

# JUMBO CHARGE PROPOSAL



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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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The country's natural resources provide the base for national economic growth as well as the foundation towards the achievement of the Big Four Agenda. Sound protection and conservation of depositories of natural resources; biodiversity hotspots, critical water catchment areas, forestlands, wetlands and the water towers, is crucial for environmental sustainability and integrity. Mt. Elgon Water Tower is one of the five major Water Towers in Kenya and a key water catchment for the Rift valley drainage system. Being catchment for River Nzoia and Malakisi spreading down to Uganda draining its waters into Lake Victoria and River Turkwel which drains into Lake Turkana.

Analysis of land-use over the period 1990-2015 established that, Kenya lost (56%) 311,000 Ha of forestland. Forest cover loss was mostly due to conversion of land to settlements, crop farming /overuse/over exploitation of natural resources, Human settlement infrastructure developments leading to competence of resources amongst humans and wildlife in Mt. Elgon.

According to the Kenya Water Towers Policy document: Policy-30-42019\_2, the Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) data paints a grim picture for the wellness of Mt Elgon ecosystem.

Human induced pressure on the Land and deforestation are major risk factors to Mt Elgon water tower. 23% land conversion in the Elgon has happened in the year 2000 and 2016 and the pressure on forest resources seems threatening the ecosystem contributing to environment related disasters like landslides, food shortage, and destruction of indigenous trees as a result of illegal logging and overall biodiversity. The encroachment at the water tower has significantly reduced the forest cover accelerated by lack of coordination between the Individuals, Government agencies and goodwill partners threatening the ability to provide conservation to water towers and catchment.

The situation has led to considerable levels of forest disturbance and degradation, which have significantly affected the floristic and structural composition and water catchment functions of the forest ecosystem. Rainfall in areas surrounding the mountain is reported to have reduced over the years due to reduced relief rain from Mt. Elgon. Equally, the volume of rivers originating from the mountain has witnessed a dramatic reduction, due to

diminishing water flow from Mt. Elgon. Cumulatively, these weather and climate changes pose a major threat to socio-economic activities in Western Kenya and parts of Rift Valley especially with regards to water supply for domestic use and agricultural activities.

Although all the 5 major water towers in Kenya have suffered destruction to various magnitudes and conservation initiatives have been initiated to varied degrees, it is worthwhile to note that Mt. Elgon water tower has received the least attention, resulting in the destruction of the forest going on unabated.

As a mitigation response to this ecological disruption:-

Jumbo Charge, a Non-Governmental organization is partnering with other stakeholders including the Kenya Wildlife Services, Kenya forest Services and County Governments in developing and implementing a comprehensive program aimed at reversing the ill effects of the destruction of this important watershed.

Our goal is to conserve the water tower through, inter alia: reforestation through tree planting and eco-regeneration, fencing and rehabilitation of degraded areas and creating awareness.

Jumbo Charge is a duly constituted non-governmental organization with offices in Bungoma, Kenya. It has a board of directors comprising of a patron, chairman, vice chairman, secretary, treasurer and executive members. There is also a large pool of volunteers and researchers who have been helping with the activities of the organization.

## **SIGNIFICANCE**

The objective of this proposal is to accelerate actions towards reclamation of 1000 acres of degraded forest land at Kaberwo, Kipsis in Mt Elgon by the year 2023 for environmental integrity and social economic development. We propose the following specific aims:-

**Aim: 1)** Enhance community tree planting campaigns; organize and strengthen tree planting events, including organizing the annual Jumbo Charge 4X4 Challenge, enhance public education, awareness, sensitization.

**Aim:** 2) Fencing the reclaimed section targeted to cover 100KM to reduce human-wildlife conflicts and enhance biodiversity, protect seedlings against destruction from grazing domestic animals and provide authentic and controlled access to Mt Elgon resources.

**Aim 2.1** Build the community's capacity for long-term stewardship of the forested areas through increased public awareness and engagement in protecting, restoring and helping to maintain a healthy forests ecosystem;

**Aim:** 3) Implement an Environmental Education and Outreach program with partners and the Public to educate and engage the community and schools in stewardship projects and encourage public participation for sustainability purposes.

**Aim:** 4) Create a sustainable volunteer stewardship program for ongoing restoration and care of reclaimed areas through Community volunteers (CV) involvement and participation as the link to enhance sustainability.

