

CROWS NO MORE! PROJECT

Activity Report – June & July 2025, Eric Kinoti, Colin Jackson

Summary

Crows No More! continues to be highly successful on the north coast with **6,539** crows killed in June and **9,516** in July thus passing the **50,000** milestone! There was a successful KWS-led major stakeholder meeting held in Mombasa which will ‘open the door’ for expanding the project; we were featured on the NTV environment program *Earthwise*; the CNM Malindi team was blessed by the donation of a motorbike from one of our sponsors in June. However, three staff members had to be laid off to accommodate the budget given the limits in funding received. We remain hopeful for additional financial support in August as the tourist season begins. At the rehabilitation centre, we received a young Verreaux’s Eagle-Owl from Kikambala in June and five Barn Owl chicks from Tsavo in July with plucked feathers and trimmed talons – learn more about it on the last page.

51,179

Total cumulative
number of House Crows
killed up to the end of
July 2025

Crows No More! - Poisoning

The Months of June and July recorded the highest monthly numbers of House Crows killed to date: **6,539** in June and **9,516** in July. This brings the cumulative total to **51,179**. July had the highest record in a month since CNM started despite the laying off of three staff members. This is largely a result of employing the ‘guerilla warfare’ strategy of rather than pre-baiting for 1-2 weeks and then putting down poison, we are identifying a site which has a good number of crows feeding on it at that time and immediately putting down poisoned bait for those crows without any pre-baiting period. This has several advantages, in particular reducing the amount of bait required but also time to carry out the poisoning and therefore associated costs. There is still great value in pre-baiting particular sites, but it would seem that a combination of pre-baited sites and ‘guerilla attack’ sites is highly effective.

With the onset of the breeding period in June, we saw a lot of crows carrying nesting material and hiding among coconut trees. During breeding periods, Crows do not roost together as much but rather spread out to nest. We have countered this by following them to nesting areas and establishing where they feed.

The Malindi Team has started going out as far as Sabaki town and the Watamu Team is going to the outskirts of Gede shopping centre (Msabaha, Sita, Dabaso, Mbaraka Chembe, Mijomboni, etc). This, together with the guerilla tactics around Watamu has had a significant impact. Below are our summary of crows killed by location for June and July 2025.

Location	Sum of Total crows killed
Malindi	1669
Watamu	1500
Vipingo	1405
Kilifi	1179
Ngomeni	353
Msabaha	251
Takaungu	131
Gede	51
Grand Total	6539

Location	Sum of Total crows killed
Watamu	3028
Malindi	2521
Kilifi	1847
Vipingo	1449
Ngomeni	364
Gede	144
Takaungu	82
Msabaha	81
Total	9,516

Left: Summary of crows killed by location for June. **Right:** Summary by location for July.

In June, CNM got featured on the NTV (a national television broadcast) show *EarthWise*. An environmental show that explores climate change and recent environmental shifts resulting from human impact.

You can watch the episode on the following link:

<https://ntvkenya.co.ke/arts-lifestyle/the-feathered-conquerers/>

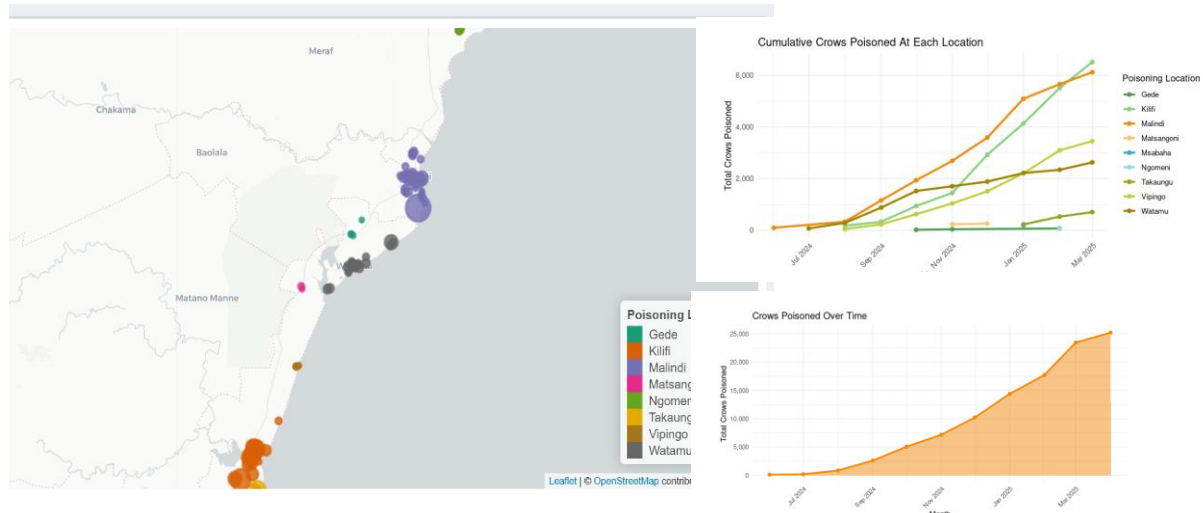
We appreciate **Vivien Wallis**, a very talented artist from Malindi who specialises in watercolour paints and recently oils. She has painted a series of works of art with House Crows as a focus and is both exhibiting and selling them in an exhibition from **27 September** at the **OneOff Gallery, Rosslyn** in Nairobi. She has offered to donate all her proceeds from the gallery / sales to *Crows No More!*. If you are in Nairobi and near the gallery, do stop in and have a look – and buy one (or more!) of her paintings! Again, *Asante sana, Vivien*. We are also happy to announce that John Kithinji, one of the supporters in Malindi, has **donated a motorbike to be used by the Malindi team**. This is a huge relief for the transportation and operations of our field officers for that team. It will also increase our surveillance outside the town. We will now be able to bait small adjacent downs like Kijiwetanga and Msabaha through guerrilla tactics.

