

# CROWS NO MORE! PROJECT

Activity Report – October 2024, Eric Kinoti, Colin Jackson

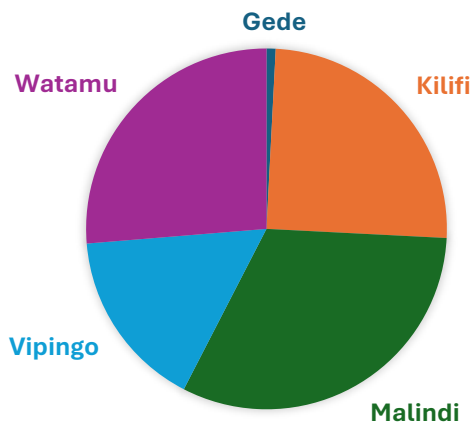
## Summary

This month Crows No More made strides forward by adding one more staff to Kilifi to help Kelvin and another in a new site, Matsangoni. During the month we have carried out 31 poisonings and killed an estimated 2,449 House Crows making a total of 5,103 total to date. We also increased poisoning sites by five by training hotel and school staff to help expand our coverage area. We started pre-baiting at Matsangoni and did the first poisoning at Mijomboni, about 10 km inland of Gede. We also had a good fundraising day in Kilifi that saw an additional four hotels and Kivukoni School commit to monthly donations – *thank you!*

## Crows No More!!

After doing 31 poisoning events Malindi (13), Watamu (9), Kilifi (8) and Vipingo (1), A total of 2,449 House Crows were killed. Kilifi is now covered by two field officers who are coordinating with trained hotel and school staff to do additional pre-baiting. We started pre-baiting at Kivukoni Primary School, Sirai Beach, Mada Hotels (Kilifi Bay), The Kilifi Boatyard and Salty’s Kitesurfing Village. Outside our initial main locations, two sites (Matsangoni and Mijomboni) have been assessed ready to start pre-baiting in November and one in Gede (Mijomboni) poisoned.

NUMBER OF HOUSE CROWS KILLED PER LOCATION



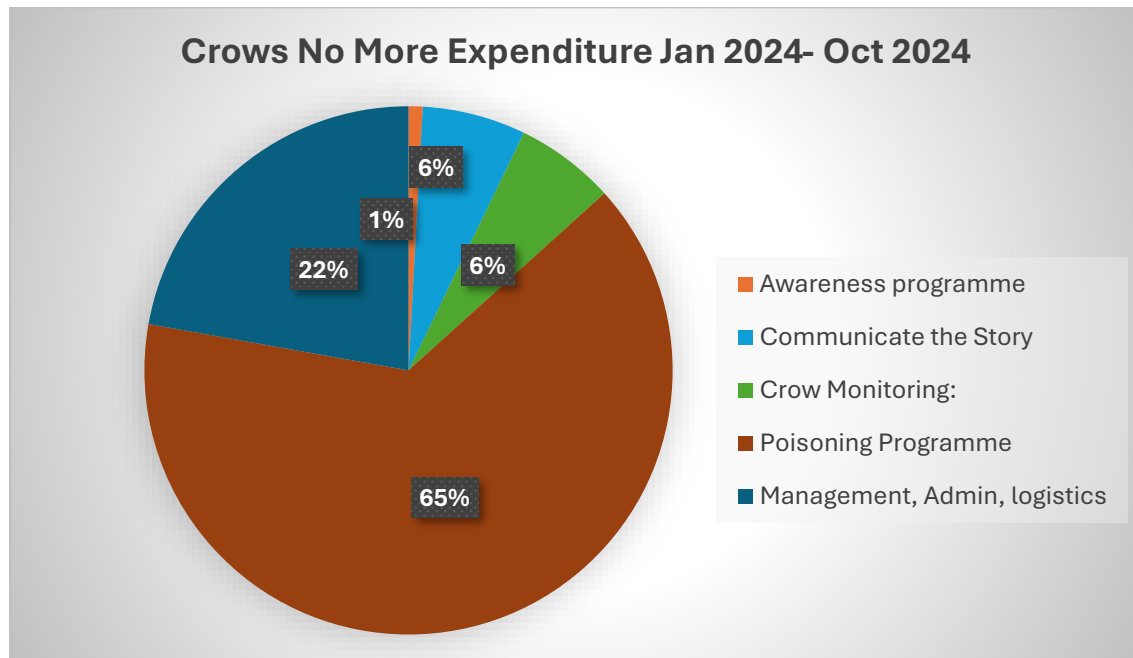
In Matsangoni, which is one of the smaller roosts with about 3,000 House Crows along the Kilifi- Malindi road, pre-baiting has started and there was overwhelming support from residents. Silas is the field officer in charge.

Malindi	778
Watamu	644
Kilifi	612
Vipingo	395
Gede	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,449</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>5,103</b>

A big “thank you” to Temple Point in Watamu for giving us 117 loaves of stale bread to be used as pre-baiting material. Ocean Sports also bought 300 kgs of low-quality meat from Farmer’s Choice as pre-baiting material. As well as servicing Watamu as bait, they have been distributed to Malindi and Matsangoni for use.

## Fundraising

This month we did a fundraising tour in Kilifi and had a very positive reception at all places we visited – *thank you!* Five hotels and one school agreeing to support us. Kivukoni School invited us to feature in their Eco-festival this year to be held at the school on 30<sup>th</sup> November (karibuni sana!). This will provide an excellent opportunity to speak more about Crows No More and seek for further funding from individual donors. As at 31<sup>st</sup> October we had received Ksh 5,189,856 in donations and so far spent Ksh 4,730,000. This can be broken down into the following proportions as per the pie-chart below.



We continue to pursue funds from Kenya Airports Authority and other government agencies though so far this has not looked very hopeful. We also have a grant application submitted to African Fund for Endangered Wildlife (AFEW) who have expressed an interest in funding a component of this initial push to get the overall number of crows reduced significantly.

## Wild Bird Rehabilitation

At the Bird Rescue Centre this month we received very exciting patients: three Lilac-breasted Roller chicks. They were rescued by members of the community who found them after they fell off a coconut off their nest near Dabaso (not far from Watamu). This is a good indicator of a more positive perception that the community is having towards conservation and bird rescue. Unfortunately, the smallest died the next day but after three weeks of feeding them scrummy matumbo and taking care of them, the other two were ringed and released back in Dabaso as fully fledged juvenile birds.



**Left:** Lilac-breasted Roller chicks when they were brought to us. **Right:** Kirao (our research scientist) examining one of the birds as he was ringing them.