who put the fences up in the first place: deactivating the lowest wire, removing sections of fencing altogether, and turning farmers and community members into active guardians of the forest and the pangolins living in it. The results have been real — dozens of miles of dangerous fencing removed, thousands of acres brought under community conservation, and a mortality rate that has fallen sharply as a result.

Why It Matters

The Nyekweri Forest is far more than a pangolin refuge. It's one of the most biodiverse pockets of the entire Mara ecosystem — a remnant of ancient Congo-Guinea forest supporting elephants, giant forest hogs, over 55 mammal species, and a maternity ground where wildlife comes to give birth in safety. Protecting the pangolins means protecting all of it.

By supporting The Pangolin Project, we're helping fund ranger patrols, community outreach, fence removal, and the ongoing monitoring that keeps this population — and the forest it depends on — alive

THE PANGOLIN PROJECT

The Pangolin Project works to protect pangolins and their habitat in the Nyekweri Forest, part of the wider Mara ecosystem. Their work combines species research and anti-poaching efforts with community-based conservation — from forest patrols and pangolin monitoring, to environmental education and initiatives that give local communities a stake in protecting the forest that borders the Mara.

HALF DAY VISIT

We offer a half-day visit to The Pangolin Project, based in the Nyekweri Forest.

This is a rare and fascinating experience, which includes:
time with the research and monitoring team
insight into pangolin ecology and the threats they face
a walk through the Nyekweri Forest with the field team
an understanding of how forest protection supports both wildlife and surrounding communities

A minimum contribution of US\$100 per person applies (minimum 4 guests/ \$400).

This is paid directly to the project and goes straight towards supporting forest patrols and community conservation work.

It's a rare chance to learn about one of Africa's least-seen mammals, usually followed by a picnic lunch in the forest.



MARA ELEPHANT PROJECT

The Mara Elephant Project works to protect elephants and their habitat across the greater Mara ecosystem, while also supporting the communities who live alongside them.

The project was founded by Caro's brother, Richard Roberts, their work is hands-on — from monitoring elephant movements and responding to injuries, to running anti-poaching patrols and helping reduce human–elephant conflict, which remains one of the biggest challenges in the region.

FIELD EXPERIENCE

For those interested, it is sometimes possible to spend time with the team in the field, gaining an insight into how they track and monitor elephants and respond to issues as they arise.

These are real working days rather than staged activities, so each experience is slightly different depending on what is happening at the time.

A minimum contribution of US\$500 per group (1–4 guests) applies for these field-based experiences.

More specialised experiences, including aerial monitoring, can sometimes be arranged on request.

TALK IN CAMP

A member of the MEP team can join guests in camp for an informal talk, offering insight into their work and the current situation in the Mara.

A minimum contribution of US\$250 per group applies.



MARA RAPTOR PROJECT

The Mara Raptor Project focuses on monitoring and protecting birds of prey across the Mara ecosystem — from large vultures and eagles to smaller, lesser-known species. Their work involves tracking populations, locating and monitoring nest sites, and responding to threats such as poisoning and habitat pressure. Raptors — vultures, eagles and other birds of prey — play a quiet but essential role in keeping the Mara ecosystem functioning as it should. Vultures, in particular, are incredibly efficient at clearing carcasses, which helps prevent the spread of disease across both wildlife and surrounding communities. Other raptors help maintain balance by controlling smaller species and responding quickly to changes in the environment. Across Africa, many raptor species are in decline, largely due to poisoning, habitat pressure and increasing human-wildlife conflict. The Mara Raptor Project is helping to monitor and understand these changes — tracking birds, monitoring nest sites, and building a long-term picture of how populations are doing.

RAPTOR TALK

For those who would like to spend a bit more time understanding the work behind the scenes, we can arrange a private evening talk in camp with one of the project teams. These are informal and give a good sense of what's happening on the ground at the time.

A minimum contribution of US\$250 per group applies.

RAPTOR DRIVE

For guests with a particular interest, such as birding, it is sometimes possible for a project coordinator to join a game drive. This might involve visiting nest sites, tracking tagged birds, or seeing monitoring work first-hand.

A minimum contribution of US\$500 per group (1–5 guests) applies.

