

XIX Biennial Conference of the International Association Study for the Commons

In-Conference Excursions

June 21, 2023

Excursion loop 3: Ngong Hills Wind Farm- Bomas of Kenya (lunch) - Nairobi National Park Route

Excursion loop 3 will begin with a drive through Ngong road to the Ngong Hills Wind Farm, which is approximately 30 km from the Nairobi Central Business District in the northern foothills of Ngong hills offering an opportunity to appreciate Kenya’s efforts in transition to renewable energy. The participants will also enjoy the fresh air, serene atmosphere with scenic splendor and breathtaking landscapes dotted with wind turbines and forests. The loop will bring participants to the Bomas of Kenya for lunch before wrapping up with a drive in the Nairobi National Park.

Ngong Hills - Background Information

Ngong Hills Forest Reserve – Common Resources- Wind Power Projects

Ngong Hills is a remnants of an old volcanic cone about is about 2.5 millions old, which had an estimated original diameter of 11km prior to being cut by the rift escarpment in the last Cainozoic era. The current summit is 2430 m.

Ngong Hills Block of Ngong Hills Forest Reserve is a 3,077ha gazetted land vide legal notice No.90 of 1985. Ngong Hills Forest are the highest hills in the landscapes around the City of Nairobi. It is widely used for communication mast installations and recently has become home to wind-power generation projects. It is also an ecotourism attraction used by many hikers, joggers and nature lovers.



Copyright: Tripadvisor

The Ngong hills is of cultural interest to the Masaai community. It is the burial place for Chief Lenana, one of the prominent Maasai tribe leaders, which is on the southern areas of the Hill, which is well marked.

During the colonial times and post-independence period, Ngong Hills Forest was under the management of Olkejuado County Council (Local government Authority) as trust land under the Trust Land Act Cap 288 of the

Laws of Kenya. Under these arrangements Community Elders were managing the forest

resources. The forest was utilized primarily for dry season grazing and collection of firewood. With time and under intense pressure of grazers and other forest users during the dry periods, the forest reserve became degraded to the extent that the government had to act. The national leadership felt that the County authorities did not have sufficient technical oversight and capacity to manage the reserve. The national government therefore gazetted the forest in 1985. Its management was transferred to the department of Forestry (Kenya Forest Service) in the National Government.

By the time the gazettelement was made a substantial number of Ngong residents who had remained there during the drought of the late 1970s were allowed to settle along the foot of the hill following a Presidential Decree. These new settlements were located within 400-yard strip which surrounded the base of the hill on the wind ward side. However, presented with a possibility of land allocation, the Hill was invaded by new settlers that now occupied a 400-meter strip all along the hill. With this new invasion, the idea of land allocation was abandoned but the squatters remained. In fact, more land seekers have, over time, flocked the hill in anticipation that they shall be allocated land. Wangari Maathai Institute for Peace and Environmental Studies (WMI) in 2020 initiated process of mediating between community and Kenya forest services on the use of the 400 meter strip and process is not yet complete. The WMI lead Mediation process aims at ensuring that the Ngong Hills Forest landscape is restored, protected and conserved for many generations to come. It will also ensures that the wider benefits from ecosystem services provided by the forest reserve are safeguarded into posterity.

Forest Restoration and Conservation

There have been many attempts at the restoration and conservation of Ngong Hills Forest without any major achievements. There has been many donors and corporate support in the conservation efforts of Ngong Hill Forest Reserve. The government passed a new law Kenya Forest Act of 2005 governing the management of forest and establishing participatory forest management. The Forest Act 2005 provided procedures and mechanisms for community participation in forest management under section 46. This enabled communities to establish

Community Forest Associations (CFAs) to work with Kenya Forest Service.

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Ngong Hills Forest has three blocks – Ngong Hill, Kibiku and Oloolua. Each of these blocks have unique communities that live adjacent to the forest. They established one Community Forest Association known as Ngong Hill Forest Metro Community Forest Association (CFA) covering the three forest blocks. The association is made up of members of the community living adjacent to the forest and who have an interest in



Forest conservation. The CFA together with KFS have drawn a five-year Participatory Forest

Management Plan (PFMP) starting 2016, which has been reviewed in 2022 and it will be launched this year. This PFMP enables management of forest resources including taking care of community interests including user rights like grazing.

The participants will plant 5 trees on the hill as part of restoration effort and also serve as memory of the visit to the hill and wind power project.

