



# State of Wildlife Conservancies in Kenya Report 2016

---



## Our Vision

A Kenya in which people and wildlife co-exist in mutual benefit.

## Our Mission

To work with landowners and communities to sustainably conserve and manage wildlife and their habitat outside state protected areas for the benefit of the people of Kenya.

## Our Core Values

In all we do we are guided by the following principles and values:

- **Authentic Voice:** We are a representative voice of the conservancies' movement in Kenya and will always strive to uphold the policies related to wildlife and conservancies.
- **Commitment:** We are committed to our vision: A Kenya in which people and wildlife coexist in mutual benefit. We are committed to serving our members by responding to their needs and concerns. We are dedicated to the success of conservancies in realizing their contribution to national conservation and development goals.
- **Innovative:** We place a strong emphasis on discovery. We are always searching for more efficient and effective ways to make a difference in our programmes and support to our member conservancies.
- **Integrity:** We serve with integrity in championing the cause of conservancies in Kenya. We approach our relationships with both internal and external stakeholders with honesty and have deep respect for the rights of communities living with wildlife.
- **Partnerships:** We believe in partnerships with like-minded individuals and organizations; we treasure our role as a bridge between landowners and government and actively promote partnerships that lead to co-existence of people and wildlife.





# Foreword

I am pleased to introduce you to the first national status of wildlife conservancies report which outlines the journey conservancies in Kenya have taken in the last 30 years. Hard work, commitment and innovation characterize this journey albeit a replete of challenges. This journey cannot be told in a single document. It is therefore an attempt to lay the foundation for which we will build the future and the destination we desire to reach.

Since the emergence of the first conservancies in the 1970s, conservancies have grown in number and their institutional complexity broadened beyond wildlife conservation and tourism to include peace and security, livestock management, land and natural resources management. More recently conservancies are demonstrating impacts as a platform for securing rural community livelihoods, developing social infrastructure, promoting peaceful co-existence and building community resilience to environmental shocks.

While some conservancies have won local and international awards and are managed to high levels of conservation management, most are nascent and work in progress. There are now 160 conservancies in Kenya with 110 operational, 42 emerging and 8 proposed. Of this 76 are on community land, 26 are formed by grouping together several pieces of private lands and 58 are on private land. Majority of the conservancies are found within biologically sensitive areas and are distributed within 28 Counties.

As a signatory to the Convention on Biodiversity, Kenya, as a state party has committed to designate 17% of its terrestrial land and 10% of its marine seascape for conservation by 2020. With 59 terrestrial parks and reserves and 10 Marine parks and reserves covering 8.2% of the country's land area, wildlife conservancies contribute towards attaining this target and are vital in conservation and management of over 65% of the wildlife in community and private lands. Community and private wildlife conservancies complement national parks and reserves and together a bigger and more connected space for wildlife.

The state of conservancies report consolidates information and data on conservancies based on key national indicators. The report forms our first baseline for measuring achievements in years ahead and an opportunity for conservancies to gain national and international visibility to enlist support from Kenyans and Partners. However, in preparing this report, gaps in data

and information was a constant challenge. We take note that conservancies are at various stages of development and different regions have adopted unique conservancy models and management approaches that make reporting and comparative assessments complex. We adopted a regional and a county approach in documenting the progress being made, the challenges ahead and considerations for the future growth of conservancies. It is our hope that the report provides useful information to our communities, conservation bodies, partners and policy makers.

At KWCA, we are committed to a better future, for our member conservancies and the households that have made a voluntary decision to forego other land uses to support government efforts to conserve and manage wildlife. Today, most conservancies have limited capacity to flourish; are low on resources needed for such a huge task and are beginning to record impacts.


Our biggest success as a wildlife conservation strategy is the momentum gained in people's interest to participate and the resolute nature of the commitment we see with the different stakeholders. We only see a bright future ahead. We appreciate support from USAID Kenya and The Nature Conservancy who've made this report possible through the Community Conservancies Policy Support Program (CCSP)

We are proud to share with you our story and that of our member conservancies, we hope you shall find it interesting, informative and Inspiring.



**Dickson Kaelo**  
Chief Executive Officer



A man in traditional Maasai attire, including a red and black checkered shuka, is walking across a vast, open savanna landscape. He is holding a spear in his right hand and looking back over his shoulder. The background shows rolling hills under a clear sky.

*For centuries  
people and wildlife  
have lived side by  
side in the African  
Savanna*



# Acronyms

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>ACC</b>    | African Conservation Center                              |
| <b>ACP</b>    | Amboseli Conservation Program                            |
| <b>AE</b>     | Amboseli Ecosystem                                       |
| <b>AEMP</b>   | Amboseli Ecosystem Management Plan                       |
| <b>AET</b>    | Amboseli Ecosystem Trust                                 |
| <b>ATGRCA</b> | Amboseli Tsavo Group Ranches Conservation Association    |
| <b>ATGSA</b>  | Amboseli Tsavo Game Scouts Association                   |
| <b>AWF</b>    | African Wildlife Foundation                              |
| <b>CBNRM</b>  | Community Based Natural Resource Management              |
| <b>CBO</b>    | Community Based Organization                             |
| <b>CWCCC</b>  | County Wildlife Conservation and Compensation Committees |
| <b>GIS</b>    | Geographic Information Systems                           |
| <b>GOK</b>    | Government of Kenya                                      |
| <b>HWC</b>    | Human Wildlife Conflict                                  |
| <b>IFAW</b>   | International Fund for Animal Welfare                    |
| <b>IUCN</b>   | International Union for Conservation for Nature          |
| <b>KNBS</b>   | Kenya National Bureau of Statistics                      |
| <b>KWCA</b>   | Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association                 |
| <b>KWS</b>    | Kenya Wildlife Service                                   |
| <b>LCT</b>    | Lamu Conservation Trust                                  |
| <b>LWF</b>    | Laikipia Wildlife Fund                                   |
| <b>MMNR</b>   | Maasai Mara National Reserve                             |
| <b>MMWCA</b>  | Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association           |
| <b>NEMA</b>   | National Environment Management Authority                |
| <b>NGO</b>    | Non-Governmental Organization                            |
| <b>NRM</b>    | Natural Resource Management                              |
| <b>NRT</b>    | Northern Rangelands Trust                                |
| <b>PES</b>    | Payment for Ecosystem Services                           |
| <b>PIKE</b>   | Population of Illegally Killed Elephants                 |
| <b>RLWCA</b>  | Rift Lakes Wildlife Conservancies Association            |
| <b>SORALO</b> | South Rift Association of Land Owners                    |
| <b>TCG</b>    | Tsavo Conservation Group                                 |
| <b>TNC</b>    | The Nature Conservancy                                   |
| <b>TTECI</b>  | Taita Taveta Environment Conservation Initiative         |
| <b>TTWCA</b>  | Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association          |
| <b>USAID</b>  | United States Agency for International Development       |
| <b>WDPA</b>   | World Database Protected Areas                           |
| <b>WWF</b>    | World Wildlife Fund                                      |



# Table of Contents

|   |           |
|---|-----------|
| <b>KWCA Vision and Mission</b>                              | <b>2</b>  |
| <b>Foreword</b>   | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>Acroynms</b>   | <b>5</b>  |
| <b>Facts and Figures</b>                                    | <b>8</b>  |
| <hr/>   |           |
| <b>Chapter 1 : KWCA and it's role with Conservancies</b>    | <b>10</b> |
| Role of KWCA  | 10        |
| History of KWCA   | 10        |
| Wildlife Conservation Policies                              | 16        |
| Kenya's Conservancy Landscape                               | 19        |
| <hr/>   |           |
| <b>Chapter 2 : Governance Arrangements in Conservancies</b> | <b>40</b> |
| Governance Structures and Institutional Arrangements        | 41        |
| <hr/>   |           |
| <b>Chapter 3: Regions and Regional Associations</b>         | <b>45</b> |
| Amboseli Ecosystem Trust                                    | 48        |
| Laikipia Wildlife Forum                                     | 51        |
| Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association              | 54        |
| Northern Rangelands Trust                                   | 58        |
| Southern Rangelands Association of Land Owners              | 62        |
| Athi-Kapiti Wildlife Conservancies Association              | 64        |
| NRT Coast   | 66        |
| Lamu Conservation Trust                                     | 66        |
| Rift-Lakes Wildlife Conservancies Association               | 68        |
| Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association             | 70        |
| Western Wildlife Conservancies Association                  | 72        |
| Tsavo Conservation Group and Tsavo Trust                    | 74        |
| <hr/>   |           |
| <b>Chapter 4: Threats to Conservancies</b>                  | <b>75</b> |
| <hr/>   |           |
| <b>Chapter 5: The Future and Way Forward</b>                | <b>76</b> |
| <hr/>   |           |
| <b>Acknowledgment</b>                                       | <b>80</b> |



# Table of Charts

|            |   |    |
|------------|---|----|
| Figure 1:  | History of KWCA   | 11 |
| Figure 2:  | KWCA Governing structure  | 12 |
| Figure 3:  | Theory of change  | 12 |
| Figure 4:  | History of Wildlife Conservation in Kenya                                 | 15 |
| Figure 5:  | Kenya Wildlife Regulatory Framework                                       | 18 |
| Figure 6:  | Growth of Conservancies in Kenya  | 23 |
| Figure 7:  | Cumulative Growth of Conservancies by Type.                               | 24 |
| Figure 8:  | Conservancies Covering over 100,000 Ha.                                   | 25 |
| Figure 9:  | Types of Conservancies Registered under KWCA                              | 26 |
| Figure 10: | Percentage of Conservancy by status                                       | 27 |
| Figure 11: | Percentage of Conservancies by type                                       | 27 |
| Figure 12: | Land size ( Ha) of Conservancies by type                                  | 27 |
| Figure 13: | Regional Conservancies by Status  | 28 |
| Figure 14: | Regional Conservancies by Type  | 28 |
| Figure 15: | Cumulative Conservancy Land area (Ha) by Region                           | 28 |
| Figure 16: | Conservancy by County   | 29 |
| Figure 17: | Wildlife scouts by County   | 30 |
| Figure 18: | Human Wildlife Conflict Trends  | 32 |
| Figure 19: | Areas covered by Parks/ Reserves and Conservancies                        | 45 |
| Figure 20: | Areas covered by Regional Associations                                    | 47 |
| Figure 21: | Number of beneficiaries by Regional Associations                          | 47 |
| Figure 22: | Lease Payments in 2015 & 2016 in Maasai Mara                              | 57 |
| Figure 23: | Percentage PIKES trends for NRT Conservancies                             | 60 |
| Table 1:   | Regional Associations and their Respective Conservancies                  | 22 |
| Table 2:   | Five Largest Conservancies  | 25 |
| Table 3:   | Wildlife Scout Network and Supporting Organizations                       | 31 |
| Table 4:   | Wildlife Distributions density inside and outside of parks in 2012        | 33 |
| Table 5:   | Distribution of Tourism facilities in Conservancies by region             | 36 |
| Table 6:   | Conservancies under Amboseli Ecosystem Trust                              | 49 |
| Table 7:   | Conservancies under Laikipia Wildlife Forum                               | 52 |
| Table 8:   | Conservancies under the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association    | 54 |
| Table 9:   | Conservancies under the Northern Rangelands Trust                         | 58 |
| Table 10:  | Sources of Finance for Conservancy Operations                             | 61 |
| Table 11:  | Conservancies under the South Rift Association of Land Owners             | 62 |
| Table 12:  | Conservancies under Athi Kapiti Wildlife Conservancies Association        | 64 |
| Table 13:  | Conservancies under NRT Coast   | 66 |
| Table 14:  | Conservancies under Lamu Conservation Trust                               | 66 |
| Table 15:  | Conservancies under Rift Lakes Wildlife Conservancies Association         | 68 |
| Table 16:  | Conservancies under Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association       | 70 |
| Table 17:  | Conservancies under Western Wildlife Conservancies Association            | 72 |
| Table 18:  | Conservancies under Tsavo Conservation Group & Tsavo Trust                | 74 |
| Map 1:     | Map of Conservancies in Kenya   | 20 |
| Map 2:     | KWCA Regional Association Map   | 46 |
| Map 3:     | Conservancies under Amboseli Ecosystem Trust                              | 50 |
| Map 4:     | Conservancies under Laikipia Wildlife Forum                               | 53 |
| Map 5:     | Conservancies under the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association    | 55 |
| Map 6:     | Conservancies under the Northern Rangelands Trust                         | 59 |
| Map 7:     | Conservancies under the South Rift Association of Land Owners Association | 63 |
| Map 8:     | Conservancies under Athi Kapiti Wildlife Conservancies Association        | 65 |
| Map 9:     | Conservancies under NRT Coast   | 67 |
| Map 10:    | Conservancies under Rift-Lakes Wildlife Conservancies Association         | 69 |
| Map 11:    | Conservancies under Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association       | 71 |
| Map 12:    | Conservancies under Western Wildlife Conservancies Association            | 73 |



# Facts and Figures

## Conservation

**160**

Conservancies in Kenya

**6.36 Million Ha**

Covered by Conservancies

**11%**

Kenya's land mass under conservancies

**28**

Counties with conservancies

**11**

Regional entities

**4**

Marine conservancies

**76**

Community conservancies

**58**

Private Conservancies

**26**

Group conservancies

**60**

Conservancies listed under WPDA

**8**

Sanctuaries Protecting Endangered Species

- Sera-Rhino
- Ishaqbini-Hirola
- Ruko-Rothschild Giraffe
- Ol Chorro-White Rhino
- Solio, Ol Pejeta, Lewa and Borana- Black and White Rhino
- Namunyak Reteti –Elephant orphanage

**113**

Conservancies Registered under KWCA

- 56 Community conservancies
- 39 Private Conservancies
- 18 Group conservancies

## Wildlife

**65%**

Wildlife Outside Parks and Reserves<sup>1</sup>

**68%**

Wildlife Loss since 1977<sup>2</sup>

**72%**

of Southern White Rhino Population in Laikipia Conservancies

**45%**

Black Rhino Population Found in Private and Community Conservancies

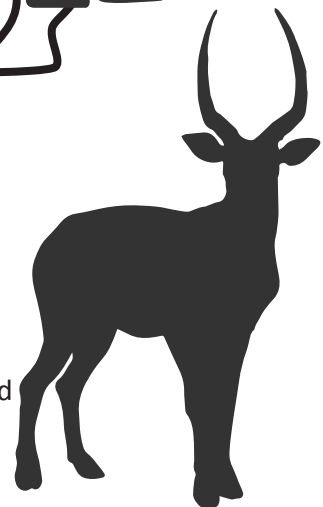
**90%**

of Global Population Grevy's Zebra found in Conservancies



**90%**

of World Hirola Population found in Community Conservancies



<sup>1</sup> Ogutu et al 2016: extreme wildlife declines and concurrent increase in livestock numbers in Kenya, PLOS One

<sup>2</sup> ibid



## Livelihoods

**707,460**

Direct Conservancy Households

**4,800**

Conservancy Employees

**206**

No. of staff employed by regional associations

**Kshs 257 Million**

Invested in community development at NRT in 2015

**Kshs 71 Million**

Invested in community development in the Mara region 2015-2016

## Tourism

**142**

Tourism Facilities Hosted

**2,397**

Beds Capacity

**Ksh 369 Million**

Paid in Land Leases in Maasai Mara (2016)

## Human Wildlife Conflict

**2,416**

Cases of HWC reported to KWS in 2015

**86**

Percentage increase in HWC between 2011-2015

## Women in Conservancies

**8** No. of female Conservancy Managers

**2** No. of female Conservancy Chairpersons

**6** No. of conservancies with women enterprise projects

## Peace and Security

**2,732 Ha**

Average Area Patrolled by a conservancy rangers

**2,991**

No. of Conservancy Rangers



# Chapter 1: KWCA and Wildlife Conservancies

## Role of KWCA

Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association is a landowner led national membership organization that serves the interests and collective voice of community and private conservancies.

We work to create an enabling environment for conservancies to thrive by advocating for the right laws and incentives and supporting them through sharing information and building capacity. We believe conservancies go far beyond just wildlife conservation and instead have the potential to improve livelihoods, unite communities, promote wildlife and community co-existence, strengthen local democracy and preserve cultures and traditions.

As an umbrella body, KWCA represents and works towards the needs of its member conservancies and regional associations through;

- Providing a united voice to advocate for better and enabling policies, laws, and regulations affecting conservancies.
- Providing technical support to community and landowners to establish and manage conservancies
- Acting as a central hub for conservancy information, linkages with fundraising opportunities and conservancy tools
- Representing conservancies in national and international meetings and fora.

## History of KWCA

The process of establishing Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) began in 2012 after several unsuccessful attempts by non-state actors in the sector to establish a national representative forum that would convene and advance the aspirations and interests of community and private landowners living with wildlife.

The strides that began the journey of developing a national grassroots conservancy movement in Kenya, dates to the mid 1990s when efforts towards Wildlife Policy, Legislative and Institutional Reforms in Kenya were being reviewed and formulated. It was envisaged that the registration and institutionalization of an independent national organization for wildlife conservation and management

would lead to a structured and coordinated industry that would contribute to the sustainable management of biodiversity and empowerment of community and private landowners.

Fast forward, in 2010, the promulgation of the Constitution provided for a decentralized system of governance for the management of wildlife resources in non-protected areas by landowners. There was renewed vigor to ensure that the national conservation association leverage and bargain power to advance their issues through policy advocacy at the national and regional levels, partnership with private sector and seek support from international community. The draft Wildlife (Conservation and Management Bill 2011 and the draft conservancy regulations 2012 both explicitly recommended devolution of rights to landholders and the institutionalization of the wildlife industry in Kenya.

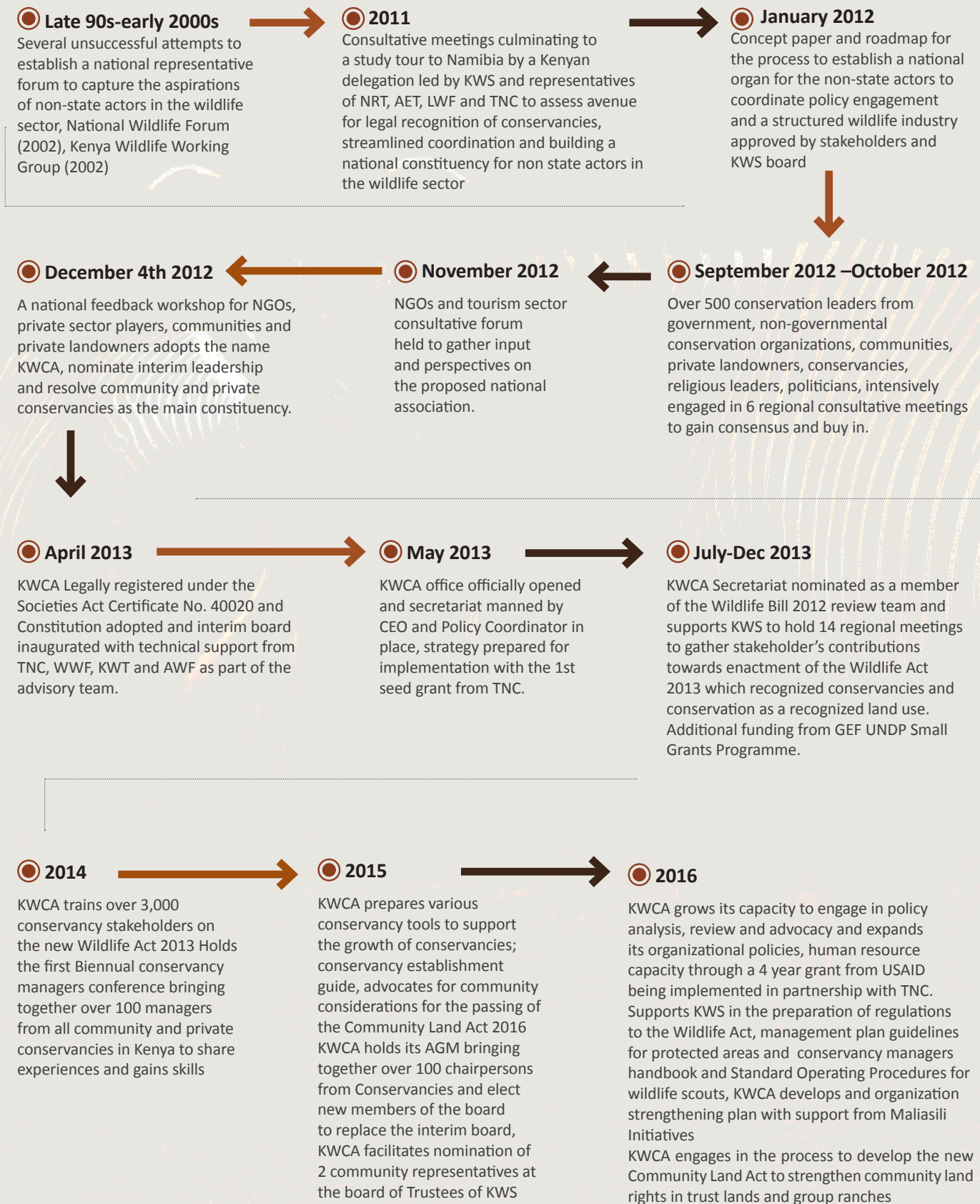
Several stakeholders in the wildlife sector, led by Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and representatives from Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET), Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) and Maasai Mara Group ranches, South Rift Association of Land Owners (SORALO), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF), Kenya Wildlife Trust (KWT) and WWF rallied together, holding consultative meetings with the government to drive this historic agenda.