## **THE APPROACH**

Our strategy towards achieving the objectives include:

**Community Education and Awareness** through various channels including extension workers and Community Volunteers who will be meeting the community in churches, homes and chief's barazas.

**Leverage Jumbo Charge 4X4 Challenge** that has now become popular event in the region and; introduction of Half Marathon.

**Enhance partnership** with Kenya Forestry Service, County Government of Bungoma and Trans Nzoia, seeking support from other 4x4 challenge event sponsorship to achieve our goals.

We believe, a little support from donors and sponsors will go a long way in achieving our goals and objectives.

## **PROJECT STATEMENT**

There is tremendous need for coordinated conservation initiatives to protect Mt Elgon from a looming disaster given the present state of its ecosystem and the threats it is confronted with. According to the Kenya Water Towers Policy document: Policy-30-42019\_2, the Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) data paints a grim picture for the wellness of Mt Elgon ecosystem. In the document, there has been a 23% increase in human encroachment between the year 2000 and 2016 and the pressure on forest resources seems to grow every year, leading to considerable levels of forest disturbance and degradation, which have significantly affected the floristic and structural composition and water catchment functions of the forest ecosystem. Rainfall in areas surrounding the mountain is reported to have reduced over the years due to reduced relief rain from Mt. Elgon. Equally, the volume of rivers originating from the mountain has witnessed a dramatic reduction, due to diminishing water flow from Mt. Elgon. Cumulatively, these weather and climate changes pose a major threat to socio-economic activities in Western Kenya and parts of Rift Valley especially with regards to water supply for domestic use and agricultural activities.

Mt. Elgon Water Tower is among the five major Water Towers in Kenya and a key water catchment for the Rift valley drainage system. It is also an important catchment for River Nzoia which drains into Lake Victoria and River Turkwel which drains into Lake Turkana. It is also the source of River Malakisi, which flows from Kenya into Uganda.

The forest ecosystem is a biodiversity hotspot of global significance, supporting several endemic plant and animal species. It was declared a Biosphere Reserve by UNESCO in 2003 in recognition of its significance as a water tower and biodiversity reservoir. The ecosystem is gazetted as a mountain forest reserve (73,705 ha) managed by the Kenya Forest Service, a national park (16,916 ha) managed by the Kenya Wildlife Service and a nature reserve (17,200 ha) managed by Bungoma County Government.



The Water Tower traverses two counties, namely; Trans-Nzoia and Bungoma. According to the 2019 Housing and Population Census, the Water Tower had a total population of 420,798 persons living in forest land, a majority of whom are poor peasants who depend on the forest resources for their livelihood. Consequently, most of the households within 3 kilometers of the forest have converted large swaths of the mixed montane forest that borders community land into farmland, significantly reducing the forest cover.

The situation has led to considerable levels of forest disturbance and degradation, which have significantly affected the floristic and structural composition and water catchment functions of the forest ecosystem. Rainfall in areas surrounding the mountain is reported to have reduced over the years due to reduced relief rain from Mt. Elgon. Equally, the volume of rivers originating from the mountain has witnessed a dramatic reduction, due to diminishing water flow from Mt. Elgon. All the areas surrounding the mountain have been experiencing rising temperatures. Cumulatively, these weather and climate changes pose a major threat to socio-economic activities in Western Kenya and parts of Rift Valley especially with regards to water supply for domestic use and agricultural activities.

As a mitigation response to this ecological disruption, the project aims at reversing the ill effects of the destruction of this important watershed. Our goal is to conserve the water tower through:

**Enhance community tree planting campaigns;** organize and strengthen tree planting events, including organizing the annual Jumbo Charge 4X4 Challenge, enhance public education, awareness, sensitization.

**Fencing the reclaimed section targeted** to cover 100KM to reduce human-wildlife conflicts and enhance biodiversity, protect seedlings against destruction from grazing domestic animals and provide authentic and controlled access to Mt Elgon resources.

i) **Build the community's capacity for long-term stewardship** of the forested areas through increased public awareness and engagement in protecting, restoring and helping to maintain a healthy forests ecosystem;

**Implement an Environmental Education and Outreach program** with partners and the Public to educate and engage the community and schools in stewardship projects and encourage public participation for sustainability purposes.

**Create a sustainable volunteer stewardship program** for ongoing restoration and care of reclaimed areas through Community volunteers (CV) involvement and participation as the link to enhance sustainability.

