

CROWS NO MORE! PROJECT

Activity Report – September 2024, Eric Kinoti, Colin Jackson

Summary

Control of the House Crows has been fast and furious this month. To date an estimated 3,564 crows have been killed in total. This month we are also happy to have been joined by new staff in Malindi who are generously being supported by people / businesses there. We have trained hotel staff to do pre-baiting, enabling us to cover more ground. We also visited Lamu where pre-baiting had started and it is nearly ready to start poisoning. By the end of September, we received donations of Ksh 3,872,956 and our total expenditure up to Sept is Ksh 3,545,426. At the Watamu Raptor Rehab Centre this month, two White-faced Scops Owls were released in the forest area around the rehab and two more of the same species will be released in the A Rocha dune forest.

Crows No More firing on all cylinders

We are grateful that the project is really moving ahead and running smoothly. In Malindi, Bruce Buckland, Crispin Sharpe and John Kithinji have played an important pivotal role in supporting Crows No More. Through them, we have trained a team of five young men who have been identifying sites, pre-baiting and collecting carcasses after poisoning in Malindi town centre and now at Mayungu dump site. We have trained hotel staff in Malindi and Watamu, increasing the number of sites to 17 and 10 respectively. In Kilifi, we have done 4 sites in the south and one in the north at Mkoroshoni slaughterhouse. This month, we expanded to Takaungu and Mto Ndia. Collectively, we have poisoned and eliminated 3,564 House Crows. In September alone, with intensified activities, we eliminated an estimated 2,377 House Crows with the following breakdown in numbers:

Town	No. of crows killed
Kilifi	405
Malindi	1,727
Vipingo	400
Watamu	1,032
Total	3,564

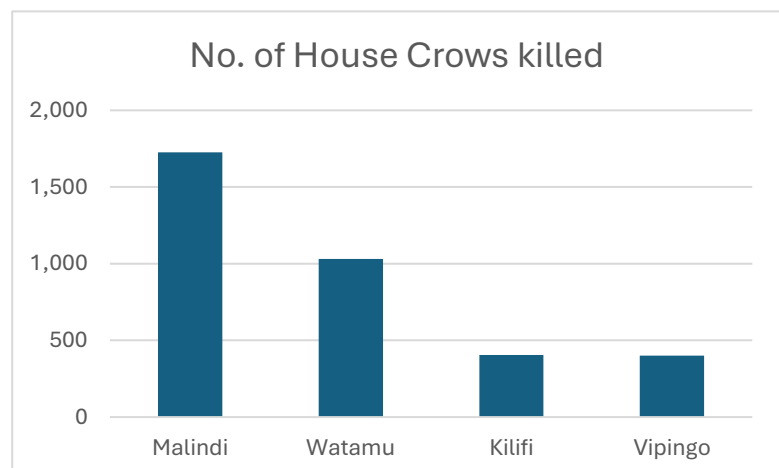


Table 1 & Fig 1: Estimated no. of House Crows killed to date, north coast, Kenya, Aug + Sept 2024



Left: Garden staff from Crystal Bay Resort during one of their training sessions on how to pre-bait House Crows at Crystal Bay. **Right :** Antony and Nixon looking cheerful as they received their bikes to help with their transport during poisoning and pre-baiting. They are part of the added Malindi team working with Crispin and John.

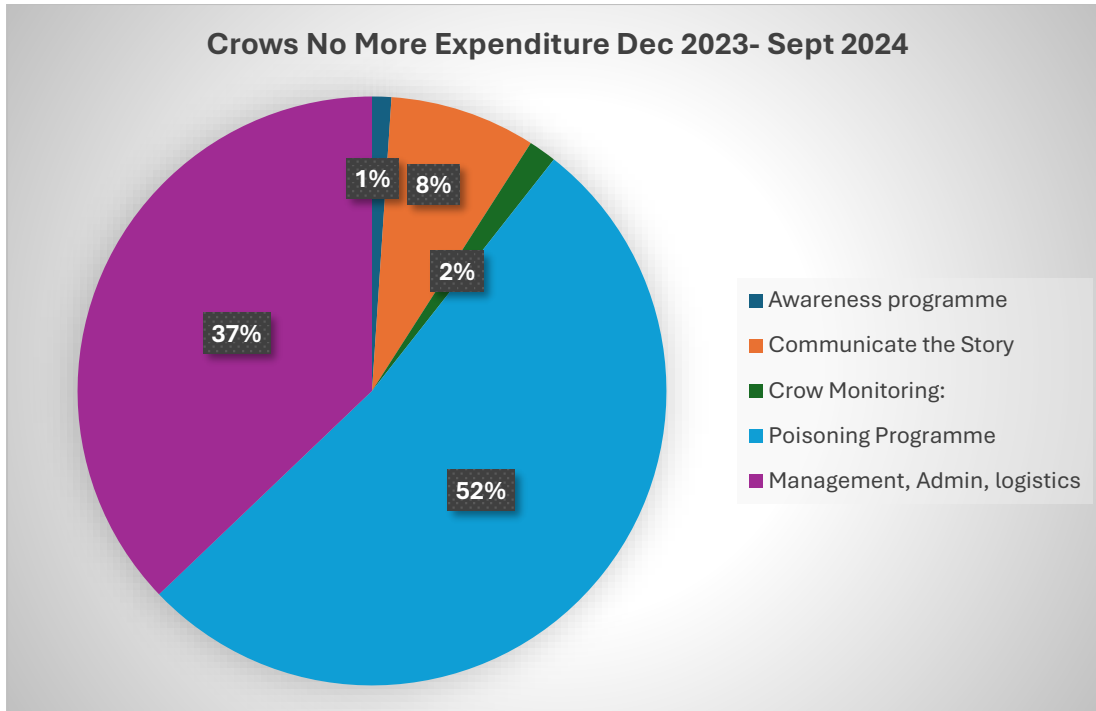
Lamu

Under the coordination Of Carol Korschen of Peponi Hotel, I visited Lamu to access and help the team that is there to do crow work. Headed by Famau, we explored lots of areas around Shela but the most suitable regions for baiting are in Lamu town because they are used to feeding on exposed garbage. The Lamu team will start poisoning as soon as soon as they fine tune their methods and sites as advised.

Accounts and fundraising

We would like to wholeheartedly thank everyone who has been on the forefront to support Crows No More. We have been extremely grateful for the generosity of so many individuals, hotels and businesses – *thank you!* Without your support none of this would have been possible.

So far we have received donations totalling **Ksh 3,872,956** and of this have spent a total of **Ksh 3,545,426** leaving a balance of **Ksh 327,530**. Please see below for a summary of expenditure. We are still a long way short of our target budget which will allow us to do a lot more including monitor the crows more effectively as well as intensify the poisoning. We therefore would request further support and ask readers to keep on spreading the word and continue gathering more support. In this way we will be able to sustain the programme and not lose the momentum we have gained.



Crows No More financial summary as at 30th Sept 2024

Total received: Ksh 3,872,956
Total spent: Ksh 3,545,426
Balance: Ksh 327,530

Wild bird rehabilitation

In our rehabilitation centre this month, two White-Faced Scops Owls were released at the forested area around the rehabilitation centre. We also have two more and two Barn Owls ready for release at the forest at A Rocha and Arabuko-Sokoke respectively. These birds were all rescued out of human-wildlife conflict in Vipingo.



These two White-faced Scops Owls were rescued from Vipingo, rehabilitated in Watamu and released into the forest adjacent to the Raptor Rehab Centre