This culminated in a learning study tour to Namibia to visit Namibia Association of CBNRM Support Organizations (NACSO) who already had a successful model of connecting the communities and organizations that manage and conserve Namibia natural resources to replicate the same concept in Kenya. KWCA was the ultimate decision of this highly participatory process. In April 2013, KWCA was legally registered.

---

*We work to create an enabling environment for conservancies to thrive by advocating for the right laws and incentives and supporting them through sharing information and building capacity.*





**Figure 1: History of KWCA**

# Governing structure



Figure 2: KWCA Governance Structure

# Our Theory Of Change

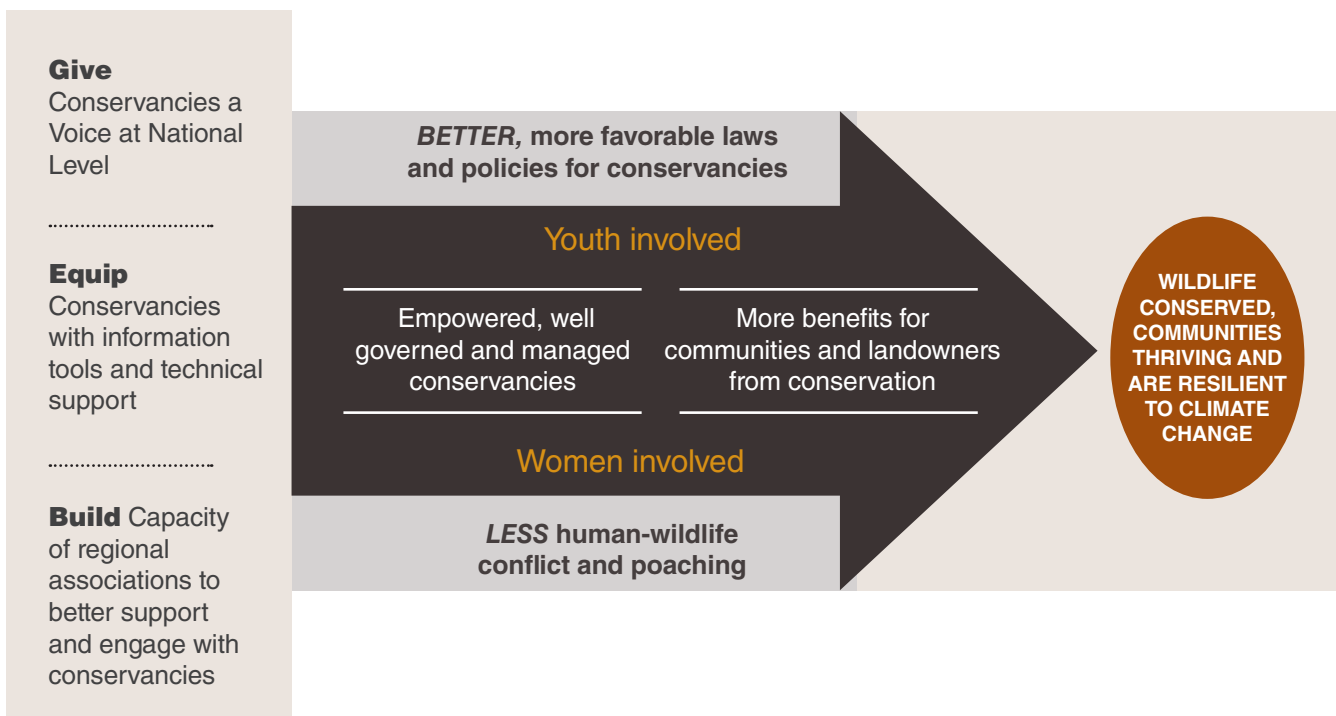


Figure 3: Theory of Change



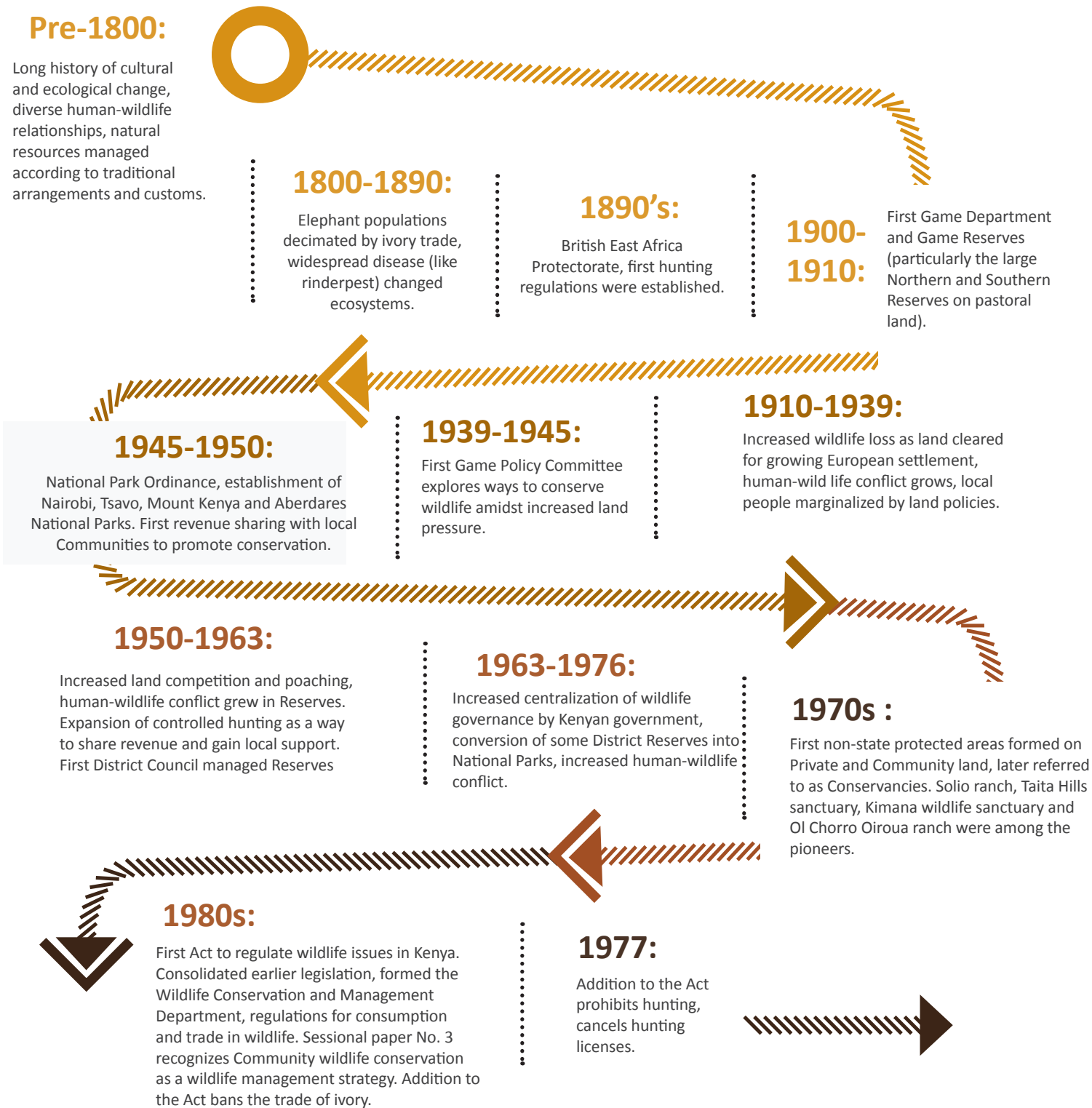
---

*We believe conservancies go far beyond just wildlife conservation and instead have the potential to improve livelihoods, unite communities, promote wildlife and community co-existence, strengthen local democracy and preserve cultures and traditions.*



# Evolution of Wildlife Conservation Policy in Kenya

Wildlife conservation in Kenya has been evolving since the colonial rule in 1800's, and the rights of communities and the utilization of natural resources has also changed. Figure 4 outlines the history and the impact of various events and policies on community conservation practices.





## 1980s:

Several Community Conservancies were formed around Taita and Kajiado areas.

## 1990s:

- Many Community and Private Conservancies established; policy environment created by KWS (e.g., the Zebra Book; USAID COBRA (1992-1998) Parks beyond Parks & establishment of Community Wildlife Service within KWS (1996)) and support by conservation organizations and tourism investors provided a platform for Conservancies to develop.

## 1992:

KWS introduced pilot game-cropping program in Laikipia, Kajiado, Nakuru, Meru, Samburu & Machakos. Formation of district wildlife forums (e.g. Nakuru Wildlife Forum, Laikipia Wildlife Forum, Machakos Wildlife Forum) predominantly to coordinate and oversee cropping on Game Ranches and increase Land-owner engagement in wildlife conservation.

## 2013:

Establishment of the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA), a Land-owner-led national membership organization representing Community and Private Conservancies, and 5 regional Associations.

## 2000 - 2010:

- Ongoing establishment of Conservancies, particularly in Northern Kenya. Regional conservation groups formed to support Conservancies (e.g. Northern Rangelands Trust, SORALO, Amboseli Ecosystem Trust) ; KWS CORE program continued to promote conservation outside National Parks.

## 2002:

Game-cropping pilot program ended following task force review, led to dissolution of most district forums.

## 2014:

Enactment of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (2013); recognition of Conservancies, Community Wildlife Associations, Community Scouts and County Wildlife Conservation and Compensation Committees (CWCCC).

## 2015:

- Drafting of Regulations legislating Conservancies; establishment of regional wildlife associations and conservancies ongoing.

**Figure 4:** History of Wildlife Conservation in Kenya

Adapted from King J., Kaelo D., Buzzard B. & Wairigia G. (2015) Establishing a Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya: a guide for Private Land-owners and Communities. Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association



## Wildlife Conservation Policies Supporting Communities and Landowners

There is overwhelming international and national support for the engagement of communities and landowners who live with or close to wildlife areas in efforts to sustainably conserve biodiversity and support community livelihoods.

### International policies

| International Instruments   | Provision   |
|---|---|
| <b>Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2014</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2030 Eradicate extreme poverty, ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland ecosystems, reduce degradation of natural habitats, halt biodiversity loss, ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits, end poaching and trafficking of protected species and increase the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihoods</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (1993)</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote environmentally sound and sustainable development in areas adjacent to protected areas and support local populations to develop and implement remedial action in degraded areas where biological diversity has been reduced</li> </ul>   |
| <b>CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (2010)</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, Encourage customary use and the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity,</li> </ul>                |
| <b>EU Action Plan Against wildlife trafficking (2016)</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure that rural communities in source countries are engaged in and benefit from wildlife conservation, including engagement of communities in design and implementation of measures against wildlife trafficking and support to sustainable economic activities as a priority of EU member states</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Crime (ICCWC) strategic plan (2010)</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildlife crime effectively prevented, detected, investigated and suppressed</li> </ul>   |
| <b>CITES (2016)</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolution to establish a rural community Intercessional working to identify mechanisms for including communities in the CITES Processes</li> </ul>  |
| <b>World Park Congress (2016)</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resolution recognize the strong relationship between conservation, secure territorial rights and governance systems of indigenous peoples and local communities as sentinels of change and illegal activity within their environment; and the need to incentivize these peoples and communities through financial and non-financial benefits in combating IWT;</li> </ul>  |
| <b>London Declaration on Illegal Wildlife Trade (2014)</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities and eradicate poverty</li> <li>Work with, and include local communities in, establishing monitoring and law enforcement networks in areas surrounding wildlife.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Kasane Statement on Illegal Wildlife Trade (2015)</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Promote the retention of benefits from wildlife resources by local people where they have traditional and/or legal rights over these resources.</li> <li>Strengthen policy and legislative frameworks needed to achieve this, reinforce the voice of local people as key stakeholders and implement measures which balance the need to tackle the illegal wildlife trade with the needs of communities, including the sustainable use of wildlife.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Brazzaville Declaration on Illegal Exploitation and Illicit Trade in Wild Flora and Fauna in Africa (2015)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize the rights and increase the participation of indigenous peoples and local communities in the planning, management and use of wildlife through sustainable use and alternative livelihoods and strengthen their ability to combat wildlife crime.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>UN declaration on indigenous people (2007)</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognize that respect for indigenous knowledge, cultures and traditional practices contributes to sustainable and equitable development and proper management of the environment,</li> <li>Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess because of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.</li> </ul> |



|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Hanoi Statement (2016)</b>                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognizes the importance of supporting and engaging communities living with wildlife as active partners in conservation, through reducing human-wildlife conflict and supporting community efforts to advance their rights and capacity to manage and benefit from wildlife and their habitats; and developing collaborative models of enforcement.</li> </ul>                          |
| <b>UN General Assembly (2015)</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the development of sustainable and alternative livelihoods for communities affected by illicit trafficking in wildlife and its adverse impacts, with the full engagement of the communities in and adjacent to wildlife habitats as active partners in conservation and sustainable use.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>IUCN World Conservation Congress (2016)</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a new category of membership for Indigenous peoples, to enhance decision-making process of IUCN, towards achieving the equitable and sustainable use of natural resources, opportunity to contribute to global policy on biocultural conservation, indigenous issues, traditional knowledge and the future direction of conservation as distinct people</li> </ul>                |
| <b>AU Agenda 2063 (2014)</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>By 2063, Africa shall be a prosperous continent, based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, and with resources to drive its own development, and where the environment and ecosystems are healthy and preserved, and with climate resilient economies and communities and women fully empowered in all spheres, with equal social, political and economic rights.</li> </ul> |

## National Policies on Conservancies

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Constitution of Kenya 2010</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preamble: Respectful of the environment, which is our heritage, and determined to sustain it for the benefit of future generations</li> <li>Article 42 Every person has the right to a clean and healthy environment, which includes the right to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations</li> <li>Article 60.(1) Land shall be managed in a manner that is equitable, efficient, productive and sustainable including protection of ecologically sensitive areas</li> <li>Article 69.(1&amp;2) The State shall ensure sustainable exploitation, utilisation, management and conservation of the environment and natural resources, and ensure the equitable sharing of the accruing benefits. Every person has a duty to cooperate with State organs and other persons to protect and conserve the environment and ensure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Wildlife Policy 2017 Draft</b>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wildlife resources be managed as a key component of complex ecological systems, with the maintenance of ecosystem functions and ecological processes</li> <li>Wildlife conservation and management shall be encouraged and recognized as a form of land use on public, community and private land</li> <li>Where benefit accrues from wildlife conservation and management, the people of Kenya will share these equitably</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Wildlife Conservation and management Act 2013</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Applies to all wildlife resources on public, community and private land, and Kenya territorial waters, and recognizes conservation of wildlife on community and as a land use</li> <li>Recognizes wildlife conservancies and sanctuaries, wildlife scouts, community wildlife associations</li> <li>Promotes ecosystem based planning and effective participation of the public in wildlife management</li> <li>Encourages equitable sharing of benefits from wildlife to offset costs and devolution of wildlife conservation to those owners and managers of land where wildlife occurs</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Community Land Act, No. 27 of 2016</b>            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Recognizes and secures community land rights in former Group Ranches and Trust Lands</li> <li>Formalises stronger democratic decision making on community land</li> <li>Promotes wildlife conservation and natural resource management on community land</li> </ul>   |

# Kenya Wildlife Regulatory Framework





# Kenya's Conservancy Landscape

## What Is a Conservancy?

Land designated by a community or private land owner, groups of owners or corporate body for purposes of wildlife conservation and other compatible land uses. A conservancy is therefore established on private or community land and is managed for a broad range of land uses. The term conservancy also refers to an institution that is setup to manage such land.

Under Kenya's Wildlife Act 2013, Wildlife Conservation is a recognized land use, making it an attractive land use option for communities and landowners as it offers improved land and resource rights and access to real incentives.

Conservancies in Kenya offer a valuable way to tackle a number of critical issues through a common approach and framework, including poverty, wildlife loss, resource conflicts, environmental degradation and weak local governance. While wildlife conservation is a key objective, conservancies also focus on livelihood development, peace and security, good governance, pastoral movements and grazing and provide services such as health and education.

