

July 2026—Project Update
Field Partner: Kenya Bird of Prey Trust

Kwenia Vulture Sanctuary Trust

2026 is off to a great start in Kwenia! We (Scott Hecker and Andre Boraks) wanted to thank you again for your support for this project and let you know what has been accomplished so far in 2026.

Key Achievements during the first six months:

Successful Rüppell's Vulture Nests and other Wildlife sightings

- Over the past six months the Vulture Guardians recorded 16 fledged chicks, the highest number of ever. The team monitored each individual chick through the entire process from hatched to fledged. This year's outstanding success is a result of intensive patrolling coupled with 24-hour surveillance to ensure minimal to zero disturbance by roaming cattle and goats.
- The team successfully monitored carnivore (leopards, etc.) movements thus protecting community livestock. This was enabled by the use of the ranger's mobile phone application, GAIA. These efforts have significantly improved the prompt handling and prevention of human-wildlife conflicts.

Community Conservation Camera Traps Project

This is a pilot project started in January 2026 aimed at creating opportunities for landowners and community members to engage directly in conservation efforts while also realizing immediate benefits in the form of student bursaries. The process involves the deployment of camera traps at selected vantage points and retrieving the data every two weeks. The community committee analyzes the photos and awards points per species per day in a system agreed upon by the joint camera committee. The point system varies with the species, with rarer species earning more points. The cumulated points are then converted into Kenya shillings. This project was made possible by an initial grant from the BAND Fund.

- The first phase of the camera trap project ended April 15th and yielded in 650,000 photos. The long list of species included baboon, giraffe, dikdik, Grant's gazelle, lesser kudu, genet, duiker, warthog, zebra, white-tailed mongoose, caracal, striped hyena, and ostrich.

Planned use of Earth Ranger tool to collect data and manage operations at Kwenia

Plans have already been finalized to train all the rangers and other staff members at Kwenia on using the Earth Ranger tool. A data analysis and ER specialist has already been engaged, and 2 weeks of training have been scheduled to commence. This will greatly improve the Kwenia data

collection and analysis techniques, as well as scale up the conservancy operations and management strategy, and now match this globally adopted technique in conservation.

[The Kwenia Vulture Sanctuary Trust \(KVST\) Registration and Incorporation](#)

Following recent changes in Kenyan law, the government requested the KVST to restart the process of registration and incorporation as a Sanctuary Trust. All of the necessary paperwork was completed in March and approval is expected by the end of 2026.

Thank you for your support for this project! Please let us know if you have questions or would like to discuss this project or receive further information.

Biome's Project Lead for this project:

Andre Boraks, andre@biomeconservation.org



Above: Meeting of Kwenia board members

Left: Young Rüppell's vultures around their nest site. How many can you spot?

MORE PHOTOS NEXT PAGE...



Above: A sample of camera trap images.

Below: The sanctuary has become a member of the Kenya Wildlife Conservation Association