Itinerary

08:00 hrs: Arrival at the University of Nairobi, Main campus 8.4.4 Parking Lot next University Jomo Kenyatta Memorial Library (JKML)

08.30hrs: Departure

09:00hrs – 09:30hrs: Arrival at the Ngong Hills Wind Farm, visitors' clearance (requirements: relevant identification documents)

10:00hrs – 11:00hrs: Talk by KenGen, KFS & Tour of the Ngong Hills Wind Farm

The Ngong Hills Wind Farm is located on 80 hectares of land owned by Kenya Forest Service. Its capacity has been reviewed several times in the past. The first wind turbines were built on this site in 1993, courtesy of the Belgian cooperation. The two wind turbines in the park were then dismantled. Operations were taken over by KenGen in 2009 with 5.1 MW. In 2015, the company commissioned new wind turbines, bringing the wind farm's capacity to 25.5 MW.



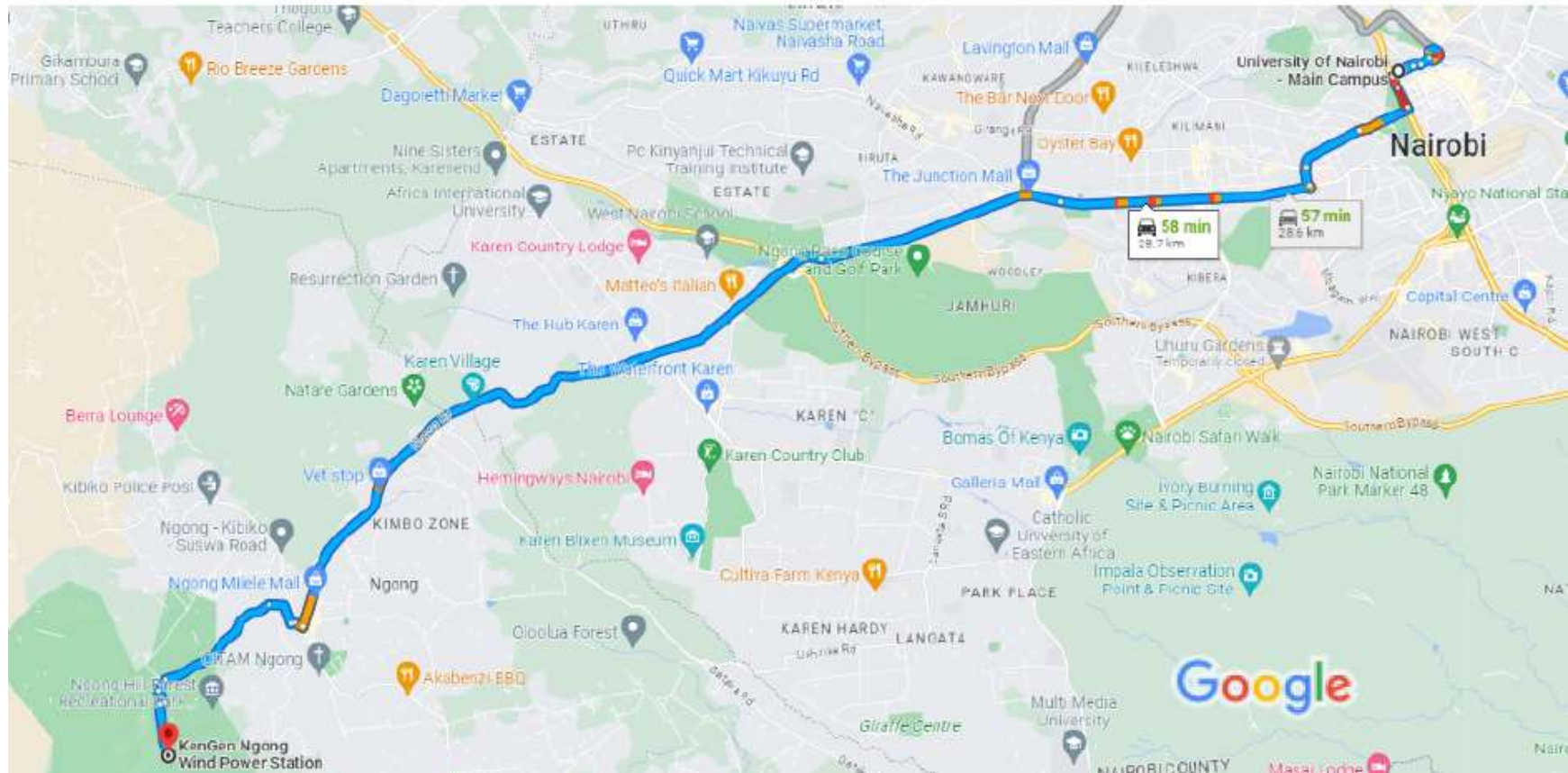
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11:00hrs – 11:30hrs: Tree planting at Ngong Hills Wind Farm