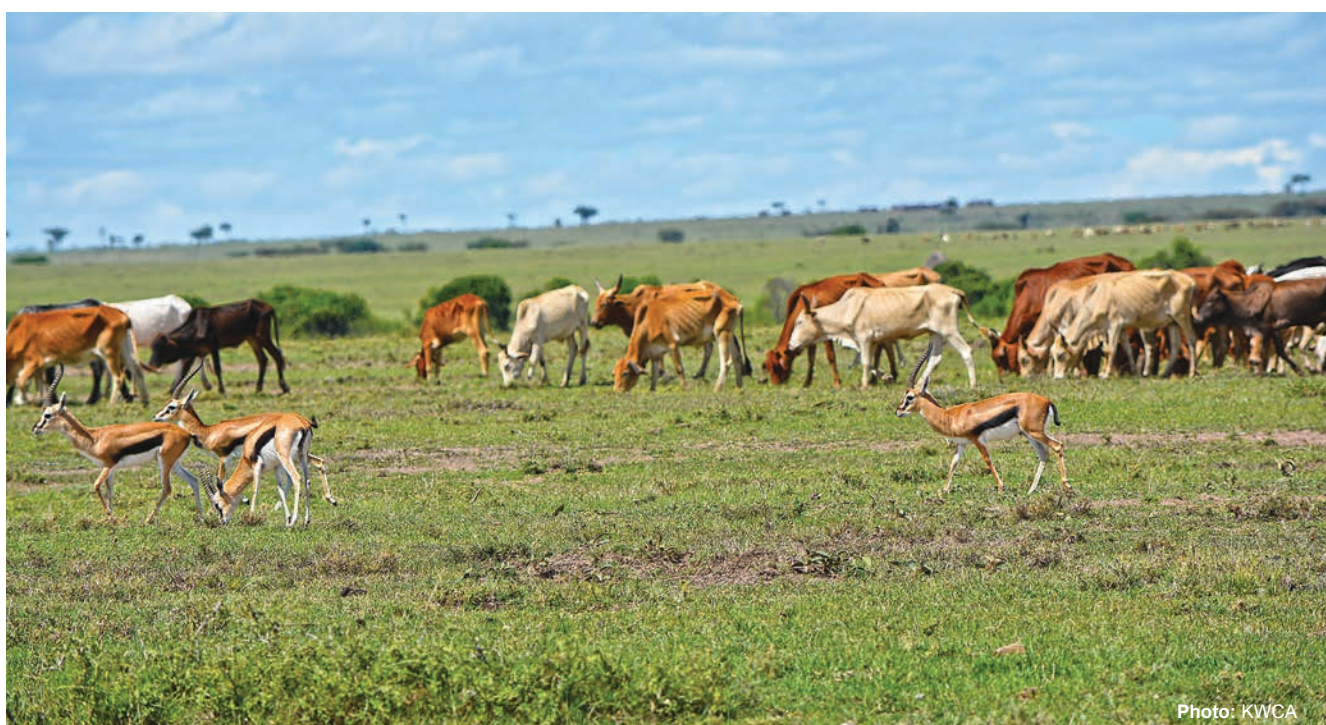


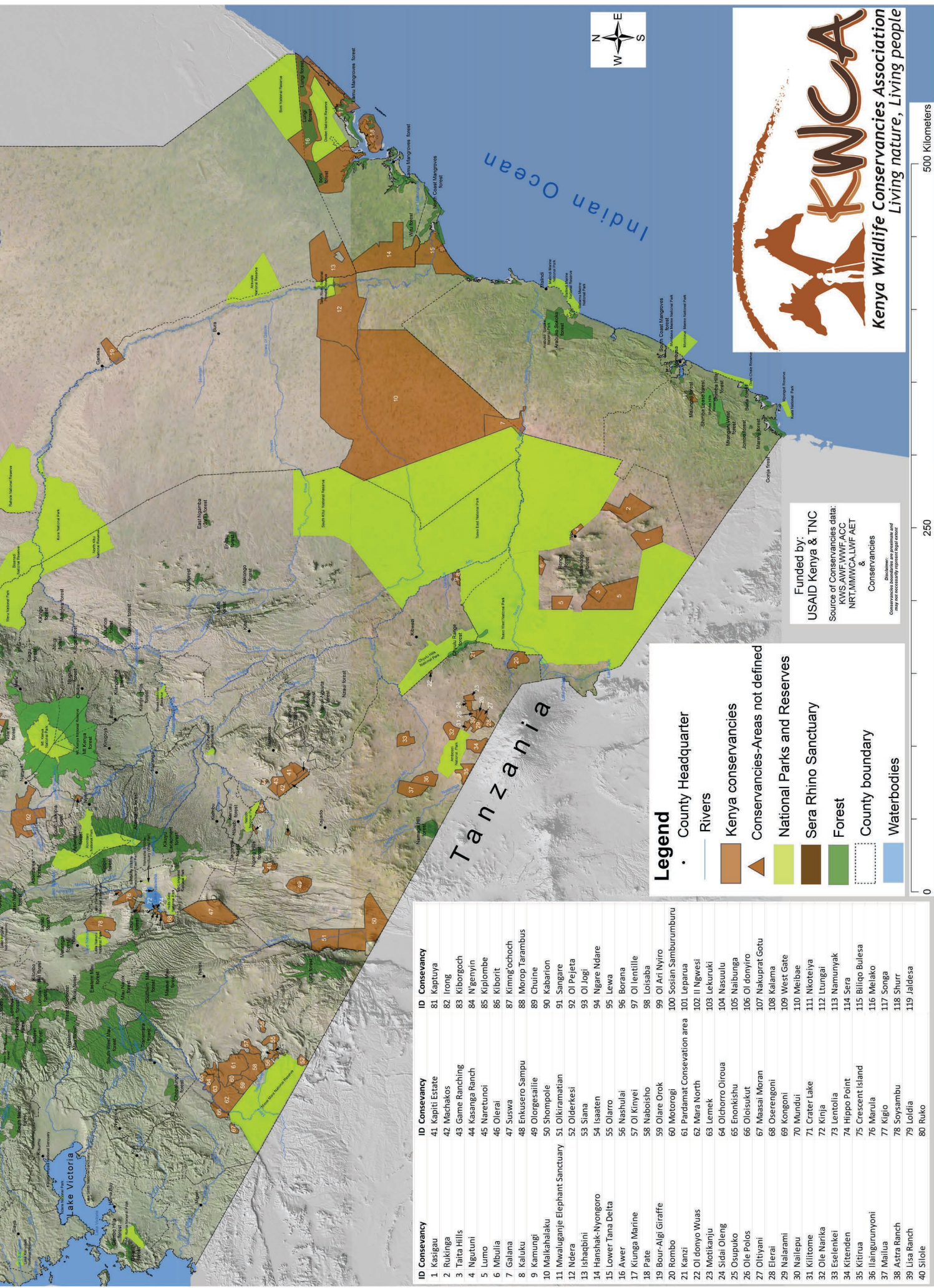
Photo: KWCA

| Types of Conservancies   |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Private Conservancy  | Group Conservancy   | Community Conservancy  |
| A Conservancy set up on private land by a private individual or corporate body for the purpose of wildlife conservation                        | A single Conservancy created by the pooling of land by contiguous private land-owners for the purpose of wildlife conservation        | A Conservancy set up by a community on community land.   |
| Sanctuary  | Game ranch  | Game Farm  |
| An area of land and water managed by government, community, individual, or private entity for conservation of one or more species of wildlife. | Keeping of wildlife under natural extensive conditions with the intention of engaging in wildlife conservation, recreation and trade. | Rearing of wildlife in an enclosed and controlled environment for wildlife conservation, trade and recreation. |









| ID | Conservancy                   | ID | Conservancy                | ID  | Conservancy         |
|----|-------------------------------|----|----------------------------|-----|---------------------|
| 1  | Kasigau                       | 41 | Kapiti Estate              | 81  | Kaptuya             |
| 2  | Rukinga                       | 42 | Machakos                   | 82  | Irong               |
| 3  | Taita Hills                   | 43 | Game Ranching              | 83  | Kiborogoch          |
| 4  | Ngutuni                       | 44 | Kasanga Ranch              | 84  | N'genyin            |
| 5  | Lumo                          | 45 | Naretunoi                  | 85  | Kiplombe            |
| 6  | Mbulia                        | 46 | Olerai                     | 86  | Kiborit             |
| 7  | Galana                        | 47 | Suswa                      | 87  | Kimng'ochoch        |
| 8  | Kaluku                        | 48 | Enkusero Sampu             | 88  | Merop Tarambus      |
| 9  | Kamungi                       | 49 | Ologesailie                | 89  | Chume               |
| 10 | Malakhalaku                   | 50 | Shompole                   | 90  | Kabarion            |
| 11 | Mwaluganje Elephant Sanctuary | 51 | Olkiramatan                | 91  | Sangare             |
| 12 | Ndera                         | 52 | Olderkesi                  | 92  | Oi Pejeta           |
| 13 | Ishaqbini                     | 53 | Siana                      | 93  | Oi Jogi             |
| 14 | Hanshak-Nyongoro              | 54 | Isaaten                    | 94  | Ngare Ndare         |
| 15 | Lower Tana Delta              | 55 | Olaro                      | 95  | Lewa                |
| 16 | Awer                          | 56 | Nashulai                   | 96  | Borana              |
| 17 | Kiunga Marine                 | 57 | Oi Kinyei                  | 97  | Oi Ientille         |
| 18 | Pate                          | 58 | Naboisho                   | 98  | Loisaba             |
| 19 | Bour-Aigi Giraffe             | 59 | Olaro Okok                 | 99  | Oi Ari Nyiro        |
| 20 | Rombo                         | 60 | Mctorogi                   | 100 | Sosian Samburumburu |
| 21 | Kanzi                         | 61 | Pardamat Conservation area | 101 | Leparua             |
| 22 | Oi donyoi Wuas                | 62 | Mara North                 | 102 | Il Ngwesi           |
| 23 | Motikaniju                    | 63 | Lemek                      | 103 | Lekuruki            |
| 24 | Sidai Oling                   | 64 | Oltorro Oiroua             | 104 | Nasulu              |
| 25 | Osupuko                       | 65 | Enonkishu                  | 105 | Naibunga            |
| 26 | Ole Polos                     | 66 | Oloisukut                  | 106 | Oi donyiro          |
| 27 | Oltiyani                      | 67 | Maasai Moran               | 107 | Nakuprat Gotu       |
| 28 | Elerai                        | 68 | Oserengoni                 | 108 | Kalama              |
| 29 | Nalarami                      | 69 | Kongoni                    | 109 | West Gate           |
| 30 | Nailepu                       | 70 | Mundui                     | 110 | Meibae              |
| 31 | Kiiltome                      | 71 | Crater Lake                | 111 | Nkoteiya            |
| 32 | Ole Narika                    | 72 | Kinja                      | 112 | Itungai             |
| 33 | Eselenkei                     | 73 | Lentolia                   | 113 | Namunyak            |
| 34 | Kitenden                      | 74 | Hippo Point                | 114 | Sera                |
| 35 | Kitira                        | 75 | Crescent Island            | 115 | Biliqo Bulesa       |
| 36 | Ilaingurunyoni                | 76 | Marula                     | 116 | Melako              |
| 37 | Mallua                        | 77 | Kigio                      | 117 | Shurr               |
| 38 | Astra Ranch                   | 78 | Soyambu                    | 118 | Shurr               |
| 39 | Lisa Ranch                    | 79 | Loidia                     | 119 | Jaldesa             |
| 40 | Silole                        | 80 | Rulko                      |     |                     |

Funded by:  
 USAID Kenya & TNC  
 Source of Conservancies data:  
 KWS,AWIF,WME,ACC  
 NRT,MIMWCA,LWIF,AET  
 &  
 Conservancies

Disturbances are possible and may not necessarily represent major error

**Legend**

- County Headquarter
- Rivers
- Kenya conservancies
- ▲ Conservancies-Areas not defined
- National Parks and Reserves
- Sera Rhino Sanctuary
- Forest
- - - County boundary
- Waterbodies



Map 1: Conservancies in Kenya



| No. | Region        | Regional Association                            | Year of Establishment | Number of Conservancies | Size (ha)        | Number of Households | Number of Rangers | Number of Counties Covered | RA Staff   |
|-----|---------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------|-------------------|----------------------------|------------|
| 1   | Amboseli      | Amboseli Ecosystem Trust                        | 2009                  | 17                      | 79,562           | 86,811               | 476               | 1                          | 5          |
| 2   | Athi Kapiti   | Athi-Kapiti Wildlife Conservancies Association  | 2014                  | 9                       | 27,571           | 1,477                | 18                | 2                          | -          |
| 3   | Laikipia      | Lakipia Wildlife Forum                          | 1992                  | 9                       | 156,494          | 11,919               | 512               | 2                          | 10         |
| 4   | Mara          | Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association  | 2013                  | 16                      | 170,131          | 106,102              | 300               | 1                          | 21         |
| 5   | Northern      | Northern Rangelands Trust                       | 2004                  | 21                      | 2,651,015        | 134,697              | 727               | 3                          | 120        |
| 6   | Coast         | Northern Rangelands Trust - Coast               | 2010                  | 7                       | 519,796          | 56,625               | 119               | 2                          | 14         |
| 7   | Lamu          | Lamu Conservation Trust                         | 2011                  | 3                       | 52,602           |                      |                   | 2                          | -          |
| 8   | North Rift    | Northern Rangelands Trust - North Rift          | 2015                  | 6                       | 1,240,951        | 213,574              | 100               | 2                          | 9          |
| 9   | Rift Lakes    | Rift Lakes Wildlife Conservancies Association   | 2014                  | 25                      | 447,277          | 20,458               | 345               | 2                          | 1          |
| 10  | South Rift    | Southern Rangelands Association of Land Owners  | 2004                  | 6                       | 38,850           | 33,200               | 29                | 2                          | 21         |
| 11  | Taita Taveta  | Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association | 2013                  | 26                      | 361,137          | 33,897               | 213               | 2                          | 1          |
| 13  | Western       | Western Wildlife Conservancies Association      | 2014                  | 12                      | 31,164           | 1,000                | 89                | 8                          | -          |
| 12  | Tsavo Region  |   |                       | 2                       | 483,630          | 7,700                | 38                | 2                          | -          |
| 14  | North Eastern |   |                       | 2                       | 53,607           |                      | 25                | 2                          | -          |
|     |               | <b>Grand Total</b>                              |                       | <b>160</b>              | <b>6,313,787</b> | <b>707,460</b>       | <b>2,991</b>      |                            | <b>202</b> |

**Table 1:** Regional Associations and their Respective Conservancies



## Growth of Conservancies

Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association has a membership of 113 private, group and community conservancies established in 28 counties. These non-state protected areas have over 40 years of history in Kenya, with the first “conservancies”, Solio Ranch, Ol jogi, Sangare, Sergoit and sanctuary farm established around the 1970s to protect rhinos and other wildlife species. In 1972, the Taita Hills Sanctuary was established to protect elephants.

These private initiatives to establish conservancies were started to conserve or rescue highly endangered species (e.g. rhino, hirola), to increase financial returns from landholdings by deriving benefits from wildlife either through photo-tourism or during the late 1990s to early 2000s from cropping, or third party agreements

with landowners (often with conservation NGOs) to set aside land for wildlife in return for a range of benefits (often social-welfare services ranging from bursaries to infrastructure), or simply because of the desire of the landowner to conserve wildlife.

The first time the term conservancy was used to describe non-state protected areas appeared in 1995 with the establishment of Lewa Wildlife Conservancy (a private conservancy), and Namunyak Community Conservancy (a community conservancy). The conservancy movement has since blossomed with 22 conservancies being established in the 90’s, 57 in the 2000’s and 69 by 2010. The highest number of conservancies to be established was in 2013 coinciding with the time the Wildlife Act 2013, was gazetted and KWCA was established. (Figure 6).

### Growth of Conservancies and Relative Expanse Covered

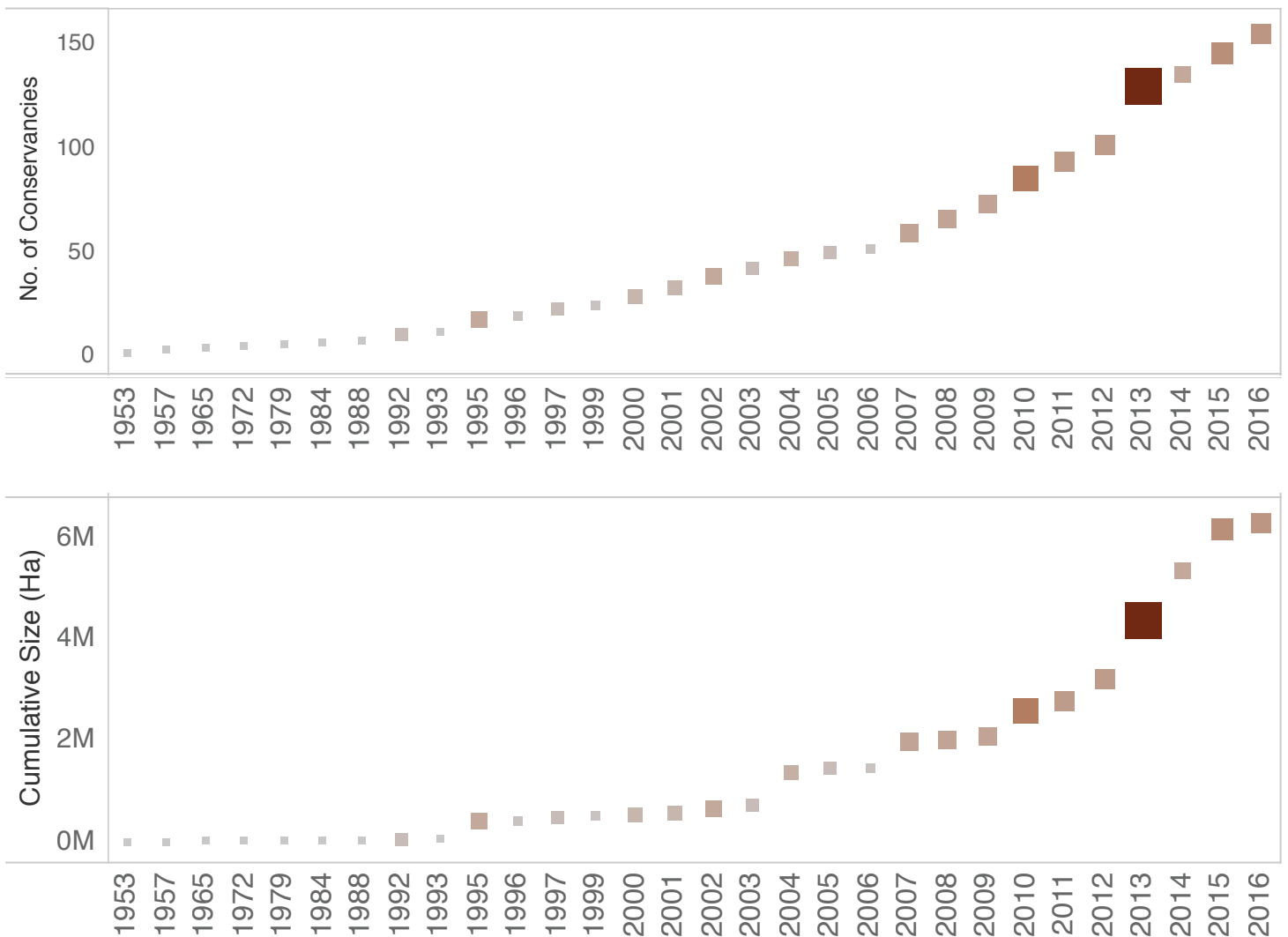


Figure 6: Growth of Conservancies in Kenya

1 King A. (2013). Conservancies in Kenya.

The foundations of the first private conservancies began in 1953 with Sergoit Farm. With the evolution of conservation policies, these ranching lands and farms, across the country were over time converted to conservancies.

Community conservancies were first established in 1984, with the formation of Kitirua, but it was the establishment of Kimana in 1992, Namunyak and Koiyaki Lemek

Wildlife Trust in 1995 and Il Ngwesi in 1996 that really catalyzed the growth of the community conservation model.

The first group conservancy established was Olchorro Oiroua Conservancy (6,903 Ha) in 1992. This was followed by Golini Mwaluganje (6,500 Ha) in 1993 and Ol Kinyei(6,629 Ha) in 2004. The growth of group conservancies peaked in the 2000's (Figure 7).

### Growth of Conservancies by Type

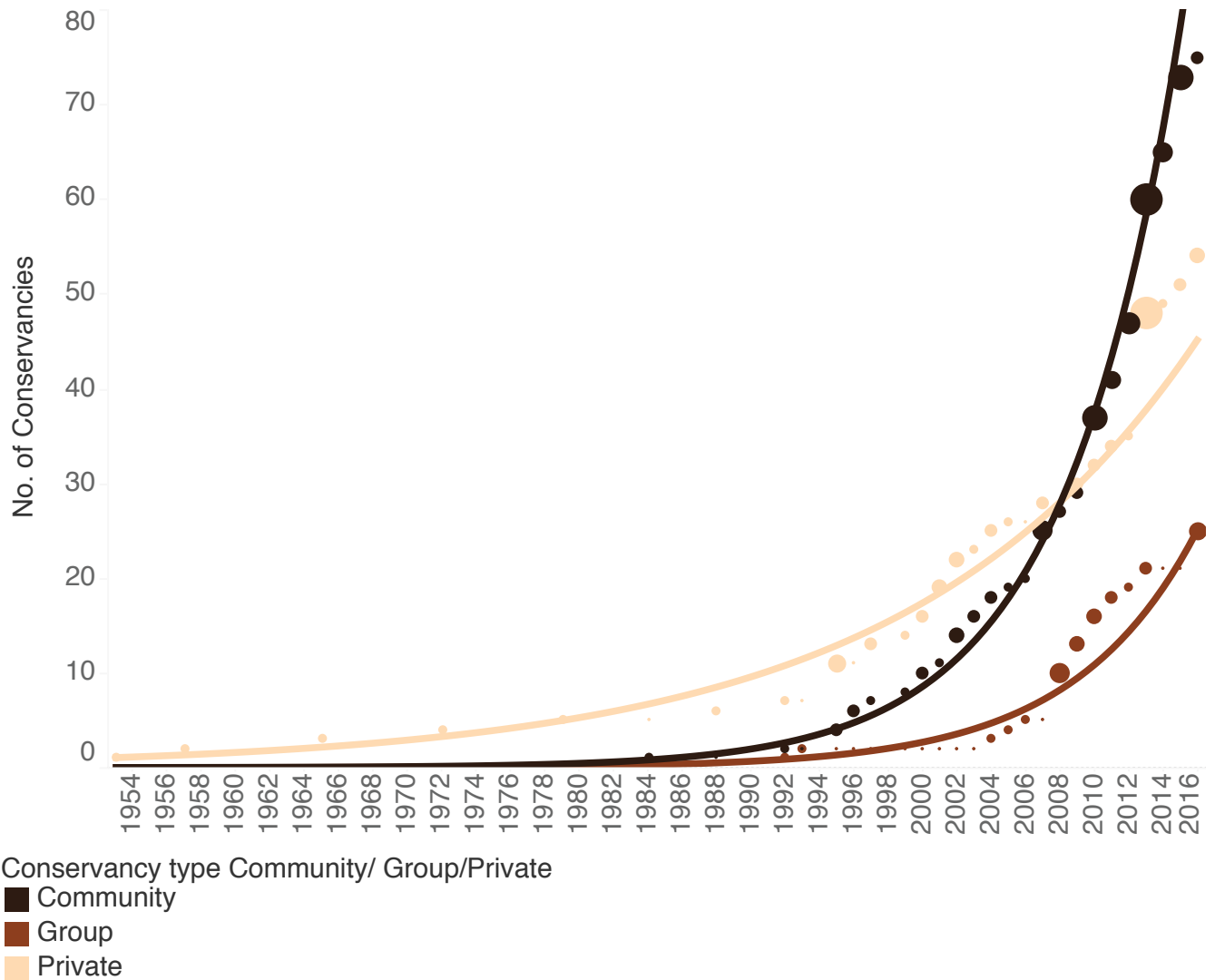


Figure 7: Cumulative Growth of Conservancies by Type.