Even though it is the responsibility of the Kenya Forest Service (KFS) to spearhead the conservation of all forests in Kenya, ours is a complementary and integrated conservation initiative that will work side by side with activities that key government stakeholders such as Kenya Forest Service, Kenya Wildlife Service and County Governments among others have already initiated and will be undertaking.

## **PROJECT JUSTIFICATION**

The project site is approximately 5.5 KMs from Cheptais Market which is located on the slopes of Mt Elgon, Bungoma County in the People's Republic of Kenya.

**Phase 1** of this project aims at reclaiming 1000 acres of degraded Kaberwo forest block in Mt Elgon in a period of 4 years. This project is in line with the governments initiative of attaining 10% forest cover by the year 2020 as stipulated in the **NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR ACHIEVING AND MAINTAINING OVER 10% TREE COVER BY 2022.**

The last comprehensive forest cover assessment, "wall-to-wall", conducted in 2013, established that by 2010, the national forest cover stood at 4.18 million Ha, representing 6.99% of the total land area. In 2015, the forest cover was estimated at 7.2% based on the national projection from the 2010 forest cover data. This is according to the Global Forest Resources Assessment Report, 2015 (FAO, 2015). The forest cover is below the



recommended minimum global standard of 10%. Kenya has set the goal of increasing and maintaining the national tree cover to at least 10% by 2022.

Analysis of land-use change over the period 1990-2015 established that Kenya lost 311,000 Ha of forestland with Mt Elgon contributing immensely to this statistic. Forest cover loss was mostly due to conversion to settlements, crop farming and infrastructure developments. This is summarized in table 1.

The increasing and largely rural population and high dependency on rain-fed agriculture also explains the expansion of the croplands at the expense of the forestland.

Satellite image of project Area



Table 1: Land-use area changes in Kenya ('000 Ha), 1990-2015

Land use	1990	2000	2005	2010	2015
Forest Land	4,724	3,557	4,047	4,230	4,413
Crop Land	9,258	9,661	9,868	10,072	10,276
Grass Land	41,522	41,654	41,496	41,080	40,664
Settlement	57	87	109	126	143

Other Lands	1004	1,574	1,035	1,044	1,053
Wetland	1,472	1,504	1,482	1,485	1,488
<b>Total Area</b>	<b>58,037</b>	<b>58,037</b>	<b>58,037</b>	<b>58,037</b>	<b>58,037</b>

Source: FAO, 2015

Despite the many statutes, policy documents, strategic plans and other government intervention programs, threats to our forests persist. The following issues have posted threats to Mt. Elgon Forest in particular:

- (i) Weak forest governance, coordination and collaboration in the management of public, community and private forests;
- (ii) Increasing population and overreliance on forests for production of wood energy especially for charcoal.
- (iii) Inadequate land and forest tenure security to support conservation and forest investments especially in community and private forests;
- (iv) Forest and grassland fires and overgrazing in forest reserves, national parks, game reserves, community and private forests;
- (v) Encroachment and Conversion of forest land to agriculture, settlements and infrastructure development arising from lack of implementation of national and CGs spatial plans;
- (vi) Illegal logging - Wastage in wood utilization especially in timber conversion and charcoal production
- (vii) Climate change and associated impacts.

Therefore, there is urgent need for multi-stakeholder coordinated reclamation and management of degraded parts of the ecosystem to avert a looming disaster.

## **STRATEGIC GOALS**

The overall goal is to accelerate actions towards reclamation of 1000 acres of degraded forest land at Kaberwo, Kipsis, Mt Elgon by the year 2023 for environmental integrity and social economic development.

### **Strategic Objectives**

Our strategy will deliver on the following goals

- (I) Enhance community tree planting campaigns; organize and strengthen tree planting events, including organizing the annual Jumbo Charge 4X4 Challenge, enhance public education, awareness, sensitization.
- (II) Fencing the reclaimed section targeted to cover 100KM to reduce human-wildlife conflicts and enhance biodiversity, protect seedlings against destruction from grazing domestic animals and provide authentic and controlled access to Mt Elgon resources.
- (III) Build the community's capacity for long-term stewardship of the forested areas through increased public awareness and engagement in protecting, restoring and helping to maintain a healthy forests ecosystem;
- (IV) Implement an Environmental Education and Outreach program with partners and the Public to educate and engage the community and schools in stewardship projects and encourage public participation for sustainability purposes.
- (V) Create a sustainable volunteer stewardship program for ongoing restoration and care of reclaimed areas.