In mid-July a **large stakeholders meeting** was held in the Mombasa Beach Hotel chaired by the KWS Director General. In attendance was the CEO for the Pest Control Products Board (PCPB – the body that regulates the importation and use of poisons), the coastal county governments from the coast region, national government representatives and various KWS wardens from the coastal region, hoteliers, tour operators and other interested parties like South Coast Residents Association, along with parastatals like Kenya Airports Authorities (KAA) etc. It was agreed that the already acquired Starlicide poison be handed over to KWS for safekeeping and recommended that A Rocha be requested to implement House Crow eradication for both the North and South Coast and Mombasa / Mariakani area. A new committee was constituted and the earlier one, headed by Professor Musyoki disbanded. The current one will be chaired by Capt Michael Nicholson, who is now the Assistant Director, Wildlife & Community Service. The first task of the committee was addressing bottlenecks to the expansion of the crow control to elsewhere on the coast.

Our **CNM dashboard** is available and updated weekly. Please take your time to visit and see a more in-depth analysis of the programme and its current status. We also appreciate and welcome your feedback and comments as we continue to better your understanding of our operations as the CNM and its team.

Click on this link: <https://arochakenya.shinyapps.io/crownomoreview/>

Also, visit our website to learn more about Crows No More and Starlicide that we use to poison the crows by clicking <https://www.arocha.or.ke/crows-no-more-project/>; if you would like to subscribe to get the reports via email, please [click on this link](#).



Left: Map showing locations where poisoning has been done, the circle size indicates the number of crows killed at that point. On the website you can zoom in to see more detail of where specific poisoning sites are located. **Top right:** Graph showing progress of locations. **Bottom right:** Cumulative poisoning results for total project



Fundraising and accounting

June and July Fundraising

As always, we are very grateful to our supporters, who have continued to have confidence in *Crows No More!* In **June** and **July**, we raised a total of **Ksh 231,700** and **369,000**, respectively. THANK YOU! However, again the reality of the cost of the crow eradication is that we need **Ksh c.490,000** per month for the basic regular costs for north coast if we are to do it as widely and effectively as possible. We are therefore we are **still currently working beyond our means**, but we hope to secure more funding as we get into the high season.

A function of this shortfall has been having to lay off three staff - two of these had completed a year with the project and had been sponsored for just the one year by David Hopkins – for which, thanks. The other was from the general pool of funds being donated which, given the reduction such that we couldn't afford to keep him on at present.

Once again, the best kind of support is the monthly, committed donations that a number of hotels and some individuals make. If we could get another **30-40 individuals** and **10-15 hotels or businesses** to commit to between **Ksh 2,000** and **Ksh 10,000** per month, it would allow the poisoning to really move ahead. We will be posting the July and June expenditures in due time, as we are having some changes as our accounts team transitions to a new system

PLEASE JOIN US!

Help us Get Rid of the Crows – donate:

All funds are handled by [A Rocha Kenya](#)

1) Direct Mpesa donations can be received by A Rocha Kenya:

Paybill: 303030 (ABSA bank)

Acc: 0121008254

IMPORTANT: Please send the M-pesa sms confirmation to the project coordinator, Eric Kinoti **+254 718 422487** so we can track all income.

Better still set up a **standing order** direct debit with [M-Ratiba](#) is an add-on for M-Pesa. With M-Ratiba you can set up a **standing order direct donation** to any given account. Read more here [Safaricom FAQs – M-Ratiba](#)

2) Bank details for direct / online donations to Crows No More! project:

Bank Name: Absa Bank Kenya

Branch Name: Malindi

Account Name: A Rocha Kenya Mwamba Centre

Account Number: 0121008254

Please make sure that you **include a reference** for 'Crows No More'

Please also have proof of payment emailed to accounts.kenya@arocha.org and crowsnomore@arocha.org so that we can keep track of all donations.

THANK YOU for your support!

Wild Bird Rehabilitation

In July, we received a young Verreaux's Eagle-owl that was rescued by a policeman in Kikambala. The owl seemed to be in captivity for some time due to its loss of fear of humans. It arrived safely at the rehab, rehydrated and then fed. We could not, however, release it because it was young and would not survive long, as it had lost its survival instincts due to prolonged contact with humans. He was transported to Nairobi Raptor Rehab Centre, where they have one of the similar species and they can both interact and possibly be released together.

This points out the problem of holding wild animals for too long unnecessarily. This leads to the birds getting a bond with humans, which may be forever implanted in the birds' memories. This in future may cause harm to the bird. For example, if it is released, it will be in the thought of humans being friends, and it could approach other people who do not love birds, thus end up harming them.



A Verreaux's Eagle-Owl perched in an Acacia tree. (Photo by e-Bird)

Verreaux's Eagle-owl (*Ketupa lactea*), also known as the **Milky Eagle owl** or **Giant Eagle owl** is the largest African owl. It is an enormous, greyish owl with dark stripes framing the face. It has a pale, horn-colored beak and large, dark eyes that are set off by weird and diagnostic fleshy-pink eyelids. Occurs from arid savanna to mesic woodland to riverine forest; prefers areas with

some tall trees for breeding and roosting. Hunts medium-sized mammals; has been known to kill competitors, such as Pel's Fishing-Owl. It's call is a deep guttural grunting "unngh-unngh", is diagnostic.

In July, we received five Barn Owls from Tsavo. Unfortunately, one did not make it, but the four are currently in the rehab and doing fine.