11:30hrs – 12:30hrs: Departure and Arrival at Bomas of Kenya for lunch

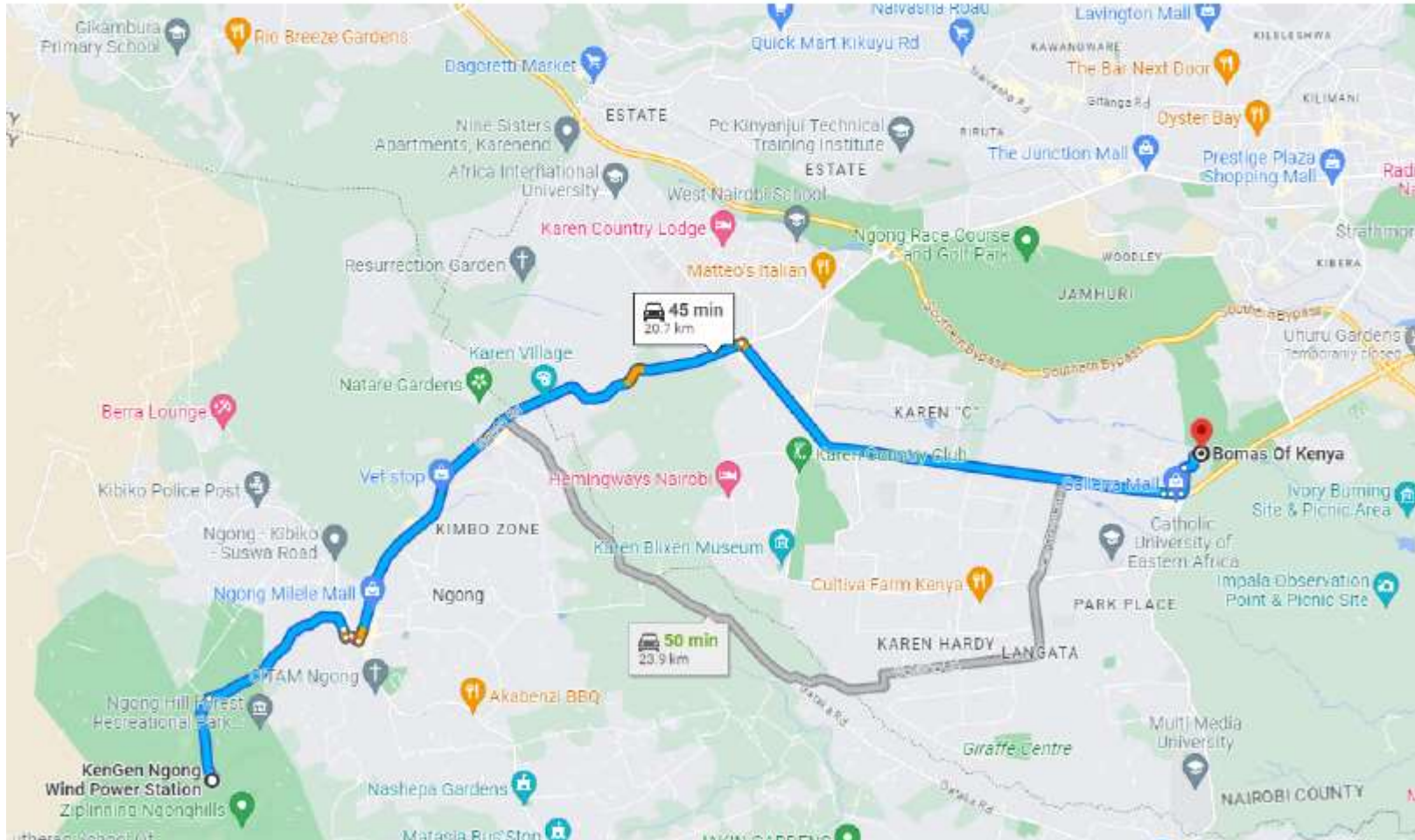
12:45hrs – 13:45hrs: Lunch at the Bomas of Kenya

University of Nairobi, University Way, Nairobi to KenGen Ngong Wind Power Station, JJ9P+H66, Ngong





KenGen Ngong Wind Power Station, JJ9P+H66, Ngong Drive 20.7 km, to Bomas Of Kenya, Nairobi