## **METHODOLOGY/DESIGN**

Our strategy shall be anchored on the goodwill from the community, local administration, Kenya Forest Services, local organizations including Trees for Kenya and Global partners - Amazon

### **Strategy**

#### **(a) Community Education and Awareness**

In order to build popular and political support for the project, public awareness will be raised as to the social-economic importance of the project. Community participation will be at the core because the complex interaction between social cultural, economic and environmental factors are best understood by those involved and their contribution to

the planning process will promote the implementation of our strategies. Education and awareness will be through the following channels:

**(I) Project Extension workers and volunteers:**

Our project extension workers and volunteers will meet and create awareness among members of the community in their homes, churches, public places and Chief's Barazas.

**(II) Public Social Events:**

Our signature event- Jumbo Charge 4X4 Challenge has achieved great results over the past years in mobilizing the community to participate in tree planting. We believe, increasing the number of the 4x4 events and also introducing Half Marathon will achieve more results in mobilizing the community to partake in the conservation initiative. Similar events have successfully been used elsewhere in the reclamation of: Aberdares forest

(Rhino Charge); and conservation of Lewa Conservancy (Lewa Marathon).

**(III)** In the recent days Jumbo charge has introduced free families physical wellness and fitness program in major towns as another strategy of mobilization.

**(III) Strengthening Partnership with Elgon Young Professionals**

Jumbo Charge currently partners with a caucus called Elgon Young Professionals - an elite association of professionals that is undeniably opinion shapers of the communities in the project area. The organization has been critical in pacifying the community about our activities and we have partnered on a number of community social projects including book donations, building of classrooms and organization of sports events. By including some members of this caucus on the project implementation team, we shall achieve immediate project acceptance and penetration.

**(b) Establishment of Tree Nurseries**

The success of this project depends, in part, on a steady supply of approximately 700,000 high quality seedlings. The project is biased on planting indigenous trees. The market rate of indigenously seedlings varies from Ksh 100 to KSh.300 which translates to between Kes. 70 Million and Kes. 210 Million respectively for the phase

1 of the project. Availability of the seedlings cannot be guaranteed or sometimes involves incurring high costs on transport to source from regions far away from the project area. Establishment of tree nurseries in the project area will cut costs and guarantee a steady supply of seedlings to the project supplementing seedlings from Kenya Forestry services and other partners.

### **(c) Phased Restoration**

Jumbo Charge recognizes that it takes several years to restore a site. Considering that the acreage under rehabilitation is massive, we shall sub-divide it into 3 blocks of roughly 350 acres each. Activities on each block will take one year. Our activities fall in 3 categories: 1) Fencing an area in preparation for planting; 2) Preparation and planting of seedlings; 3) Sustaining restoration through maintenance and monitoring. This approach is key for allowing a site to become fully restored for the long term, not just for one growing season.

## **ACTION PLAN**

Jumbo Charge will implement as part of its commitment to restoration of degraded areas of the Kaberwo block of Mt Elgon forest. Our initial action plan lays out the steps we will take until 2023 to restore Mt Elgon Forest at Kaberwo. It is based on two key pillars (1) Forest protection and restoration and; (2) Community engagement and inclusion. Activities to be covered in the implementation plan are contained in as summarized below.

**4.2.1 Stakeholders identification:** The project area is a place of multiple interests; the community, the government through Kenya Forest Service and other Non-governmental agencies. We shall identify and engage various groups of interest in a series of meetings and barazas for purposes of aligning and complimenting each other's activities for the common good.