Establishment of conservancies under the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT) umbrella has primarily driven the growth spike in the size of conservancies (Figure 6). This is because NRT utilizes a landscape approach classifying the entirety of the land as a conservancy

compared to other areas where solely core conservation areas are deemed as conservancies. However, conservancies such as Shompole also signify sizable conservancies in other parts of the country.



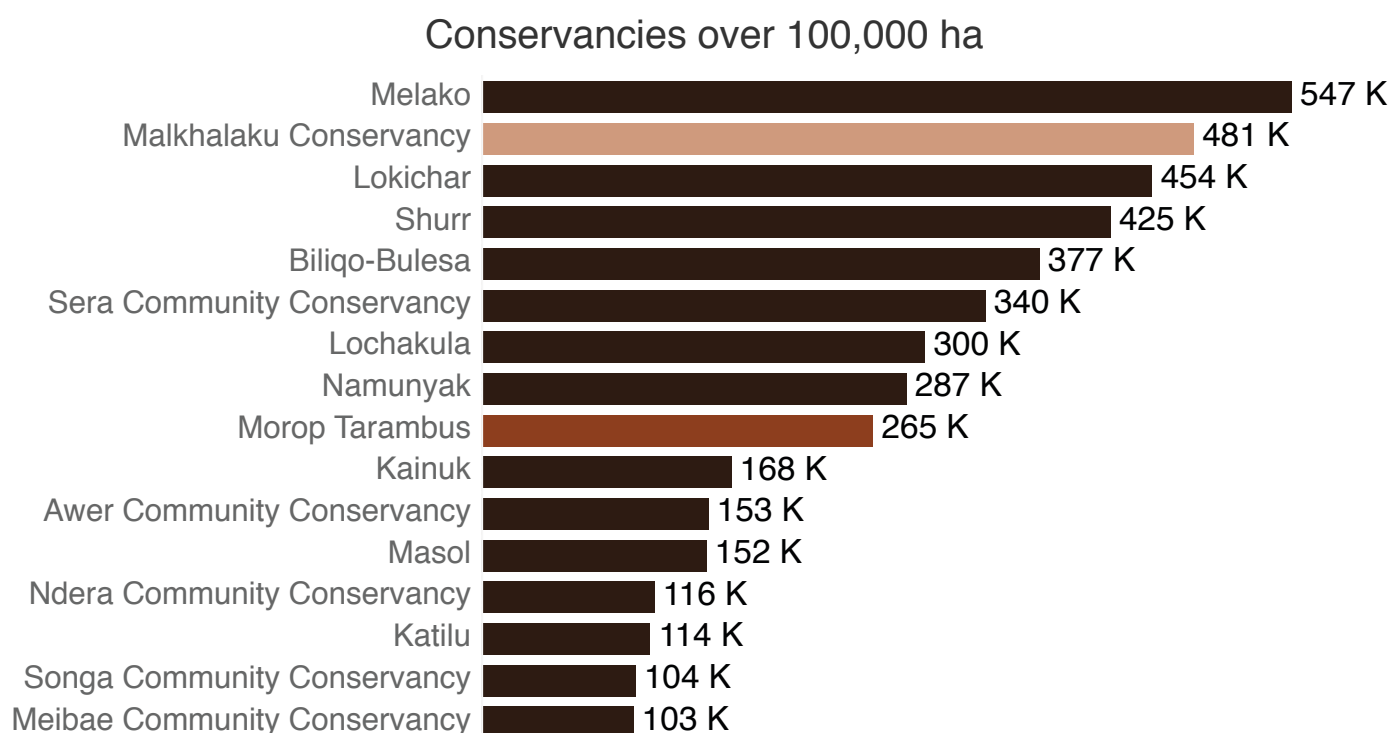
## The largest conservancies found are as follows:

| Conservancy            | Size (Ha)        | % of Total Size (Ha) |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Melako                 | 550,669          | 14%                  |
| Malkhalaku Conservancy | 480,830          | 9%                   |
| Lokichar               | 453,692          | 7%                   |
| Shurr                  | 419,071          | 7%                   |
| Biliqo-Bulesa          | 380,464          | 6%                   |
| <b>Total</b>           | <b>2,643,101</b> | <b>43%</b>           |

**Table 2:** Five Largest Conservancies

These amounts 43% of all total area covered by conservancies. Total area covered by the 16 conservancies over 100,000 Ha adds up to 4,616,000 Ha (75 % of total area covered by conservancies as shown in figure 8). Among the largest conservancies are the emerging conservancies in Turkana and West Pokot Counties.

Lokichar, Lochakula, Kainuk and Katilu in Turkana County experienced development challenges following the withdrawal of NRT in supporting establishment of these conservancies. This would represent a loss of 1,240,951 Ha of potential conservation land.



**Figure 8:** Conservancies covering over 100,000 Ha.

## Private Conservancies

Private ranches are mainly found in Laikipia (9 conservancies covering 156,494 Ha), Nakuru (15 conservancies covering 49,013 Ha) and Taita Taveta (25 conservancies covering 358,337 Ha). Laikipia Nature Conservancy (36,500 Ha) is the largest private conservancy followed by Ol Pejeta Wildlife Conservancy and Rukinga (34,398 Ha) form the largest private conservancies, with the smallest one being Lentolia Farm (44 Ha). Private conservancies in Laikipia county form 156,494 Ha of contiguous conservation landscapes, which is a tremendous effort for wildlife conservation from individual or corporate bodies.

## Group Conservancies

The largest group conservancy is Mara North (28,010 Ha), followed by Pardamat Conservation Area (25,992 Ha) and Mara Naboisho (21,472 Ha). Group conservancies in the Mara together add up to 170,131 Ha contiguous lands that are equal to the size of the Maasai Mara National Reserve. Group ranches should not be mistaken for group conservancies. In 1986, a presidential decree

allowing the subdivision of ranch land was issued. This led to division of community lands (group ranches), the subdivision process was driven by lack of transparency within group ranch management and inequitable distribution of revenues, especially in the Kajiado and Mara areas. Land subdivision combined with increasing population pressures created challenges for livestock movement, access to important resources such as water and salt licks, and selling of land. The desire to maintain pastoral livelihoods and establish tourism within these regions led to the formation of group conservancies, where landowners pool their land resources together to form a single conservancy.

## Community Conservancies

Melako 546,777 Ha is the largest community conservancy followed by Malkahalaku Conservancy (480,830 Ha) and Lokichar (453,659 Ha). The Oldonyo Waus within Imbirikani in Amboseli is the smallest community conservancy at 243 Ha. The largest contiguous community conservation area is found in the North, covering 3.9 Million Ha of community lands.

Distribution of Private, Community and Group Ranches

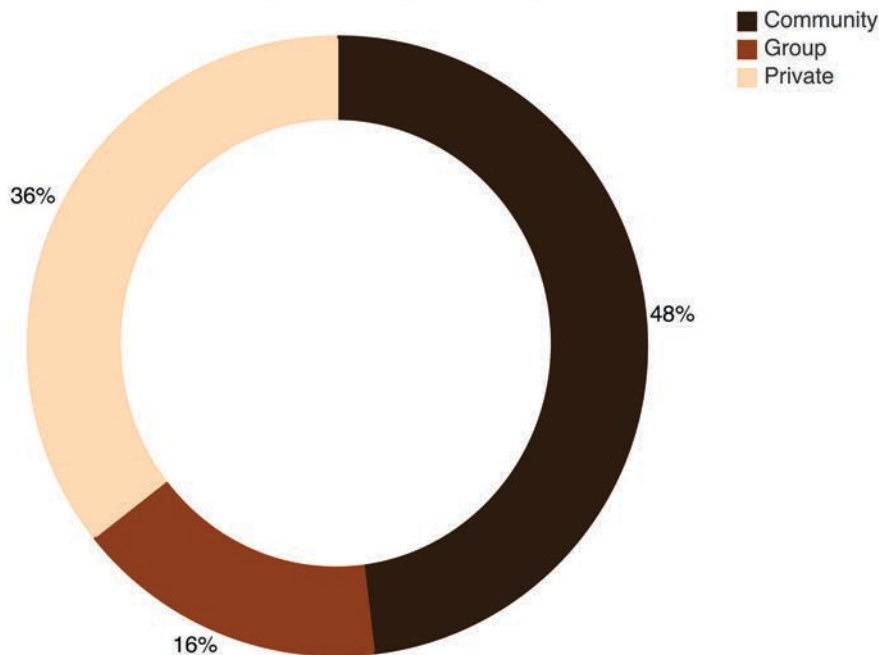


Figure 9: Types of Conservancies Registered under KWCA



## Conservancies Development Status

Today, there are 110 conservancies that are emerging while 41 are not fully operational and another 9 are proposed. (Figure 7) shows the proportion of each of these categories.

### Conservancy Status

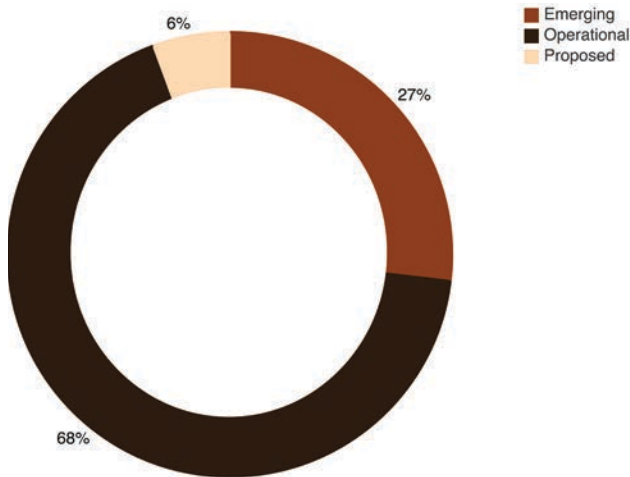


Figure 10: % of conservancies status

Sixty four percent (69%) of the conservancies are operational while twenty-four (25%) are emerging. An additional nine (6%) conservancies are proposed. The proposed conservancies are mainly in Western Kenya and the Athi Kapiti region

## Conservancy Types (Group, Community and Private)

Fifty four percent (54%) of the total number of conservancies is on community land, thirty two percent (32%) is on private land while 16% is group. Group conservancies are mainly found in the Mara region while Laikipia has the highest number of private conservancies.

### Conservancy Types

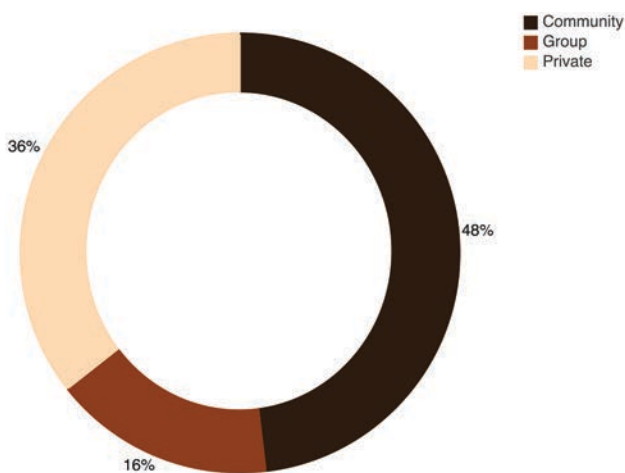


Figure 11: % of conservancies status by type

## Land area under Conservancy type

89% of the land under conservancies is on community land, the bulk of it being in the Samburu, Kajiado, Baringo, Isiolo, Marsabit, Garissa, Lamu and Turkana counties. Northern region has the highest number of hectares of community conservancies covering 5,595,202 Million Ha total land area under conservancies.

Community conservancies are essentially larger in size than the other two categories and have a much higher membership. Group conservancies only cover 3% of the total hectares covering 173,427 Ha.

Private conservancies cover 9% of the total land areas of conservancies at 542,458 Ha. Laikipia Wildlife Forum has the highest number of private conservancies.

### Distribution of Private, Community and Group

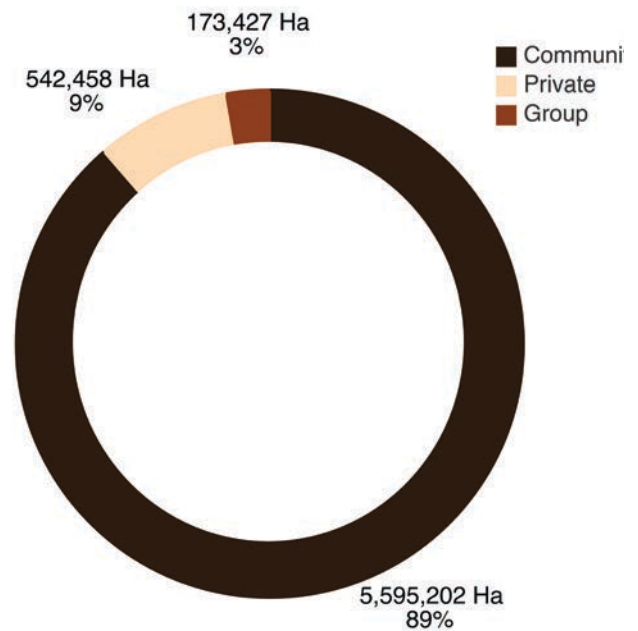


Figure 12: Land size (ha) & % of Conservancies by type

The conservancy momentum continues to grow especially in areas that are traditionally not wildlife areas such as in western Kenya. The key wildlife conservation counties such as Kajiado and Narok have more of the established conservancies.

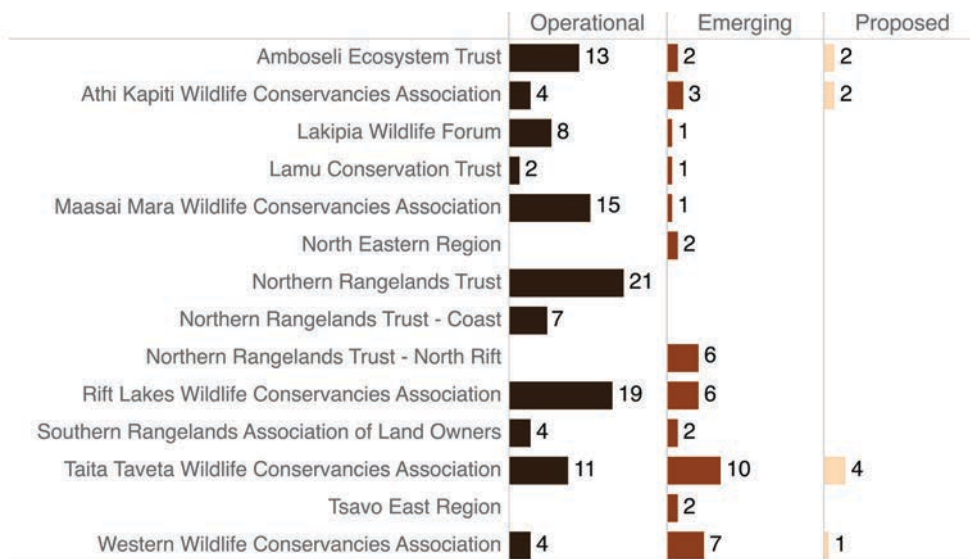


Figure 13: No. of Regional Conservancies by status

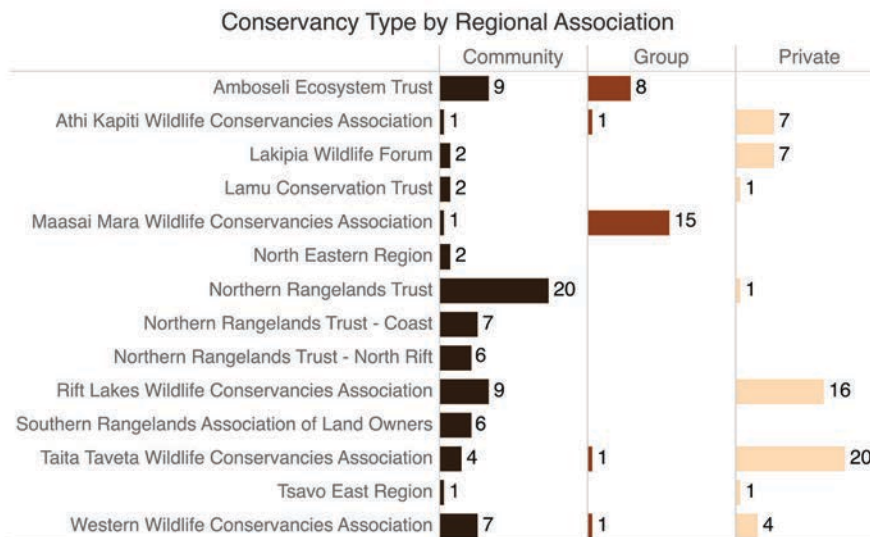


Figure 14 : Regional Conservancies by type

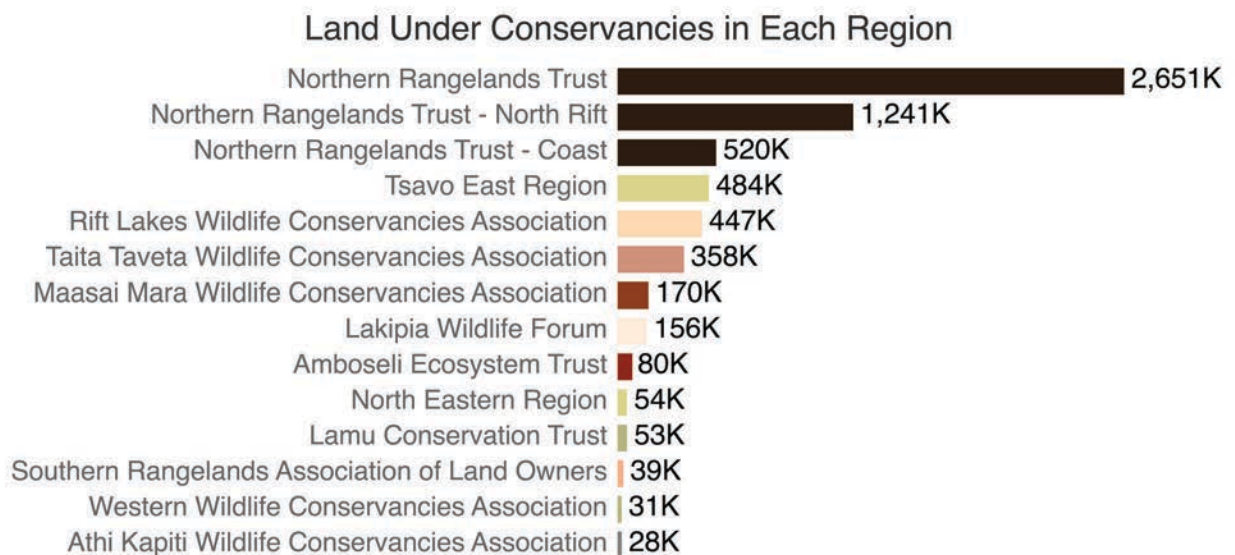


Figure 15: Total Conservancy Land area by Region



## Conservancies and Counties

Counties are central for ensuring the long-term sustainability of conservancies both in a technical and financial capacity. The conservancies also play a government role in planning and development, while helping counties achieve their development objectives.