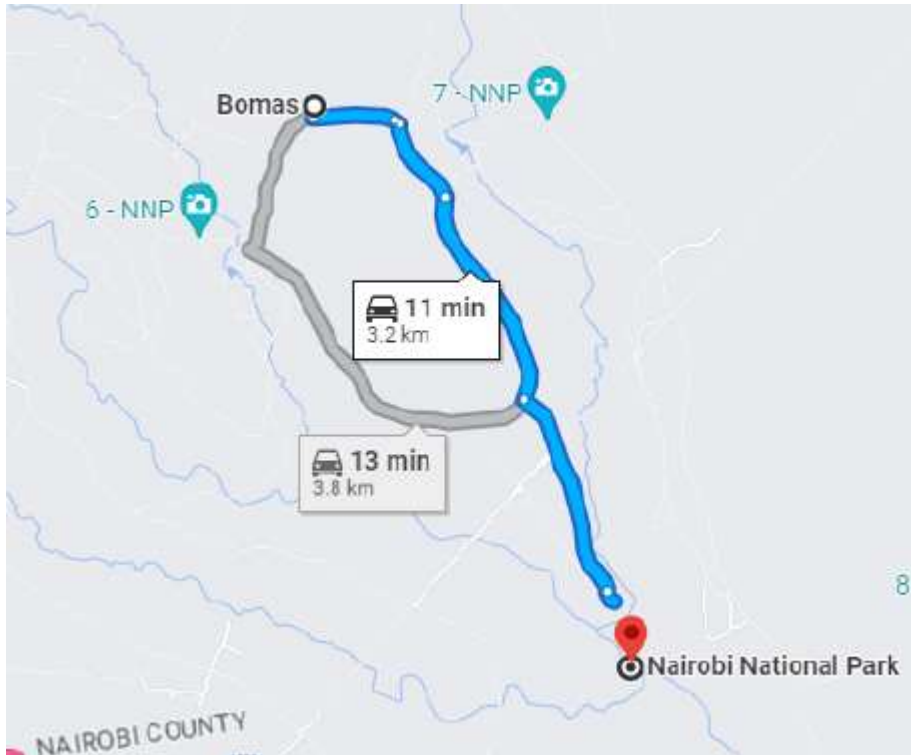
Bomas (homestead) of Kenya established in 1971 is a tourist village in Langata, Nairobi. Bomas displays traditional villages belonging to the several Kenyan tribes. The cultural village was built using traditional specifications of myriad Kenyan tribes; through architecture, crafts, music and dance this village serves to preserve Kenyan culture.



Cultural huts at bomas: Copyright flyrubi

It provides excellent beverage services through the Utamaduni Restaurant at Bomas of Kenya sits adjacent to the Nairobi national park, offering a serene, natural and relaxing environment. In this scenic setting, the restaurant comprises of several balconies and terraced areas, and is architecturally inspired by the shape of traditional huts. As such, it is ideal for both outdoor and indoor dining experiences. The restaurant will wow your palate with a rich menu of unique cultural foods from different communities of the country. Sumptuous meals ranging from local barbecue (nyamachoma); Kenya’s staple food ugali (maize porridge); and community specific specialties (the Gikuyu mukimo/potatoes specialty; the Abagusii matoke/plantain bananas; the Abaluhya traditional ingokho/chicken and green vegetables, etc.); to fish and chips...are all at your disposal at pocket friendly prices.

- 13:45hrs – 14:15hrs: [Departure and Arrival at the Nairobi National Park \(clearance for entry. Please carry relevant identification documents\)](#)
- 14:15hrs – 16:45hrs: [Game drive at the Nairobi National Park](#)



The Nairobi National Park was established in 1946 about 7 km south of then Nairobi as the first park in Kenya. The park's has diverse landscapes from open grassland, scattered Acacia, dry forest and riverine ecosystem, which provides habitat to diverse herbivores, carnivores and several birds species. Due to human settlement around the park, the park has been fenced

“Nairobi is known as the safari capital of Africa and is an energetic, modern city that serves as a

fascinating landscape of both wildlife and bustling human-life full of activity. The park hosts a fascinating range of wildlife like the black rhinos and zebras among many others. We will explore how the wildlife are not only kept in their natural habitat but also how the Kenya Wildlife Service has managed that habitat and the attendant ecosystem over the years.”



16:45hrs -17:30hrs: [Departure](#) and [Arrival at the University of Nairobi](#)

We will return to Nairobi Central Business District, University of Nairobi through Langata Road –

experience/appreciate the urban commons