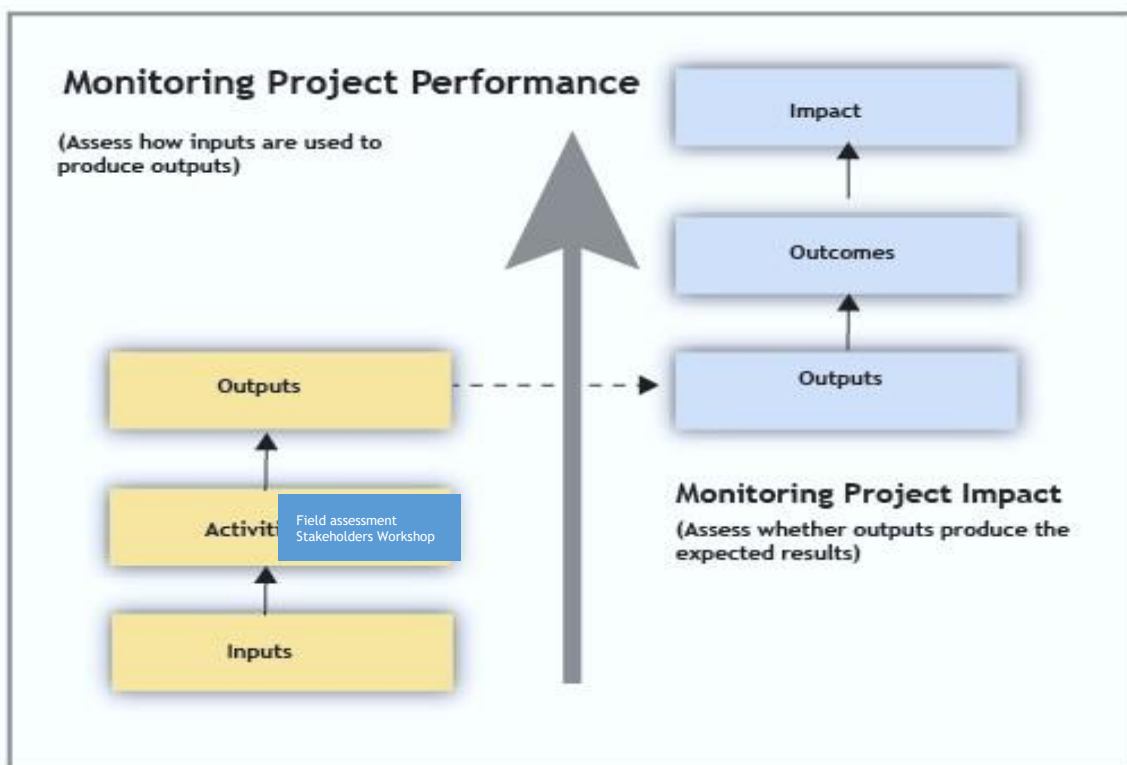
**4.2.2 Sensitization:** The next step will be sensitizing and creating awareness among the community through various channels as to the socioeconomic benefits of restoring the forest. This will include organizing athletics, Jumbo Charge 4X4 Challenge, medical camps, football tournaments, physical wellbeing and Fitness programme etc.

**4.2.3 Establishing a nursery:** The key to the success of this project lies in availability of about 700,000 indigenous tree seedlings. To ensure there is no disruption in project timelines, we shall establish several tree nurseries with the capacity to produce 250,000 seedlings a year. We shall engage various government agencies and departments i.e. Kenya Forest Service and Trees for Kenya to achieve this objective.

**4.2.4 Fencing:** it is worthwhile to note that Mt Elgon host the jumbos (Elephants) and other Wildlife hence the areas is prone to Human Wildlife conflicts. Moreover, the community rears livestock that can be destructive to the seedlings in search for pasture. To safeguard the seedlings and also ensure eco-regeneration of the forest, we shall gradually fence sections of the degraded areas before the planting season using solar powered electric fences.

**4.2.5 Planting:** Jumbo charge will mobilize volunteers, schools, and members of the public for tree planting exercise during short and long rain months of the year for a period of 3 years. This will be followed by monitoring and forest management until when the trees are mature enough before handing over to Kenya Forest Service.

## Monitoring, Evaluation and Impact Assessment



Project process Evaluation and success in achieving outcomes requires continuous monitoring throughout the project lifetime. Entailing hypothesis assessment of the outcomes of key project goals through observation of key indicators against baseline data. Appendix 2 is a summary of M&E matrix that will form the basis of monitoring and evaluation.

Continued occasional periodic reports to monitor project progress and participation to stakeholders including funders and sponsors and acting at utmost good faith on project concerns during the projects life time.

### **Monthly Progress Reports:**

Monthly activities and milestones will be prepared by the project coordinator and the field teams to facilitate timely supervision/support by the board of directors.

### **Quarterly Progress Reports**

Jumbo Charge internal monitoring tool to compare approved work plan with actual performance and identify constraints and recommended remedial actions as required.