Kajiado county hosts the highest number of conservancies (25), followed by Taita Taveta county (25) and Narok (16). Although Marsabit county only hosts 5 conservancies, these cover the largest extent (1.4 million Ha), followed by Turkana 1.04 million Ha in 4 conservancies, and Tana River 674,000 Ha in 4 conservancies (Figure 16).

No of Conservancies and Their Coverage Per County

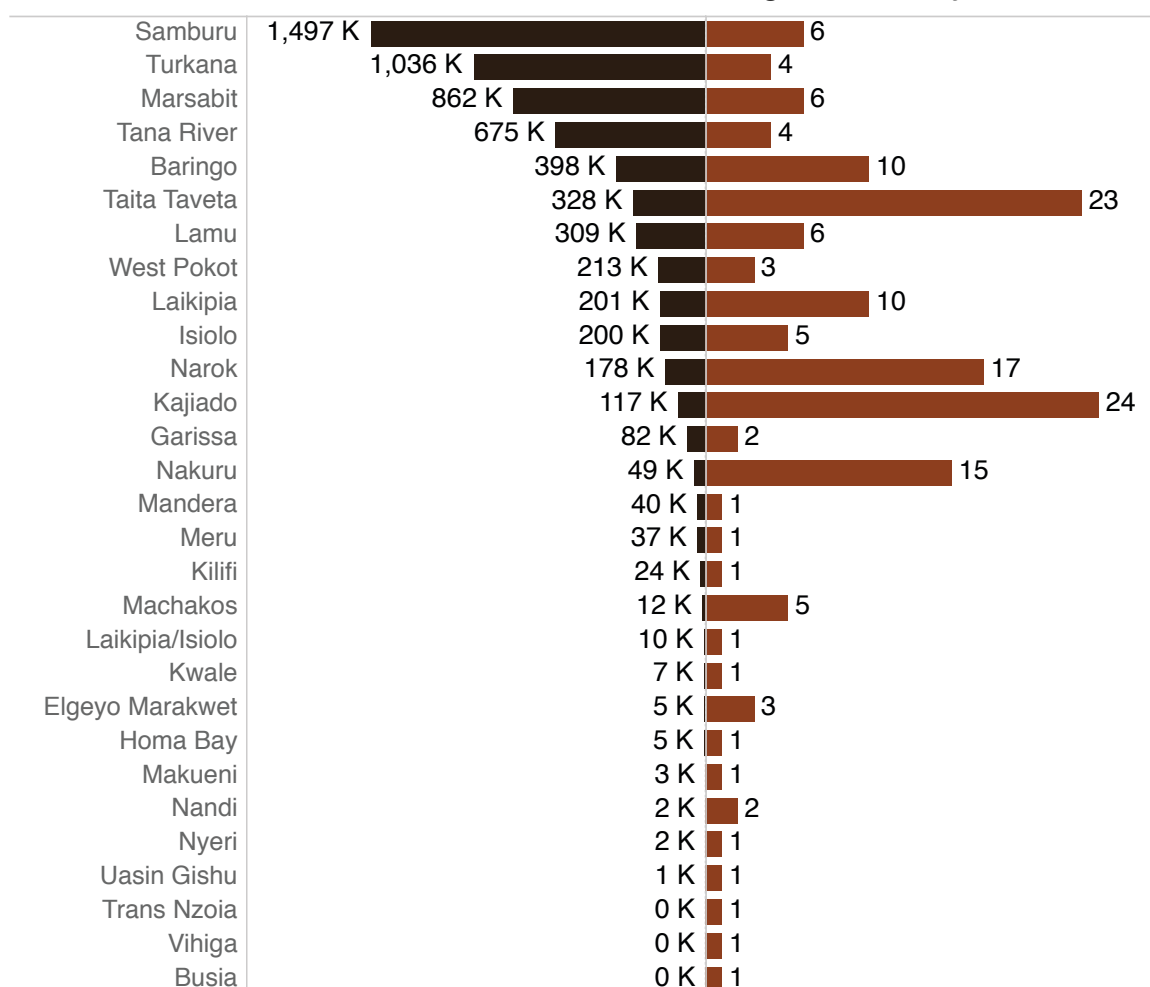


Figure 16: Conservancies by County

The following counties have provided immense support to conservancies in their county

- Baringo County has developed a community conservation bill, which was passed in 2015. This bill is directed to provide annual financial support to conservancies.
- Samburu County government has been providing infrastructure development grants of Ksh 2 million to each of the five community conservancies in their county since 2014. They have also developed a revenue sharing agreement with Westgate and

Kalama conservancies on income earned from Samburu National Reserve. These monies provided to the two conservancies are to be divided in a 60-40% arrangement with 60% to be applied to community programs and 40% for operations. A mechanism has been established for each conservancy to draw a grant proposal to the county for any other project e.g. rangeland rehabilitation, vehicle purchases and other forms of support. Additionally, Samburu County has established the following conservancies under their banner:

1. **Kirisia conservation area**
2. **Malaso conservation area**
3. **Baragoi conservation area**
4. **Nyiro conservation area**
5. **Ndoto conservation area**

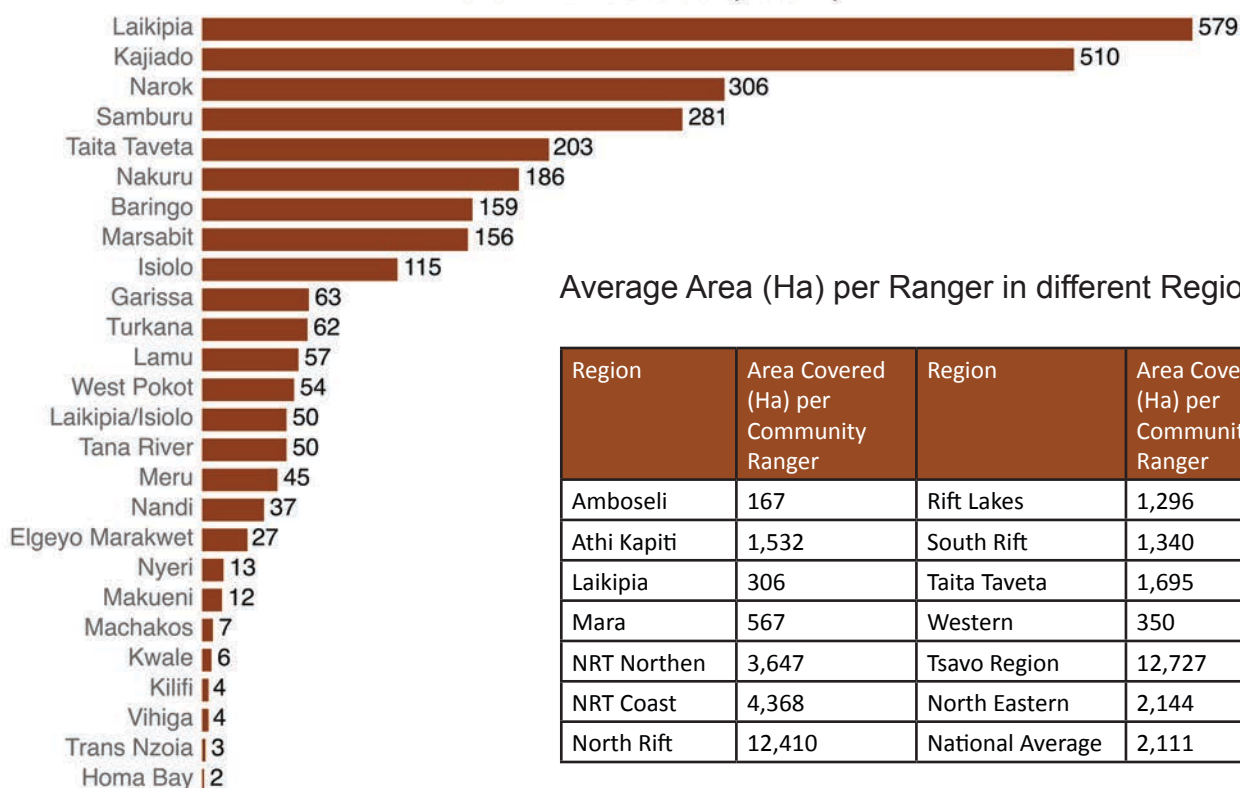
- In 2015, The Narok County Government passed a bill to create a Community Support Fund where 19% of Maasai Mara National Reserve income is shared with the community around the reserve and the county. 50% of the funds are allocated to the communities that belong to the wards that border the reserve. This encourages communities to host wildlife and offsets costs associated with wildlife. The rest shared by communities in the entire county. The funds are managed by a select committee and utilized to support community development needs.
- Tana River County supports the Malkahalaku conservancy through board representation and advocacy on the county platform.
- KWS, although not a county, also provides KES 20 million annually in the Amboseli area to support bursaries. They have also supported the training

of 1102 rangers at Manyani, contributed to the development of the Amboseli Ecosystem Plan (the only such management plan to be gazetted) and supported a Social and Economic Assessment in the Amboseli region, the first such one done in the country.

## Conservancy Rangers

KWCA in partnership with KWS has developed Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for wildlife scouts (conservancy rangers) to standardise security operations and management of rangers within conservancies. Out of the 2,991 conservancy rangers working in conservancies, 1,102 have undergone ranger training at the KWS Law Enforcement Academy. 579 conservancy rangers operate in Laikipia county, 400 in Kajiado and 306 in Narok Counties (Figure 17). KWCA has also played a central role in circulating and supporting conservancy rangers' trainings and ensuring that they are recognized within the security regulations of the Wildlife Act 2013. KWCA works with the organizations listed in Table 4 to coordinate and support the scout network. An estimated annual income of Kshs 45 Million is earned by the rangers employed in conservancies. Conservancies are a good source of jobs for youth majority of whom do not have formal education to access employment in formal sectors.

No. of Wildlife Scouts by County



Average Area (Ha) per Ranger in different Regions

| Region      | Area Covered (Ha) per Community Ranger | Region           | Area Covered (Ha) per Community Ranger |
|-------------|--|------------------|--|
| Amboseli    | 167                                    | Rift Lakes       | 1,296                                  |
| Athi Kapiti | 1,532                                  | South Rift       | 1,340                                  |
| Laikipia    | 306                                    | Taita Taveta     | 1,695                                  |
| Mara        | 567                                    | Western          | 350                                    |
| NRT Northen | 3,647                                  | Tsavo Region     | 12,727                                 |
| NRT Coast   | 4,368                                  | North Eastern    | 2,144                                  |
| North Rift  | 12,410                                 | National Average | 2,111                                  |



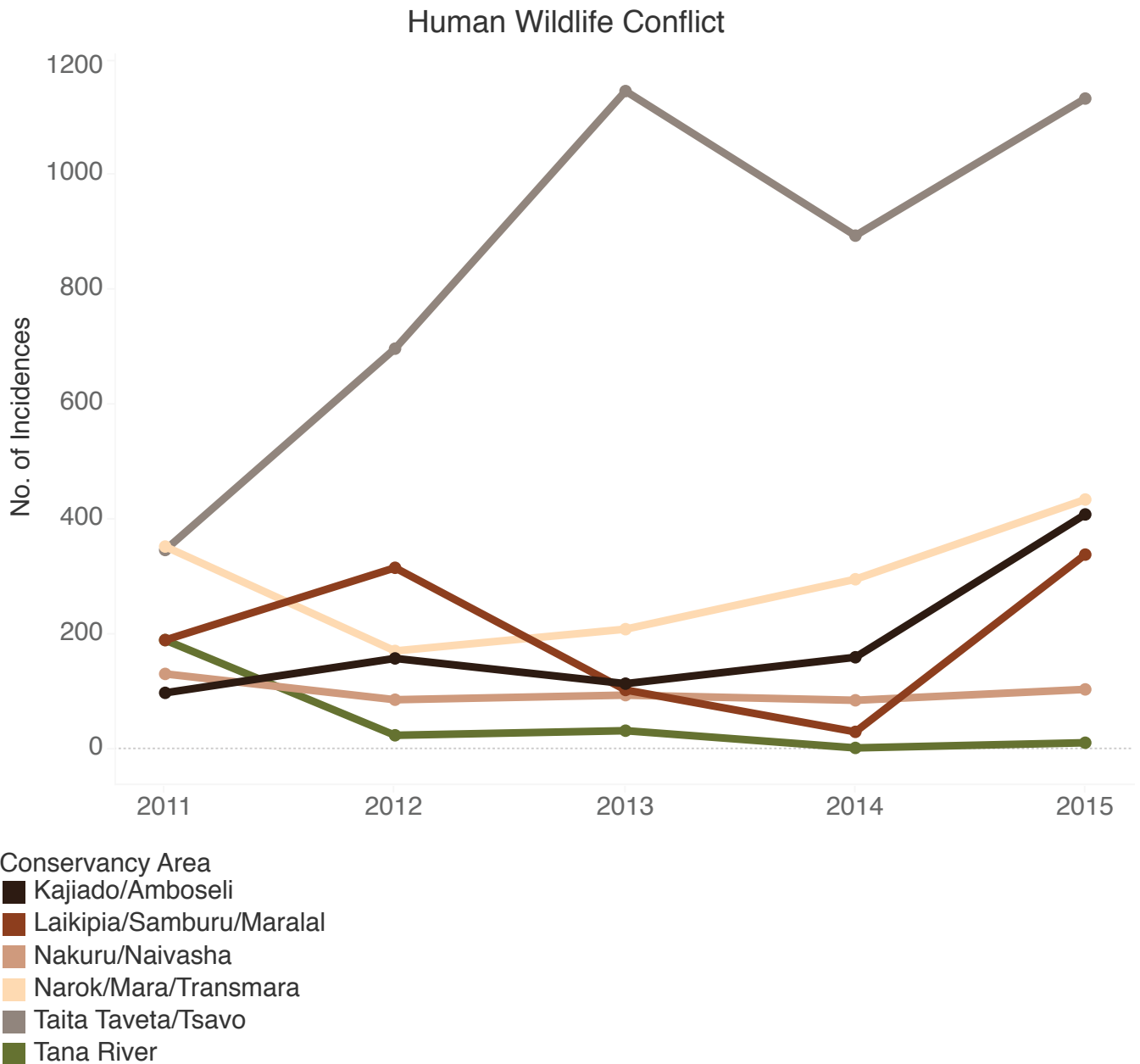
| Organization                                    | No. of Scouts | Supporting Agencies            | Nature of Support   |
|---|---------------|--------------------------------|---|
| Amboseli Ecosystem Trust                        | 476           | MWCT                           | Coordination and management of the game scouts and their operations within Kuku group ranch.  |
|   |               | Big Life Foundation            | Coordination and management of the game scouts and their operations within Imbirikani, Olgulului, Rombo & Kimana group ranches  |
|   |               | Kenya Wildlife Service         | Training and collaboration in law enforcement   |
|   |               | IFAW                           | Financial supports to scouts in the Kitenden Wildlife corridor those working with Big Life Foundation.  |
|   |               | ACC, AWF,                      | Ecosystem planning, capacity building, rangers support,   |
|   |               | The Wildlife Foundation        | Supporting establishment of Naretunoi conservancy   |
| Athi-Kapiti Wildlife Conservancies Association  | 18            | Machakos ranches               | Dispersal areas for the Athi Kaputiei ecosystem   |
| Lakipia Wildlife Forum                          | 512           | Lakipia Wildlife Forum         | Coordination and management of conservation activities in a holistic approach especially in rangelands, water resources & wildlife etc.   |
| Lamu Conservation Trust                         |               | David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust | Vetinary, training, community mobilization, fundraising   |
| Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association  | 300           | WWF                            | Training and conservancy development  |
|   |               | The Nature Conservancy         | Ecosystem planning, capacity building to MMWCA  |
| Northern Rangelands Trust                       | 727           | USAID                          | Institutional capacity building, monitoring, Development and use of WILD, financial support, conservancy strengthening  |
|   |               | Northern Rangelands Trust      | Resource mobilization and capacity building for their members. They also coordinate and manage activities on governance, wildlife & conservation, rangelands management, security and peace.                      |
|   |               | Conservancies                  | Rangers employment  |
| Southern Rangelands Association of Land Owners  | 29            | ACC, KWS                       | Coordinate and support scouts for south rift  |
| Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association | 225           | TTECI                          | Coordination  |
| Tsavo Conservation Group                        | 26            | Tsavo Conservation Group       | Supporting activities like the investigation on settlements & population growth impacts on the ecosystem, support establishment and operation of Malkahalaku conservancy, ranger training and land use management |
| Western Wildlife Conservancies Association      | 89            |                                |   |
| North Eastern                                   | 25            |                                |   |
| <b>Total</b>                                    | <b>2,991</b>  |                                |   |

**Table 3:** Scout Network and Supporting Organizations

## Human Wildlife Conflicts

HWC is a major threat to wildlife conservation and conservancies since wildlife species causing conflict are attacked and killed by affected persons. The conflicts continue to increase on lands outside most protected areas (KWS) with high incidences reported in the Taita Taveta/Tsavo; the Mara (Transmara and Narok); the

Amboseli and Laikipia/Samburu/Maralal region. (Figure 18) below gives an indication of the Number of conflicts reported to KWS from 2011 -2015. An average annual increase of 86% of HWC have been reported to KWS. This is high considering many cases go unreported.



**Figure 18: Human wildlife conflict trends**

<sup>4</sup> KWS HWC Data Base



## Conservancies Contribution to Wildlife Conservation

A study published in 2016 by Ogutu et al., used DRSRS aerial survey data to depict wildlife densities and trends across the country. It indicated that almost 30% of the wildlife found in Kenya was hosted in Narok county. The proportion of national wildlife populations between 1977 and 2016 were also found to substantially increase in Laikipia and Taita Taveta counties. Within the southern

rangelands, data indicates that an average of 56% of wildlife population is found outside of national parks and reserves (Table 4). These studies depict the importance of these counties and regions for conservancy development and wildlife conservation. The study also reports a national annual population decline of 68% between 1977-2016.

| County               | Protected Area                    | Species    | Inside         |         |        | Outside        |         |           | County    |         |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|----------------|---------|--------|----------------|---------|-----------|-----------|---------|
|                      |                                   |            | Pop. Est.      | Density | % (In) | Pop. Est.      | Density | % (Out)   | % (In)    | % (out) |
| Narok                | Masai Mara NR                     | Elephant   | 1059           | 0.61    | 38     | 1721           | 0.11    | 62        | 35        | 65      |
|                      |                                   | Wildebeest | 92735          | 53.02   | 55     | 74502          | 4.64    | 45        | -         | -       |
|                      |                                   | Zebra      | 16986          | 9.71    | 31     | 38361          | 2.39    | 69        | -         | -       |
|                      |                                   | Giraffe    | 317            | 0.18    | 16     | 1712           | 0.11    | 84        | -         | -       |
| Kajiado              | Amboseli NP and Chyulu Hills NP   | Elephant   | 362            | 0.5     | 25     | 1061           | 0.05    | 75        | 20        | 80      |
|                      |                                   | Wildebeest | 5538           | 7.59    | 26     | 15483          | 0.72    | 74        | -         | -       |
|                      |                                   | Zebra      | 5186           | 7.11    | 16     | 27402          | 1.27    | 84        | -         | -       |
|                      |                                   | Giraffe    | 532            | 0.73    | 10     | 4601           | 0.21    | 90        | -         | -       |
| Machakos and Makueni | Tsavo West NP and Ngai Ndethya NR | Elephant   | 66             | 0.1     | 72     | 26             | 0.002   | 28        | 7         | 93      |
|                      |                                   | Wildebeest | -              | -       | -      | 2313           | 0.17    | 100       | -         | -       |
|                      |                                   | Zebra      | 276            | 0.43    | 10     | 2497           | 0.19    | 90        | -         | -       |
|                      |                                   | Giraffe    | 79             | 0.12    | 13     | 547            | 0.04    | 87        | -         | -       |
| Kitui                | Tsavo East NP and Kitui South NR  | Elephant   | 1306           | 0.16    | 92     | 109            | 0.005   | 8         | 77        | 23      |
|                      |                                   | Zebra      | 1478           | 0.18    | 91     | 148            | 0.01    | 9         | -         | -       |
|                      |                                   | Giraffe    | 1727           | 0.21    | 62     | 1079           | 0.05    | 38        | -         | -       |
| Taita-Taveta         | Tsavo East and West NP            | Elephant   | 6501           | 0.62    | 81     | 1488           | 0.22    | 19        | 75        | 25      |
|                      |                                   | Zebra      | 8108           | 0.78    | 73     | 3036           | 0.45    | 27        | -         | -       |
|                      |                                   | Giraffe    | 1203           | 0.12    | 58     | 875            | 0.13    | 42        | -         | -       |
| Tana-River           | Tsavo East NP                     | Elephant   | 521            | 0.18    | 83     | 109            | 0.003   | 17        | 21        | 71      |
|                      |                                   | Zebra      | 1056           | 0.36    | 34     | 2063           | 0.06    | 66        | -         | -       |
|                      |                                   | Giraffe    | 381            | 0.13    | 12     | 2690           | 0.07    | 88        | -         | -       |
| <b>Total</b>         |                                   |            | <b>145,417</b> |         |        | <b>181,822</b> |         | <b>44</b> | <b>56</b> |         |

**Table 4:** Wildlife Distributions inside and outside of parks in 2012

## Conservancies Contribution to Protecting Endangered species

In addition to supporting large numbers of wildlife, conservancies are hosts to global populations of some of the worlds most endangered species such as the Black and White Rhinos, Grevy's Zebra, Hirola, Wild Dog, Giraffes and Elephants.

