

Going Underground

Mount Elgon's Cave Elephants and the Search for Early Humans

Mount Elgon, an extinct volcano straddling the Kenya-Uganda border, is home to a unique population of elephants that travel up to 160 metres underground to dig mineral-rich volcanic rock. Long known to use a single cave—Kitum—recent research has revealed that elephants visit at least 55 caves across the mountain. This widespread and highly unusual mining culture, practiced by such large and well-studied animals, remained largely unknown until recent years.

The Mount Elgon Elephant Project (MEEP) was formed in 2018 as a project of the East African Wild Life Society, following archaeological work by the National Museums of Kenya into early human occupation of Mount Elgon's caves. The project aims to conserve not only the elephants, but the wider natural heritage of Mount Elgon.

In this lecture, one of MEPP's founders tells the intertwined story of Mount Elgon's elephants and its archaeology, and describes the encouraging conservation status of the elephants as they expand back across the Kenya side of the mountain and, for the first time in nearly 50 years, return to Uganda.

Don't miss this opportunity hear this extraordinary story of elephants underground!



Muthaiga
Country Club
Ballroom



Wednesday
28 January
2026



From
7 p.m

About the
Speaker



Christopher Powles is Chair and a founder of the Mount Elgon Foundation, a UK charity which supports the Mount Elgon Elephant Project. He has a lifelong connection with Mount Elgon, being a grandson of the founder of Mount Elgon National Park. He and his family have supported archaeological research on Mount Elgon and he read Zoology at the University of Oxford.

PROGRAMME

6.30 P.M: Bar and canapés
7.00 P.M: Lecture starts

LECTURE & CANAPÉS

Members and Guests: 2,350/-
Additional dinner charges: 2,350/-

MUTHAIGA

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