### **Semi-Annual Project Implementation Reports**

The project coordinator with inputs from quarterly reports will provide:

- a) An account of actual implementation of project activities compared to those scheduled in the annual work plan, and the achievement of outputs and progress towards achieving the project outcomes, based on the indicators as defined in the M&E matrix in Appendix 2;
- b) An identification of any problems and constraints (technical, human, financial, etc.) encountered in project implementation and the reasons for these constraints; therefore documenting the Project.
- c) Clear recommendations for corrective actions in addressing key problems and lack of progress in achieving results;
- d) Lessons learned; and
- e) A detailed work plan for the next reporting period.

## **Annual Progress Reports**

An annual results report shall be prepared by the Project Manager (with the help of an M&E consultant if necessary) to assess the outputs and outcomes and presented at the stakeholders forums; the most significant changes that have occurred as a result of the project; the challenges and constraints; and recommendations for the following year. This can be done through field visits, participatory workshops, key informant interviews, household interviews, and focus group discussions with project stakeholders (beneficiaries and partners).

## **SUSTAINABILITY**

- I. Local community capacity building
- II. Partners Engagement
- III. Introduction of CBC education curriculum focusing on involvement in conservation
- IV. Kenya wild life and Kenya forestry services

## **ORGANIZATIONAL INFORMATION**

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### **About Jumbo Charge**

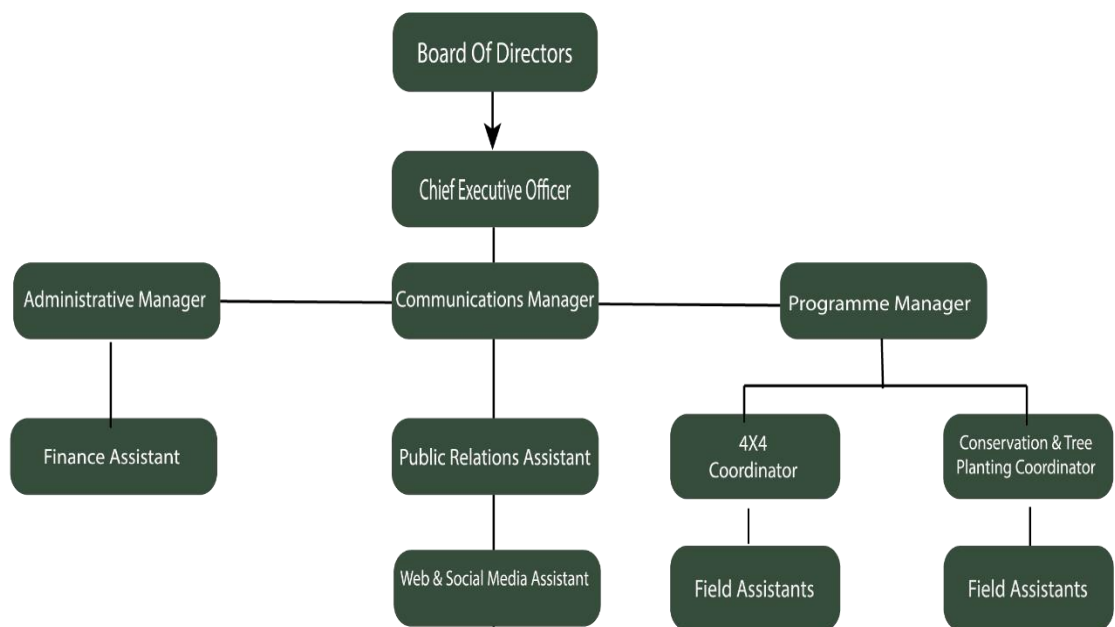
Jumbo Charge began as a group of motorsport enthusiasts from western Kenya who wanted to use the sport to expose Mt Elgon as a key tourist destination. In an effort to map sceneries in the expansive mountain, they came face to face with the reality of massive destruction of the forest. This motivated the group to change its objectives to instead champion reclamation and conservation of the water tower.

The group, previously called 039 Explorers, began sensitization programs and tree planting in various parts of the mountain. Building on the achievements of the first three years, the group sought to bring more members on board. This led to transformation of the group into a Community Based Organization (CBO) in 2016 called 039 Explorers CBO with over 200 Members. This was later to be changed to Jumbo Charge because well-wishers from outside the County Government of Bungoma felt the name didn't have a global appeal and limited our activities to just Bungoma yet Mt Elgon conservation affects other counties including Trans Nzoia, Kakamega, Uasin Gishu, and Turkana.