### Rhinos

In 2011, Kenya held 623 (80.3%) of the wild population of the eastern black rhino sub-species with the rest of this subspecies found in northern Tanzania. According to the Kenya Rhino Conservation and Management Strategy for the period 2012-2016, the distribution of the Rhino population in the Country was as follows:

- Private lands 280 (45%)
- County Government - 36 (6%),
- State lands - 303 (49%)
- Community land – 1 (0%)

Laikipia Conservancies (Lewa, Olpejeta, Ol Jogi, Ilingwesi, Solio)

hold the most significant black rhino population in Kenya. Due to risks associated with the conservation of the rhinos, two conservancies - Mugie and Laikipia Nature Conservancies ceased being rhino Sanctuaries.

Laikipia conservancies also hold 72% of Kenya's white rhino population. Despite the challenge of conserving the rhinos, Sera Conservancy in Samburu County started a rhino sanctuary, a re-introduction of the species for the first time on community lands. It currently has a breeding population of 10.



Photo: KWCA

### Grevy's Zebra

Kenya hosts 90% (2,546) of the global population of wild Grevy's Zebra, with the rest (281) being found in Ethiopia (KWS, 2012). The Grevy's range is found in the northern Kenyan counties of Laikipia, Samburu, Isiolo and Marsabit. The global population has had a serious decline since 1977 when the population was estimated at 15,000. The Samburu and Shaba Game reserves protect this species, with the rest of the population now found in surrounding conservancies.

A citizen science based census conducted in 2016 identified 2,350 unique individuals distributed as follows:

- Isiolo - 268
- Samburu - 429
- Marsabit - 75
- Laikipia - 1,206
- Meru – 332

The Samburu and Laikipia populations were shown to be growing, followed by Isiolo and Marsabit. Meru populations were determined to have lower recruits attributed to Lion predation. Conservancies in these regions have played a central role in the re-bounce of the population by creating open spaces for Grevy zebra and their habitat allowing for seasonal movement of these endangered species.



Photo: KWCA



Photo: KWCA

### Hirola

Kenya holds the entire remaining global population (245-400) of the Hirola, with 90% being found on community lands. The species occurs in northern Kenya in the counties of Garissa, Lamu and Tana River. Local communities in Ijara constituency of Garissa County have made efforts geared towards conserving this rare

antelope through the Ishaqbini Hirola Community Conservancy. Within the conservancy, a 3000 Ha sanctuary has been established. In 2012, 48 Hirola were translocated into it with numbers increasing to 97 in 2015. The sanctuary has helped voice the plight of the animal and provided a platform to understand and protect it.



## Conserving Big Cats

Lion, Leopard and Cheetah populations are found in relatively large numbers within conservancies. A recent survey in the Mara revealed a density of 16.85 lions of over 1 year of age per 100Km. It has also been noted that Naboisho Conservancy has one of the highest densities of lions (60 animals in 209 sq. km) in Africa. In Laikipia County, the lion population is estimated at 250 animals (15% of the national population). It also harbors the 6th largest population of the wild dogs globally and the 3rd largest population of cheetahs in the wild in Kenya.

In another study conducted on cheetahs in the Mara, adult cheetah density was estimated to be between 1.28 and 1.34 individuals per 100sq. km. This is higher than the density observed anywhere else in Africa.



Photo: Basecamp Explorer



Photo: Angela & Jonathan Scott



## Contribution of Conservancies to Tourism

Tourism is one of the Economic Pillars of Kenya's Vision 2030 Blue print. The Conservancies play a critical role of securing the dispersal areas for large mammals such as the elephants, wildebeests, and zebras among others. This indirectly ensures that the value of the key wildlife parks and reserves is preserved. In the greater Mara ecosystem, conservancies whose land use is compatible with wildlife ensure that the MMNR considered "the Jewel in Crown of Kenya tourism" is safeguarded. In Laikipia, conservancies on both private and community lands are a refuge for endangered and critically endangered species such as the Grevy Zebra (about 60% of the National population; the Hirola (over 70%) and significant numbers of the big cats (cheetahs, lions and wild dogs). These species are critical in attracting tourists

Most conservancies promote ecotourism, a niche product that is environmentally conscious and that has an explicit objective of improving livelihoods of the local people; thus, contributing more towards rural development and poverty alleviation. In addition, 80% of the total number of visitors to Kenya have been concentrated in 7 out of the country's 26 parks and reserves with the rest being

underutilized. In this regard, conservancies are playing the following critical roles:

- They provide a complementary and alternative tourism product that eases pressure from parks and reserves such as in the Mara and Amboseli;
- They have helped diversity the tourism product and quality as envisaged in the Vision 2030.
- In regions with very few parks and reserves such as in Nakuru and Laikipia Counties, conservancies are providing additional bed capacity.

In total, conservancies have about one and fourteen (114) camps/lodges with a total of two thousand three hundred and ninety-seven (2,397) beds spread throughout the Country (see Table 5 below). Many of the conservancies especially in north (Samburu, Marsabit, Baringo, Turkana, Isiolo, Lamu, Garissa) do not yet have any tourism facilities owing the various factors including insecurity. However, the natural resource base is well preserved awaiting an opportune time for development of ecotourism.



Photo: Basecamp Explorer

| RA            | No. conservancies | No. of eco lodges/camps | No. of beds  | No. of Jobs  | Total Incomes |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| AET           | 18                | 10                      | 112          | 568          | -             |
| MMWCA         | 19                | 42                      | 817          | 1,301        | -             |
| SORALO        | 9                 | 1                       | 14           | 51           | -             |
| LWF           | 9                 | 35                      | 484          | 1250         | -             |
| NRT (all)     | 33                | 6                       | 83           | 845          | 58,841,746    |
| RLWCA         | 29                | 36                      | 327          | 225          | -             |
| TTWCA         | 19                | 6                       | 518          | -            | -             |
| TCG           | 2                 | -                       | -            | -            | -             |
| LCT           | 2                 | -                       | -            | 40           | -             |
| AKWCA         | 10                | -                       | -            | -            | -             |
| Western       | 13                | 6                       | 42           | -            | -             |
| <b>Totals</b> | <b>163</b>        | <b>142</b>              | <b>2,397</b> | <b>4,280</b> |               |

**Table 5:** Distribution of tourism facilities in Conservancies by Region



## Women participation in Conservancies

Conservation is based on land. In community lands (formerly group ranches and Trust lands) where land is held and owned by male heads of households, women and youth are largely excluded in both conservancy management and benefit sharing. In the rangelands where most conservancies are found, women are resource dependent and constitute the largest resource users. Exclusion of women and youth in resource management is due to land ownership structures and cultural barriers resulting in unequal distribution of conservancy benefits impacting women and more so female headed households. Conservancies as community institutions are increasingly taking steps to address this inequality. Although this are early steps, progress is being made in targeting conservancy based women empowerment enterprise projects and further by enlisting women in conservancy management, leadership

and benefit sharing. Two conservancies are currently ably chaired by women chairpersons and eight women conservancy managers.

Women are also undertaking various activities that empower them financially. These includes making of beadwork sold locally and abroad. NRT Trading program in Westgate, Kalama and Melako conservancies, participated in overseeing the production and quality control of the beadwork in which 624 women<sup>2</sup> benefitted from the business. Other women projects include; Naboisho conservancy community managed microfinance supported by basecamp foundation involving over 100 women, Maa Trust women beadwork project supporting 430 women from Olare Motorogi and Naboisho conservancies<sup>2</sup> and Lale' Enok training centre in Olkiramatian conservancy supported by SORALO



Photo: KWCA

<sup>2</sup> NRT State of Conservancies Report 2015

<sup>3</sup> <http://themaatrust.org/maa-beadwork/>





Photo: KWCA

## Conservancies Contribution to Community Development

Most of the Counties that are richly endowed with wildlife have some of the highest poverty indices and very limited opportunities for sustainable and reasonable livelihoods. In addition, each region may have a variety of factors that impede social economic development such as rampant insecurity heightened by banditry and cattle rustling. In Kenya's northern rangelands, communities in 19 conservancies have better access to pasture and water

across 4.9 million Ha of secure land, resulting in less community conflicts and less human wildlife conflicts. At the same time, conservancies have brought in 4,800 new jobs to local communities and women are earning income from beadwork and curios as well as running cultural centers/museums. In addition, most of the regions, children of conservancy members are given education bursaries from revenue collected from conservancy fees or from conservation philanthropy used to establish and/or support access to better schools, health clinics, water supply projects and general improvement of road infrastructure



Photo: Tsavo Con



## Conservancies Contribution to Livestock Management

Traditionally, pastoral communities have always shifted livestock from one area to another to have access to water and pastures throughout the year. The wetter areas including wetlands would provide the dry season grazing refuge. Wildlife movements similarly follow the same pattern. Shifting as described allows for pastures to recover. Encroachment by farming communities into these areas that were predominately pastoral lands and increased human settlements is contributing to rangelands degradation. Land degradation has been recognized as a main reason why pastoral communities graze their livestock within the parks and reserves during periods of droughts as well as being a major cause of resource use conflicts (pasture and water) prevalent in these wildlife areas often with debilitating effects.

Holistic Management is an intervention employed to stem off rangeland degradation in some of the conservancies in the following regions: Maasai Mara, Laikipia, NRT, Amboseli and Taita Taveta. Holistic Management is a decision-making framework principally aimed improving the ecological integrity of rangelands as well as enhancing the financial and social economic well-being of the local communities. Conservancy/grazing areas are divided into grazing blocks for which management plans are prepared. The plans define the number of animals per block and the appropriate duration per rotation bearing in mind the annual wet and dry seasons. Grazing committees, working in collaboration with professionally trained herdsmen ensure the implementation of the plans. A common practice employed is bunched grazing (many cattle grazing together and acting as a plough while at the same time fertilizing the land as they graze as

well as ensuring there is uniform grazing within a block). This approach has enhanced the amount of palatable foliage and soil conservation. Other aspects of Holistic Management include paddocking, rearing fewer but better livestock, fattening and market oriented ranching.

Creating better access to markets for livestock is particularly important in the remote pastoral areas, and investing in markets also helps in branding livestock products as conservation friendly. For many Conservancies livestock is the primary form of income generation (for households and the Conservancy itself), ahead of tourism, and coexistence of livestock and wildlife is a model promoted by almost all Conservancies. Livestock management may include many options e.g.

- livestock owned and managed by the Conservancy;
- grazing of Community livestock on Private Conservancies (revenue generated from grazing fees);
- purchase of Community livestock through use of revolving fund: profits from sales generate revenue for the Conservancy;
- slaughter and sale of livestock products (Conservancy owned slaughter house)

Some Private Conservancies have invested in slaughter houses and cover all aspects of livestock marketing. Improved livestock production through interventions in health and breeding are more commonly used in Private Conservancies. This could be promoted in Group and Community Conservancies.



Photo: Juliet King



## Chapter 2 : Governance Arrangements in Conservancies

*“Today, conservancies are diverse, both in size and governance structure. This diversity has put Kenya in the global map as an African leader on community based conservation. Each day our conservancies are featured in newspapers and magazines across the globe while at the same time they have become a topic of discussion and area of research among local and international academicians”*

*Tom Lalampaa, Chairperson, Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association*



Photo: Ron Geatz



## Governance Structures and Institutional Arrangements

One of the strengths of the conservancy movement in Kenya is the diversity of institutional arrangements and governance structures. The diverse models are dependent on land ownership, traditional community setups and Motivations driving the establishment of a conservancy. Motivation for setting up a conservancy vary and include; creating a communal livestock grazing area, improving livelihoods, creating access to social services, promoting tourism, enhancing security and clarifying land tenure, while committing to conserving and managing wildlife. Forming a conservancy maybe an internal initiative of the community or externally influenced by a conservation NGO, tourism investors or government agencies.

The first step to creating legitimacy of conservancies is registering them as legal entities. Registration limits liability of owners, establishes better governance structures, creates avenues for fund-raising and increases accountability and transparency and reduces conflict. Each registration option offers its own advantages and disadvantages. Conservancies have utilized the following legal registration options:-

1. Community Based Organization or Self Help Group
2. Society
3. Cooperative
4. Trust
5. Private Company (Limited by Shares or Guarantee)
6. Public Benefit Organization (or Non Governmental Organization).

The **Legal structure** of a conservancy is influenced by who owns the land, controls or has decision-making responsibilities for management. This can be complex with leasing agreements, land holding companies, and land management companies creating a network of linkages with benefits flowing and decisions being driven by various stakeholders.

**Operational management** operational management of a conservancy vary, either those hired directly by the landowners (or their organization) or by a management company with a management agreement to carry out daily operations and activities. The complexity of the management structure is dependent on the level of funding, conservancy size, activities, and wildlife existence and threats in the landscape. However, at the most sophisticated level these follow a corporate business hierarchy with stakeholder-led boards, managers and staff (administrative and programmatic).

● **Private conservancies:** Conservancies under this category own or manage land under leasehold or freehold. The area under control maybe run by single individuals or families, non-profit organizations or corporates. The more popular avenues of governing private conservancies in Kenya include leasing the land to conservation NGOs, non-profit private companies, and for-profit private companies or managed by owners themselves. Each determines how boards are structured, staff employed, fund-raising and financial sustainability, transparency, costs and political power is established creating strengths and weakness within individual options. It should be highlighted that the governance approach is contextual and determined by various other factors. Conservancies in Laikipia and Nakuru Counties are good examples of this model.

● **Group conservancies:** These follow similar arrangements to private conservancies and are commonly registered as Private-Landholding companies co-owned by all landowners. The management of the conservancy is then determined by the registered private-landholding company, or through a joint-management company with tourism investors, or through a contracted management company. Board members within each tier are democratically elected and a representative population of each stakeholder group nominated. Benefits often flow through a trust to maintain transparency and equity. Mara conservancies in Narok County are a good example of this model.

---

*The first step to creating legitimacy of conservancies is registering them as legal entities to carry operations. Registration limits liability of owners, establishes better governance structures, creates avenues for fund-raising and increases accountability and transparency.*

### Case Example: Olare Motorogi Conservancy (OMC) Model

Where land is privately owned, such as in parts of Narok County, the land owners have come together and formed a “Land Owners” Company whose objective is to build consensus on issues affecting them; as well as entering to contracts with tourism partners.

Tourism partners operating ecotourism facilities within the conservancy also form a tour operators company that helps them push forward their interests with the land owners.

Management Board constituted by representatives Land owners and Tour Operators Company; (oversee the operations of the conservancy and ensures that the interests of each party have been met and the conservancy is managed satisfactorily).

- Individual land owners sign leases with either the landholding company, or tourism partners (the current duration extends for a period of 15 years with an option to renew for a second term of 15 years, while some land owners still retain 5 year leases).
- Registration of each land lease with the Ministry of Lands ensures security of tenure for the conservancy
- Sustainable livestock management (reduction in herd sizes, rotational grazing is practised to fit wildlife and livestock conservation model).
- The local community provides security services through community scouts. They also enforce conservancy management rules grazing plans
- A Trust for channeling donor and individual funds established (trust funds are used for social economic development projects).

● **Community Conservancies:** Communities are the dominant decision-makers and enforcers. They democratically elect a representative board from the community. Ex-officio board members from KWS, conservation and tourism partners also hold a seat on the board. Sub-committees on finance, grazing, and tourism may be established to drive

strategic plans and oversight. Boards elected at AGMs determine benefit-sharing mechanisms, drive strategic development of the conservancy and oversee operational management. The Northern Rangelands Trust supported Conservancies in Samburu, Isiolo and Marsabit Counties are a good example of this model.

### Case Example of Northern Rangelands Trust Conservancies

The typical management structure of a conservancy generally has the following features:

- Managed by a Community Conservancy Board (CCB) constituted of elected members from the traditional community structure within the group ranch;
- In addition, each has 1 representative from NRT;
- For conservancies that transcend more than (1) designated group ranch, representatives are drawn from each of the groups.
- Ex-officio members such as the Member of Parliament, chiefs and the KWS warden may also be added.
- The board is elected on a 3-year term and meets on a quarterly basis.
- Day to day operations of the conservancy are undertaken by a conservancy manager, appointed by the Board.
- The Manager is supported by an accountant and one or two officers (usually security and community development).
- Community Game scouts are an integral part of the security function and are supported by a radio and communications unit. Besides undertaking security tasks, the scouts also carry out ecological monitoring.



## Creating conservancy tools

To strengthen and provide guidance and a minimum standard for conservancy management, KWCA has developed the following guidelines. The tools have been compiled by drawing on experiences and best practices proven to work within conservancy models, while being supplemented by handy tools and techniques from the business management, conservation and development worlds.

1) **Establishing a Wildlife Conservancy in Kenya Guidebook** published by KWCA has documented the various models of governing and managing conservancies that have developed within the Kenyan landscape. This includes their legal registration status, operational management and benefit-sharing mechanisms. Communities and landowners are continuously innovating and evolving these models. The guidebook further provides

a step by step process of setting up a conservancy on different land tenure types and procedures for registration, accessing wildlife user rights and conservancy programmes necessary in an efficiently managed conservancy.

2) The **Conservancy Managers Handbook** was published in 2016 to play a guiding role for managers in their daily and annual operations, building motivated teams, creating visions for their conservancies, garnering support with communities and stakeholders and showcasing career paths for personal growth and development. The handbook outlines practical steps on planning conservancy operations, recruiting teams for execution and creating the appropriate management and evaluation structures that promote adaptive learning and continuous improvement.



3) KWCA published the **Standard Operating Procedures** for Wildlife Conservancy Rangers that seek to standardize operations, enhance service delivery and sustain conservation and livelihood initiatives in conservancies. Wildlife Scouts (or Community or Conservancy Rangers) form the most significant human resource infrastructure within the conservancies. They improve security for both human and wildlife through monitoring, intervention and prevention. At present, there are 2,991 conservancy rangers employed within the conservancy landscape. They operate in often sensitive landscapes as liaison officers with communities. The SOPs outline roles of rangers, their powers, hierarchies, communication and data collection tools and administrative procedures to create a clear, safe and effective mechanism for enhancing security operations. 1,102 scouts have graduated from KWS Law Enforcement Academy Manyani where they were trained on the foot and arm drills, field crafts and combat tactics, map reading and GPS, wildlife studies, radio communications and signals, first aid and hygiene.

4) **A Rapid Assessment of Field Based Monitoring Systems in Kenya** published by KWCA created a first attempt to capture the monitoring systems that are being used in conservancies, understand the spectrum of approaches, scales and timelines while detailing the indicators being collected. It was found that out of the 160 conservancies, 95 had no monitoring systems, 68 performed some type of ecological monitoring, 37 conducted security monitoring, and 26 performed aspects of social or governance monitoring. The most popular

monitoring aspect is limited to ecological information; wildlife sightings, animal carcass information, human wildlife conflict and security and poaching incidences. This is conducted through Wildlife COMMS or the SMART – Cybertracker interface mainly through externally (regional associations and non-profit organizations) supported monitoring. Landscapes of monitoring significance found include the South Rift (Amboseli, Mara) and the North Rift (Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit and Laikipia). Conservancies in Mara, South Rift and Amboseli are piloting the use of WILD as a wildlife and ecosystem monitoring tool.