ADOPT A RAPTOR – For as little as \$5 – \$125 per month

The primary aim of our rescue and rehabilitation programme is to release the birds back into the wild. For a number of reasons, this is not always possible. If a bird of prey doesn't have perfectly functioning wings or eyes, it can not hunt its own prey and would starve if returned to the wild. These birds find their forever home in one of our raptor centres, where they live happy lives, some even breeding and raising chicks that are released in the wild. All of them help us create awareness on raptor conservation.

By supporting one of the featured birds, you help us pay for their care, which includes food, enclosure maintenance, enrichments, medical care and salaries for staff to feed them and clean the enclosures.

[ADOPT A RAPTOR HERE](#)



MARA PREDATOR CONSERVATION PROGRAM

The Mara Predator Conservation Programme focuses on understanding and protecting the large predators of the Mara — particularly lions, cheetahs and hyenas.

Their work is grounded in long-term research, monitoring individual animals and populations across the ecosystem to understand how they are responding to changes in land use, human activity, and the pressures of living alongside people.

Alongside this, they work closely with local communities to reduce conflict through improved livestock protection, education, and helping people better understand the role predators play in maintaining a healthy ecosystem.

PREDATOR EXPERIENCES

For those interested, it is sometimes possible to spend time with the team in the field, gaining insight into how predators are identified, monitored, and managed across the Mara.

A minimum contribution of US\$500 per group (1–5 guests) applies for these field-based visits.

It is also possible, at times, for a member of the research team to join guests at camp for an informal talk on current work in the area.

A minimum contribution of US\$250 per group applies.

LEARN ABOUT MARA PREDATOR CONSERVATION



MARA PREDATOR CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Cheetahs are one of the most vulnerable species in the Mara, and much of what is known about them comes from long-term photo identification and shared sightings.

Projects such as the Mara-Meru Cheetah Project rely heavily on images taken by guides and guests to build a clearer picture of individual animals and how they are moving across the ecosystem.

Photographs taken in the Mara help to:

- build the Mara cheetah pedigree
- track movements across the ecosystem
- understand lifespan and cub survival rates

You can follow some of this work and the stories of individual cheetahs here:

[LEARN ABOUT THE MARA CHEETAH](#) | [READ THEIR BLOG](#)

SHARING YOUR IMAGES

If you would like to contribute, you are very welcome to share your cheetah images.

Photographs can be sent directly to the research team:

- Mara cheetahs: mara-cheetah@mail.ru

Including your name and where the sighting took place allows the team to follow up and, where possible, share what is known about the individual animal you saw.

Even older photographs can be useful, particularly those taken in the Mara over past years, as they help build long-term records. In some cases, these images go on to help identify and follow individual cheetahs over many years.

SUPPORTING THE MARA MERU CHEETAH PROJECT

For those who would like to support the work further, there are a number of simple ways to contribute:

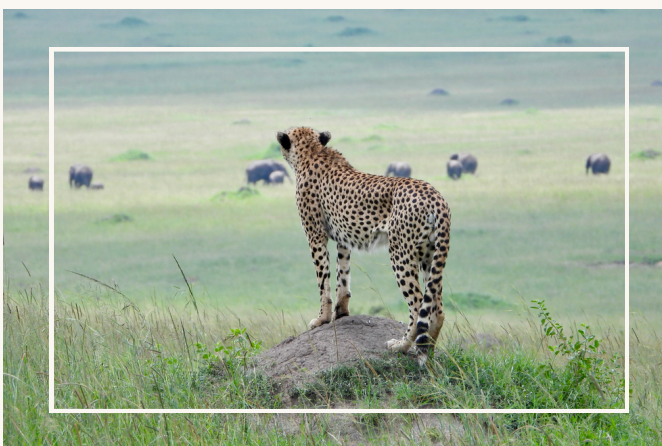
- US\$30 – supports printing of updated cheetah ID catalogues for scouts and guides
- US\$50 – supports a community outreach visit or a month's stipend for a cheetah scout
- US\$100 – covers the cost of collecting and analysing a sample for research
- US\$500 – contributes towards a camera trap for remote monitoring

Larger contributions can also be made, with opportunities to support the project at a deeper level.

[LEARN MORE HERE](#)

A SMALL NOTE

There is no expectation to take part, but for those who are interested, sharing images or contributing in a small way can make a genuine difference.





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Education Fundraising

Education is fundamental for the preservation of our communities and wildlife in Kenya. Not only is the Mobile Expeditions team committed to our local conservation efforts that form an integral part of educating the communities that we live among, but Roca River has also committed to supporting the young minds in both the Maasai Mara area and the Baringo area. Through fundraising, they can provide much-needed funds for school fees for children in the areas that are so close to their hearts. If this is something you would like to support, we would be very happy to share more details.