Today, the organization is called Jumbo Charge CBO managed by a Patron, Chairman, Vice Chairman, Secretary General, Treasurer and Executive Members from different regions. Registration to transform into a trust fund is underway and might be complete in the first quarter of 2020.

## PROJECT TEAM



**Jumbo Charge  
Organizational Structure**

## **The Board of Directors**

### **Patron- Collins Boinett Kibet**

Collins Kibet is the Patron of the organization. He is a holder of an MBA in Marketing. Member of Kenya Institute of Management (K.I.M), Director of Diesel Power Co. Ltd, and a Board Member of Open Arms International.

### **Chairman: Charles S. Mulupi**

Charles Mulupi is one of the founders of Jumbo Charge. He is the managing director of Tectona Limited, an Information and Technology Company based in Westlands Nairobi. He has consulted for among other corporates and agencies; Public Service Commission of Kenya, Kenya Institute of Management (KIM), Africa Corporate Governance Advisory Services, Jiangxi Jing Tai Power Construction and Electrical Engineering, Xiyulong Hydropower Engineering Limited among others. He earned a BSc. Computer Science from Egerton University and is pursuing an Executive MBA from Strathmore University.

### **Vice Chairman: Wilson Munene**

Wilson Munene is a holder of a Diploma in Purchasing and Supplies Management from Kenya Institute of Management (KIM) and another Diploma in Software Engineering from Computerways Training Institute. He is the director of Nene Rovers, a 4X4 Car Rental company. He has worked for, among other corporates: DHL International, KAKUZI and Kenya-Re prior to joining Jumbo Charge. He is a trained Motorsport Safety Expert and Event Manager.

### **Secretary General: Marvin Wamalwa**

Marvin Wamalwa is one of the founders of Jumbo Charge. He is a director of Homes & Offices Limited, a Building and Construction company based in Mombasa and Bungoma. He is a freelance Defensive Driving instructor, a rally instructor and an avid 4X4 Champion. He is a holder of a Higher National Diploma in Civil Engineering from Kenya Polytechnic, now called Technical University of Kenya. He brings on board a wealth of experience in motorsport management.

**Executive Member: David Musundi**

David is a Health and Safety Advisor and Environment Restoration / Conservation Consultant. He is a holder of BSc Chemistry from University of Nairobi and a post Graduate Diploma (Nebosh) in Occupational Health and Safety (RRC - UK). He is a passionate environmental conservator with over 20 years of experience in Environment, Health and Safety leadership with leading Corporate companies (GlaxoSmithKline and Del Monte Kenya Ltd) in Kenya and is currently involved in Special Purpose Project Management and Green Energy Development. Some of his key achievements include: Greening of Mukuru Kayaba Slums; Coordination of planting over 2 million trees in marginalized areas in Kiambu County; Winner of Total Eco-Challenge; Propagation and donation of over 500,000 Tree seedling from personal tree nursery in Kitale.

**Key Personnel****Chief Executive Officer:****Stephen M. Kikwe**

Stephen is a PhD fellow at Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, UK. He holds a Master Degree in Research in Global Health-Translational and Quantitative Skills Lancaster University (United Kingdom) and another Master Degree in Public Health (London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK).

He graduated with a BSc. Environmental Health Sciences from Moi University. He has worked for KEMRI, African Population and Health Research Centre among others.

**Program Manager: Aggrey Wanjofu Chemwa**

Aggrey holds a Bachelor of Science in Natural Resources Management. He is an experienced researcher, with exceptional knowledge of wildlife law. He has exceptional abilities to interact with the public, resource management agencies, and wildlife resources. Proficient in program management and oversight functions in resource management. Prior to joining Jumbo Charge, he has worked for: 1) Mpala Research Centre in Nanyuki as a research assistant; 2) Mt Kenya Conservancy; 3) Space for Giants - Nanyuki, focusing on elephant monitoring; 4) Soysambu Conservancy among others.

## CONCLUSION

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Jumbo Charge believes that, the wellbeing of Mt Elgon catchment is linked to the wellbeing of millions of people who depend on it for water for domestic use and rainfall for agriculture. Every individual, corporate or agency has a divine duty to safeguard and promote the existence of this water catchment of global importance. Jumbo Charge is on the forefront as a vehicle through which other stakeholders can use to reach the ultimate goal of restoration of degraded areas and consequently management of this resource. Your contribution will be a shot in the arm toward achievement of the goals and objectives of this project.