Through this process KWCA sought to determine whether a centralized data collection system that capture the impacts of the conservancy model on conservation, livelihoods and governance to demonstrate their impact could be created. It was determined that monitoring partners had developed their own methods, tools and technologies for monitoring. These are dependent on their budgets, capacities and needs. The assessment found out collaboration and collation of already established systems offer great possibilities. Through national collaboration facilitated by KWCA, increased clarity on steps for conducting M&E, shared understanding and use of terminology, better ability to identify appropriate indicators, greater ability to compare M&E results across organizations, increased insight on the benefits and limitations of different M&E approaches, and improved capacity to work with donors and meet monitoring requirements can be achieved. KWCA has developed a standardized, automated monitoring and evaluation platform that can integrate data at a national, regional, program and project level.





# Chapter 3: Regions and Regional Associations

The Wildlife Act 2013, promotes as one of its principles an ecosystem based approach to conserving and managing wildlife. Ecosystems encompasses national parks and reserves covering an area of 8% of Kenya’s landmass (44,353 Km<sup>2</sup>) and dispersal and migratory areas in community and private lands. (Figure 19) shows the

distribution of national parks and reserves in comparison to conservancies. Aggregated average wildlife distribution between protected and non-protected areas in the 1990s show 65% of wildlife in community and private lands, 25 % in Maasai Mara National Reserve and 10% in all other 58 terrestrial National Parks and Reserves.

Comparison of Areas Covered by National Parks and Conservancies

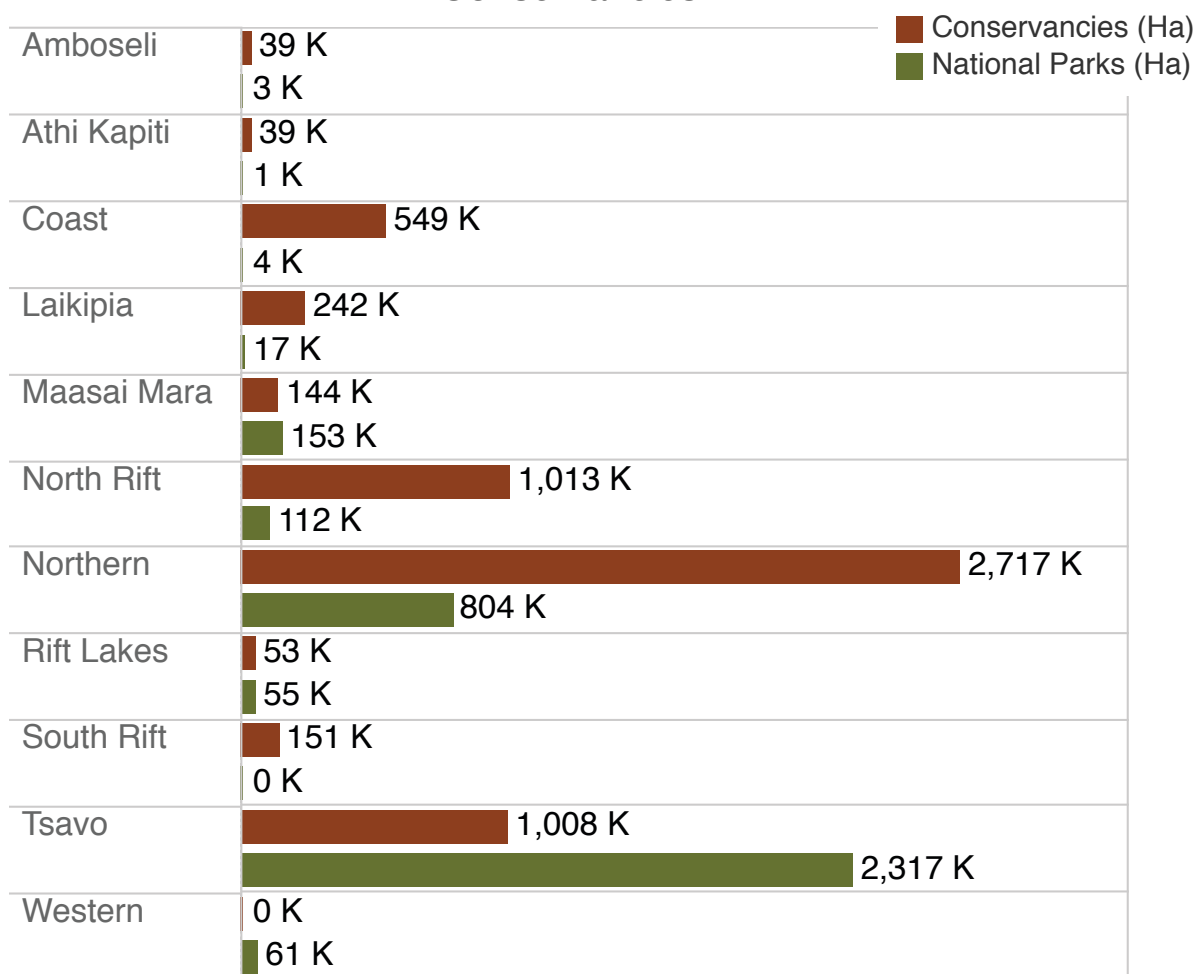


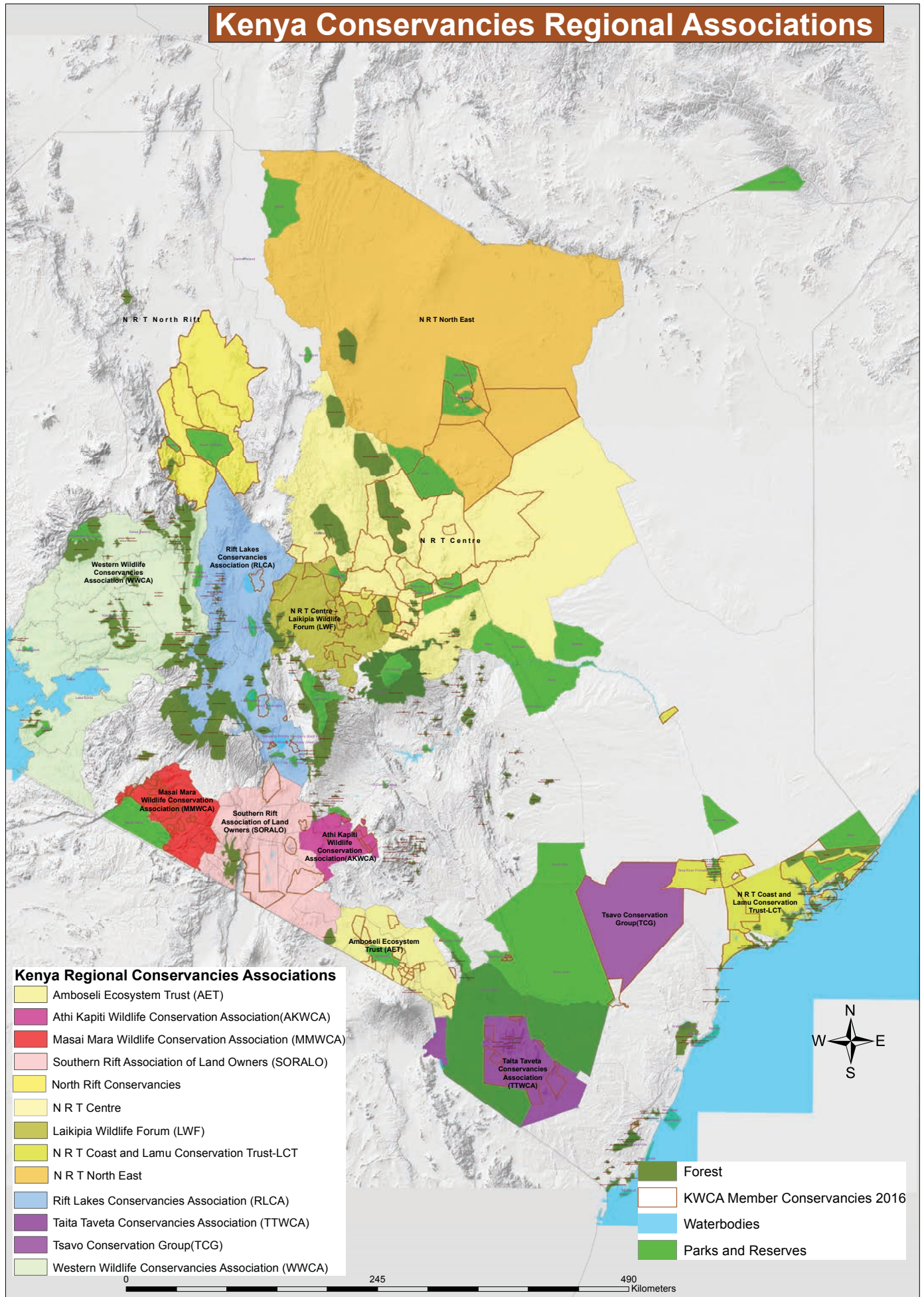
Figure 19: Areas Covered by Parks/Reserves and Conservancies

For purposes of effective conservation, KWS has organized the country into eight conservation areas. KWCA adopted the same strategy by aligning conservancies to existing regional entities comprised of 11 regional landscape level organizations. Among the 13 regional associations, now recognized under the Wildlife Act 2013 as Community Wildlife Associations (CWAs), 10 existed prior to the establishment of KWCA. KWCA facilitated the formation of three regional associations to represent

conservancies within the three landscapes that did not have regional associations.

Regional associations play a critical role as umbrella organizations at a landscape level through which conservancies can have a voice and also for purposes of collaboration, integration of certain interventions and for purposes of planning and management at a larger scale. The total area under conservancies vary between the different region (figure 20)

# Kenya Conservancies Regional Associations



Map: KWCA Regional Associations map



Area Covered by Conservancies Within Each Region

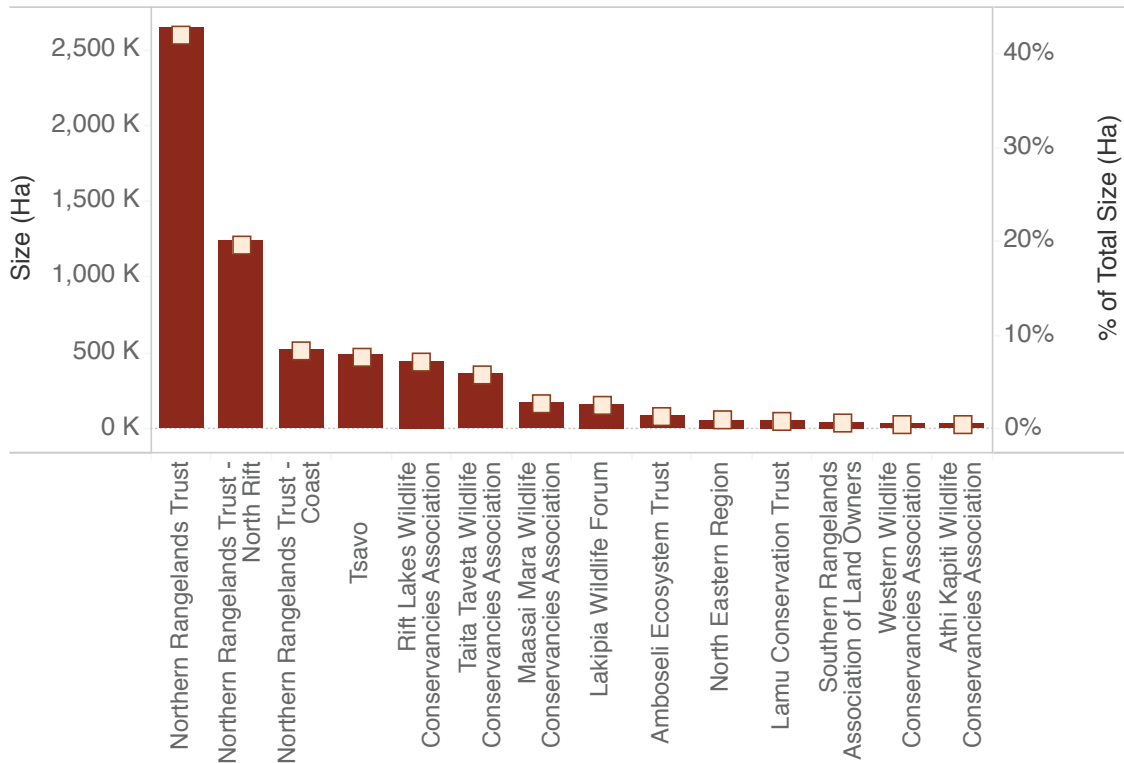


Figure 20: Area covered by Regional Association

NRT Centre supported conservancies cover an area of 2.7 Million ha (45% of conservancy lands), followed by NRT – North Rift 1.24 Million Ha (20 % of conservancy lands), followed by Tsavo 486,630 Ha (14 % of conservancy lands). NRT – North Rift offers a massive contribution to conservation and livelihood development through the scale of the area it covers, and has in the past year boosted security for the people and wildlife through the employment of 90 trained wildlife rangers. However, operations in the region have recently stalled due to

political impediments, the resolution of which would bring on board 1.24 Million Ha of community lands for wildlife conservation and livelihood development. Conservancies in the different region benefit an increasing number of households (figure 21). An estimate of about 707,460 households directly benefit from conservancy operations. Most beneficiaries follow pastoral livelihoods, employment through the conservancy as scouts and management, and through tourism industry remains a significant income earner for some of the families.

Conservancy Beneficiaries by Regional Association

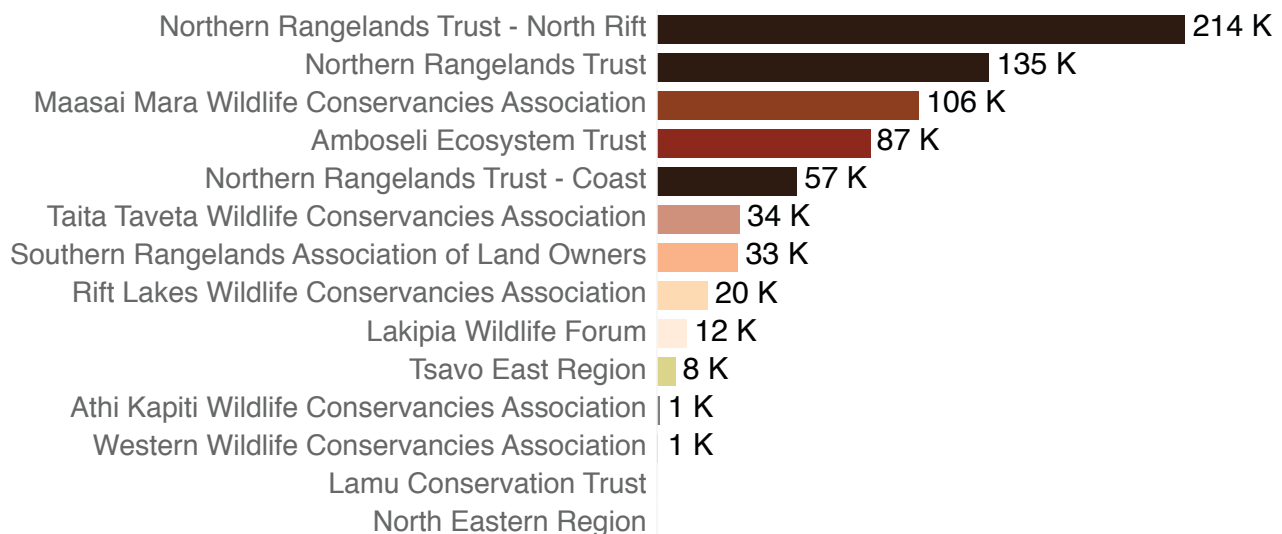


Figure 21: No. of Beneficiaries by Regional Associations



## Amboseli Ecosystem Trust

The Amboseli Ecosystem Trust brings together the communities and organizations of Amboseli to develop land use practices that improve the livelihoods and wellbeing of communities through the coexistence of people and wildlife. This is to keep the Amboseli Ecosystem rangelands open, diverse and healthy for the benefit of people and wildlife.

It does this through development of the Amboseli Ecosystem Management plan that entails a landscape approach to directing:

1. **Ecological Management:** Zonation of the landscape into different land-uses determined to conserve areas of exceptional resource values. This allows for the development of activities (tourism and wildlife, agriculture and livestock) most suitable for the type of vegetation, micro climate and water resources available in the area.
2. **Tourism Development and Management:** Sustains Amboseli as a leading tourist destination in the country by creating programs that have minimum adverse impacts, ensuring equitable benefit sharing for the community, enhancing tourism experiences and diversifying tourism product.
3. **Community Partnerships and Education:** the maintenance of community conservation areas through contiguous landscapes remains critical for conservation. Creating awareness on human-wildlife conflicts, environmental education and improving livestock conditions aim to safeguard and rehabilitate rangelands.
4. **Security:** In partnership with the BigLife Foundation, AET is pioneering the use of a smart phone based application, WILD, connected to a Cybertracker interface, to collect, track and map wildlife sightings within community conservancies in real-time. This sophisticated system streamlines both security and wildlife monitoring operations in conservancies.
5. **Ecosystem Operations:** The Amboseli Ecosystem, through its partnership with the Amboseli Conservation Program, hosts the longest running biodiversity-monitoring program in Kenya. Monitoring transect lines on vegetation data enhances understanding of climatic, animal and human impacts on conservation and provides sound scientific basis for management.

This action plan creates a centralized avenue of creating systemic impact across the ecosystem, and allows for effective collaboration and communication.

## Partners

- **Amboseli Conservation Program** conserves Amboseli's wildlife and its ecosystem to the benefit of its people through ecosystem research, tool and capacity development and influencing conservation policies and practices.
- **African Conservation Centre** is dedicated to the development of African Conservation excellence. ACC places emphasis on a three-tier approach of integrating Knowledge, Environment and Livelihoods in resolving principal problems facing Biodiversity Conservation in East Africa.
- **Africa Wildlife Foundation** works to ensure the wildlife and wild lands of Africa will endure forever by working with local communities.
- **Big Life Foundation** seeks to conserve and sustain the wildlife and the wild lands of the Amboseli-Tsavo ecosystem of East Africa through innovative conservation strategies that address the greatest threats while - at the same time - satisfying the economic interests of the resident Maasai people in ways that improve the quality of life for the entire community.
- **International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW)** saves individual animals, animal populations and habitats all over the world by providing hands-on assistance to animals in need.