SUPPORTING A MAA SPEAKING GUIDE

Each year we raise funds to send one or two promising candidates to guide school. Interviews take place in March, with courses starting in May.

This is a Certificate in Tour Guiding and Travel Operations, designed for school leavers looking to build a career in guiding. The course builds on the well-regarded guiding programmes developed in the Mara, and has produced many of the guides now working across the region — including several of our own. David, Noah and Anthony, three of our current guides at Roca, all trained through this school.

The training covers:

- Natural history and the Mara ecosystem
- Kenyan history, geography and culture
- Communication skills and basic French
- ICT and tourism operations
- First aid and driving
- KPSGA Bronze certification

The course combines classroom learning with practical field experience and is fully TVET-accredited. A full year's sponsorship costs approximately US\$3,000 — a contribution that can genuinely change a young person's trajectory, opening a pathway into guiding and long-term employment in conservation and tourism.

We're always looking for promising candidates to support, with the intention of bringing them through the Roca apprenticeship and, in time, into full employment.

If you'd like to support a future guide, please get in touch.

LEARN MORE





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SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITIES

If you would like to leave a positive impact during your stay, there are a few simple and meaningful ways to support the communities around us.

Supporting Essential Supplies

We are happy to arrange the purchase of useful items locally on your behalf before your arrival. This not only ensures that what is given is genuinely needed but also supports nearby businesses at the same time. You are welcome to take these once you arrive here on your visit. If you would prefer to bring something with you, we can share a short list of the most useful items.

Spending Time with the Community

For those who would like to see things first-hand, we can sometimes arrange a visit to a local school or community project during your stay. These are informal and give a genuine insight into daily life in the area. School visits are arranged during term time and outside of examination periods.

If any of this is of interest, or you would like to plan something, please feel free to get in touch: caro@mobile-expeditions.com

USEFUL ITEMS FOR LOCAL SCHOOLS

For those who would like to bring something with them, the following items are always useful:

- exercise books and basic stationery (pens, pencils, rulers)
- colouring books and crayons for younger children
- simple educational materials (flashcards, early learning books)
- footballs or netballs (with a pump if possible)
- basic sports kit (whistles, cones, skipping ropes, team bibs, etc.)

Where possible, we encourage purchasing items locally, as this supports nearby businesses and ensures they are appropriate for use here. We are always happy to advise or arrange this on your behalf.

A SMALL NOTE ON GIVING

We generally encourage guests not to hand out gifts directly, particularly to children, as this can unintentionally create dependency and disrupt local routines. As a general guide, it's best to avoid bringing sweets, money, or individual gifts, particularly to children.

Where possible, it is far more helpful to support through established channels, ensuring that anything given is appropriate, needed, and reaches people in a fair and considered way.

We are always happy to guide this quietly in the background.

Ruko Conservancy - Lake Baringo

Ruko is a community conservancy on the eastern shores of Lake Baringo, created following a peace agreement between the Pokot and Njemps (Il Chamus) communities after years of conflict. Ross and Caro were closely involved in the early stages, working alongside community elders and partners to help establish the Ruko Community Wildlife Trust. Today, all guests staying at Samatian Island contribute to the conservancy through their fees.

One of the most significant milestones has been the reintroduction of the highly endangered Rothschild's giraffe into their natural range — including the remarkable translocation of giraffe across the lake by boat.

Working in partnership with Northern Rangelands Trust and others, Ruko has grown into a shared landscape where conservation supports both livelihoods and long-term stability. Just as importantly, it has helped foster lasting peace between communities in what was once a conflict-affected area.

WILDLIFE RESTORATION

A key focus at Ruko has been the gradual recovery of wildlife in an area where numbers had significantly declined.

This has included:

- Rothschild's (Nubian) giraffe — rescued and reintroduced from islands in Lake Baringo, now forming a growing population
- Impala — reintroduced as part of early efforts to restore plains game
- Plains zebra — now regularly seen within the conservancy
- Warthog and other small plains game — naturally returning as the habitat recovers

Further reintroductions are planned as the landscape continues to stabilise.

WHY IT MATTERS

Ruko is a simple but powerful example of how conservation can bring people together, creating shared purpose while restoring wildlife and supporting the communities that live alongside it.