Photo: KWCA



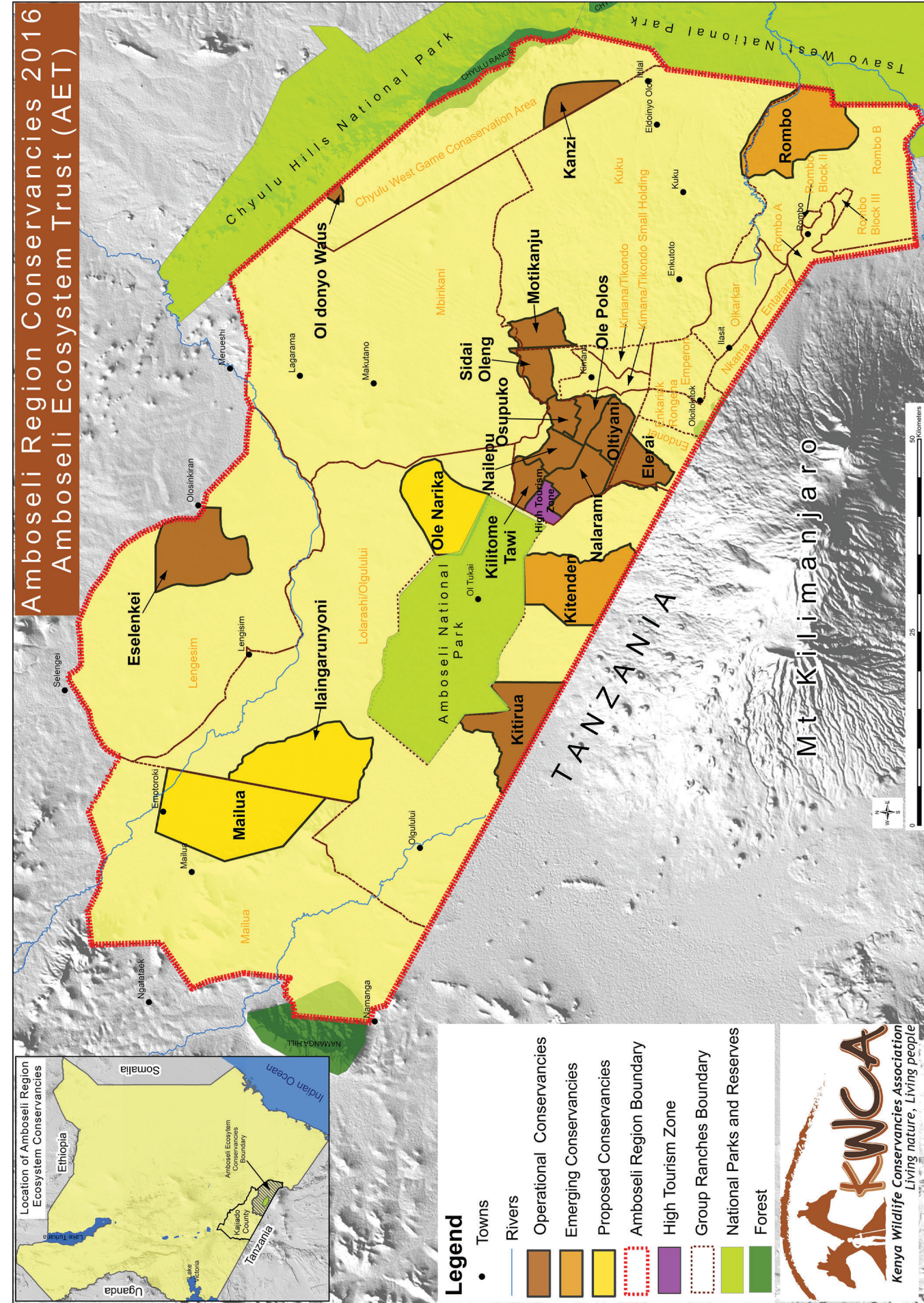
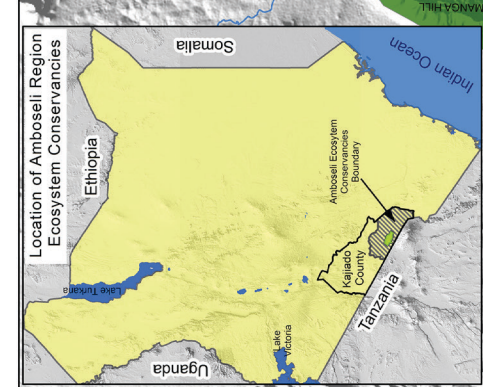
| No            | Conservancy                             | Year Established | Size(Ha)      | No. Households | No. Rangers |
|---------------|---|------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1             | Kanzi                                   | 2002             | 2,400         | 17,000         | 110         |
| 2             | Kitirua                                 | 1984             | 12,140        | 11,485         | 16          |
| 3             | Sidai Olong Wildlife Sanctuary (Kimana) | 1992             | 2,601         | 844            | 40          |
| 4             | Satao Elerai                            | 2005             | 2,023         | 3,000          | 22          |
| 5             | Eselenkei                               | 1997             | 4,300         | 3,000          | 38          |
| 6             | Tawi-Kilitome                           | 2008             | 2,428         | 100            | 6           |
| 7             | Oldonyo Waus                            | 1996             | 243           | 4,667          | 110         |
| 8             | Kitenden                                | 2013             | 10,400        | 2,600          | 54          |
| 9             | Motikanju                               | 2010             | 2,832         | 6,064          | 22          |
| 10            | Osupuko                                 | 2008             | 1,008         | 42             | 4           |
| 11            | Nailepu                                 | 2009             | 1,656         | 69             | 6           |
| 12            | Oltiyani                                | 2012             | 2,023         | 736            | 7           |
| 13            | Nalarami                                | 2013             | 2,428         | 10,000         | 4           |
| 14            | Ilaingurunyoni                          | 2010             | 12,000        | 11,485         | 10          |
| 15            | Olenarika                               | 2010             | 10,000        | 11,485         | 10          |
| 16            | Olepolos                                | 2008             | 1,080         | 550            | 6           |
| 17            | Rombo Emampuli                          | 2010             | 10,000        | 3,684          | 11          |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |   |                  | <b>79,562</b> | <b>86,811</b>  | <b>476</b>  |

**Table 6:** Conservancies under Amboseli Ecosystem Trust





# Amboseli Region Conservancies 2016 Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET)



**Legend**

- Towns
- Rivers
- Operational Conservancies
- Emerging Conservancies
- Proposed Conservancies
- Amboseli Region Boundary
- High Tourism Zone
- Group Ranches Boundary
- National Parks and Reserves
- Forest



Map 3: Conservancies under Amboseli Ecosystem Trust



Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF) was established in 1992, to work with landowners, non-profits and local government to advocate for natural resource management. The organization works with Community Forest Associations, Water Resource User Associations, Wildlife Clubs and Conservancies. Their model advocates for the security of tenure and property rights, to promote sustainable and wise land use. They work to bring sound technical solutions to common land use and conservation challenges, and aim to link public and private services and funding to Laikipia needs.

LWF has established an innovative conservation education and citizen science program in 9 of its conservancies. The Wild Class program offers and enterprise opportunity for conservancies to benefit from conservation-education learning provided to paying middle class youth. The youth also have an opportunity to sponsor a pupil from an area school for the program.

According to the recent Grevy's Zebra rally, over 50% of the national Grevy population is found in Laikipia county. The county was the cornerstone for the Great Grevy's Rally that established a scientifically supervised engagement of the public to inform a complete census of the endangered Grevy Zebra in Kenya. 40,000 photos of which 15,000 were usable were analyzed by the IBEIS/WILDBOOK system developed by Princeton University and piloted for the first time at this scale in Kenya. A total of 2,250 Grevy's Zebra were counted in the census, with a total estimated population being determined at 2,350.

Laikipia County without any national park and with only one national reserve also boasts of the following:

- Hosts approximately 250 (15%) of Kenya's Lion population and possibly the only stable population in the country.
- Harbors Kenya's highest population of the African Wild Dogs of 200 individuals in 17 packs, the 6th largest in the world.
- Thought to harbor the 3rd largest cheetah population in the wild.
- Laikipia is one of the 3 most important areas for carnivore conservation in Kenya.

LWF coordinates national governments, non-profits, researchers and landowners to communicate the best conservation approaches for wildlife monitoring, distribution and security.

To maintain the integrity of the landscape, LWF is working on Holistic Management (HM) that focuses on planned and bunched grazing. Planned grazing activities allocate wet and dry season grazing plans, allowing time for the land to rest and regenerate between seasons. It also allows for maximum production. Bunched grazing in turn constraints cattle within a region. The beating of the hooves breaks the topsoil and to implant seed from manure and integrate the manure as a fertilizer.

## Partners

- 2030 WATER RESOURCES GROUP is unique public-private-civil society collaboration. It facilitates open, trust-based dialogue processes to drive action on water resources reform in water stressed countries in developing economies. The ultimate aim of such reforms and actions is to close the gap between water demand and supply by the year 2030.
- NEMA is the principal instrument of government in the implementation of all policies relating to the environment.
- County Government of Laikipia's mandate is to promote, foster and protect democracy and accountability for self-governance with respect to the rich diversity for development and accessibility of services.
- Rural Focus has adopted an efficient, adaptable, and business oriented approach, which is consistent with the Rural Focus philosophy of professional integrity, good governance, innovation and sustainable resource use.
- Space for Giants protects Africa's elephants from immediate threats like poaching while working to secure their habitats forever in landscapes facing greatly increasing pressures.
- National Drought Management Authority vision is to build a safer and disaster resilient India by a holistic, pro-active, technology driven and sustainable development strategy that involves all stakeholders and fosters a culture of prevention, preparedness and mitigation
- Northern Rangelands Trust's mission is to develop resilient community conservancies, which transform people's lives, secure peace and conserve natural resources. It does this in a number of ways.
- Kenya Forest Services conserves, develops and sustainably manages forest resources for Kenya's social-economic development.
- Centre for Training and Integrated Research in ASAL Development is concerned with research and training to design strategies for sustainable development, promote land use planning for sustained livelihood and optimal resource use, foster sustainable resource use and management for improved productivity and promote non-farm, non-pastoral enterprises, infrastructure and related services.

Through the Mount Kenya – Ewaso partnership, LWF facilitates the monitoring and use of water within the catchment area. They work with local Water Resource and Users Association to allocate water use and management plans, while also assessing infrastructure capacity needs and establishing development plans. It facilitates with 29 partners, from water users, commercial enterprises to donors on managing the watershed.

- African Conservation Centre is dedicated to the development of African Conservation excellence. ACC places emphasis on a three-tier approach of integrating Knowledge, Environment and Livelihoods in resolving principal problems facing Biodiversity Conservation in East Africa.

| No            | Conservancy                                | YOE  | Size (Ha)      | No. Households | No.Rangers |
|---------------|--|------|----------------|----------------|------------|
| 1             | Sangare Ranch                              | 1957 | 1,680          | 11             | 13         |
| 2             | Ol Jogi ltd                                | 1965 | 23,200         |                | 130        |
| 3             | Borana Conservancy                         | 1992 | 12,000         | 800            | 10         |
| 4             | Ol Pejeta Conservancy                      | 2005 | 36,000         | 1,100          | 150        |
| 5             | Ol-Lentile Conservancy                     | 2012 | 10,000         | 10,000         | 50         |
| 6             | Sossian -Samburumburu                      | 1999 | 9,452          | 8              | 50         |
| 7             | Oreteti Community Conservancy              | 2008 | 5,000          |                | 10         |
| 8             | Laikipia Nature Conservancy (Ol Ari Nyiro) | 2002 | 36,500         |                | 45         |
| 9             | Loisaba                                    | 1997 | 22,662         |                | 54         |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |  |      | <b>156,494</b> | <b>11,919</b>  | <b>512</b> |

**Table 7:** Conservancies under Laikipia Wildlife Forum

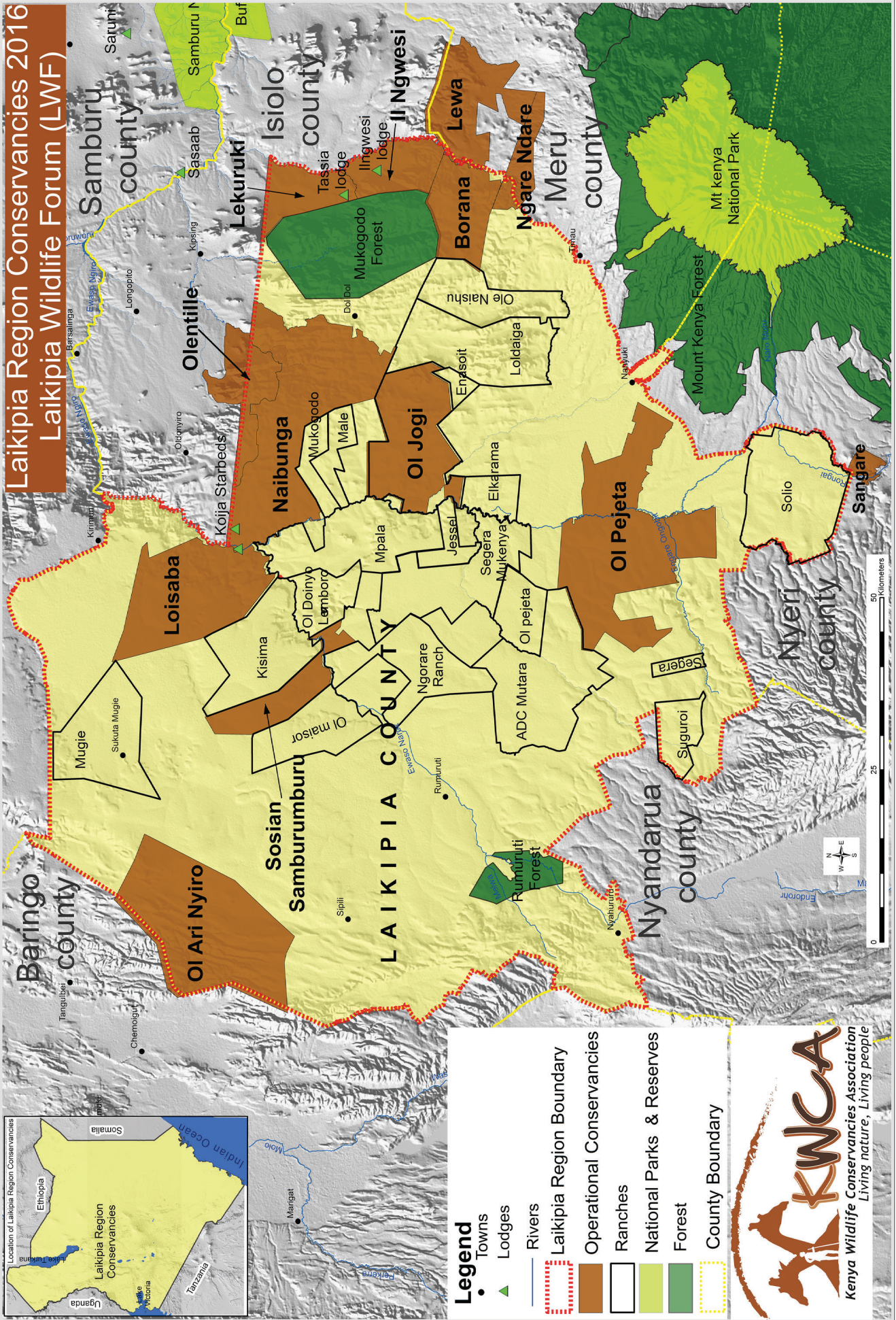


Photo: Kaleku Senchura

- Kenya Wildlife Services conserves and manages Kenya's wildlife for the Kenyan people and the world.
- Zeitz Foundation mission to create and support sustainable, ecologically and socially responsible projects and destinations around the world to achieve long-lasting impact and sustainability through the holistic balance of Conservation, Community, Culture and Commerce (the 4Cs) in privately managed areas.
- East African Wildlife Society is a membership-based public benefit organization that seeks to enhance the conservation and wise use of the environment and natural resources in the East African region.
- Permaculture Research Institute offers advise and information on establishing a Permaculture Educational Demonstration sites, which operate as education centers that seek to replicate themselves across their respective surrounding regions.
- African Wildlife Foundation together with the people of Africa, works to ensure the wildlife and wild lands of Africa will endure forever.
- Mpala Research Centre (MRC) receives hundreds of students, educators, and scientists from around the globe each year, conducting research on everything from parasites to elephants. The unique set up of Mpala allows for researchers to use the land as a 'living laboratory' in which to conduct experiments and answer pressing questions on conservation and wildlife.



# Laikipia Region Conservancies 2016 Laikipia Wildlife Forum (LWF)



Map 4: Conservancies Supported by Laikipia Wildlife Forum





For the Greater Mara

## Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association

The Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA) works with 15 conservancies, covering 170,131 Ha across the Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem where almost 25% of the country's wildlife is found. The conservancies account for 170,131 Ha of the 450,000 Ha ecosystem extent. The conservancies in the Mara cover an area of about 10% of Narok County land mass. MMWCA was formed in 2013 to create a common and unified front for landowners and tourism partners to strengthen conservancies, raise issues and create large-scale impact.

The Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association's (MMWCA) mission is to conserve the greater Maasai Mara ecosystem through a network of community protected areas for the prosperity of biodiversity and wildlife, the regional Maasai population, recreation, tourism, and the nation of Kenya. Their core purpose is to enable strong and thriving conservancies across the Greater Mara Ecosystem. MMWCA employs 21 staff to execute its programmes.

The organization has identified nine goals to guide their work. These are centered on:

- Sustaining, Developing and Creating Conservancies and Conservation Areas
- Facilitating, Coordinating and Implementing Conservation and Social Development
- Advocating for a Better Conservancy Framework
- Fundraising and Promoting

12,800 land owners pooled their private lands together to create 15 conservancies in the Mara region. A total of 106,102 people benefit from the conservancies in this landscape. The Mara conservancies are composed of 14 group conservancies and 1 community conservancy (Olderkesi), pooling land resources into a contiguous landscape. The conservancies support 60-70% of local job opportunities, employing 300 conservancy rangers and injecting KES 46.5 annually through salaries to conservancy rangers.

| No            | Conservancy                              | Year Established | Size (Ha)      | No. Households | No. Rangers |
|---------------|--|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1             | Mara North Conservancy                   | 2008             | 28,010         | 8,040          | 42          |
| 2             | Mara Naboisho Conservancy                | 2010             | 21,472         | 6,070          | 36          |
| 3             | Lemek Conservancy                        | 2009             | 7,084          | 5,730          | 19          |
| 4             | Motorogi conservancy                     | 2008             | 14,794         | 3,058          | 12          |
| 5             | Olare Orok conservancy                   | 2006             | 8,269          | 2,190          | 24          |
| 6             | Olchorro Oiroua Conservancy              | 1992             | 6,903          | 900            | 17          |
| 7             | Olarro Conservancy                       | 2011             | 2,600          | 2,154          | 34          |
| 8             | Ol kinyei conservancy                    | 2004             | 7,285          | 3,574          | 14          |
| 9             | Enonkishu Conservancy                    | 2011             | 2,480          | 780            | 10          |
| 10            | Oloisukut Conservation                   | 2010             | 9,308          | 645            | 16          |
| 11            | Mara Siana Conservancy                   | 2016             | 3,583          | 10,271         | 16          |
| 12            | Olderkesi Community Wildlife Conservancy | 2016             | 24,282         | 48,000         | 18          |
| 13            | Pardamat Conservation Area               | 2016             | 25,992         | 14,000         | 21          |
| 14            | Nashulai Maasai Conservancy              | 2016             | 3,448          | 690            | 13          |
| 15            | Isaaten                                  | 2009             | 2,600          |                | 8           |
| 16            | Olerai Mara Conservancy                  |                  | 2,023          |                |             |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |  |                  | <b>170,131</b> | <b>106,102</b> | <b>300</b>  |

**Table 8:** Conservancies under Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association









Photo: KWCA

## Partners

- The African Wildlife Foundation, together with the people of Africa, works to ensure the wildlife and wild lands of Africa will endure forever.
- Basecamp Foundation, Kenya, is a for-community-benefit foundation that supports innovative approaches to community economic empowerment, access to water, access to clean energy, access to education, access to health services and health education and appropriate technologies
- Kenya Wildlife Trust was established in 2007 by leaders in the Kenyan safari industry, with the principle aim of strengthening the connection between conservation and tourism. They have established predator-monitoring projects in the Maasai Mara - the Mara Cheetah Project and Mara Lion Project.

- Mara Beef raise top quality Meat products on The Mara Beef Farm, as well as within the Enonkishu Conservancy on the edge of the Maasai Mara. Our animals are all grass fed, feeding on an irrigated forage mixture. We like to think the flavor is a testament of happy animals.
- Mara Elephant Project saves and protects the African elephant population in the Mara by combatting the ruthless operations of poachers and fostering positive human-elephant relations.
- The OlareOrok&Motorogi Trust was set up in 2009 to work with communities and other key stakeholders to uplift communities and enable the successful conservation of the Maasai Mara Ecosystem.
- Rangeland Solutions is a not-for-profit social enterprise working to improve the environment and the livelihoods of African pastoralists.
- Seiya Limited's aim is to continue to develop community conservation into a sustainable and profitable model to protect the Greater Mara Ecosystem.
- Serengeti Watch was initially formed to oppose a commercial highway across the Serengeti National Park. It is a permanent nonprofit organization that will monitor the Serengeti and bring world opinion and support to bear on vital issues.
- WWF's mission is to conserve nature and reduce the most pressing threats to the diversity of life on Earth.

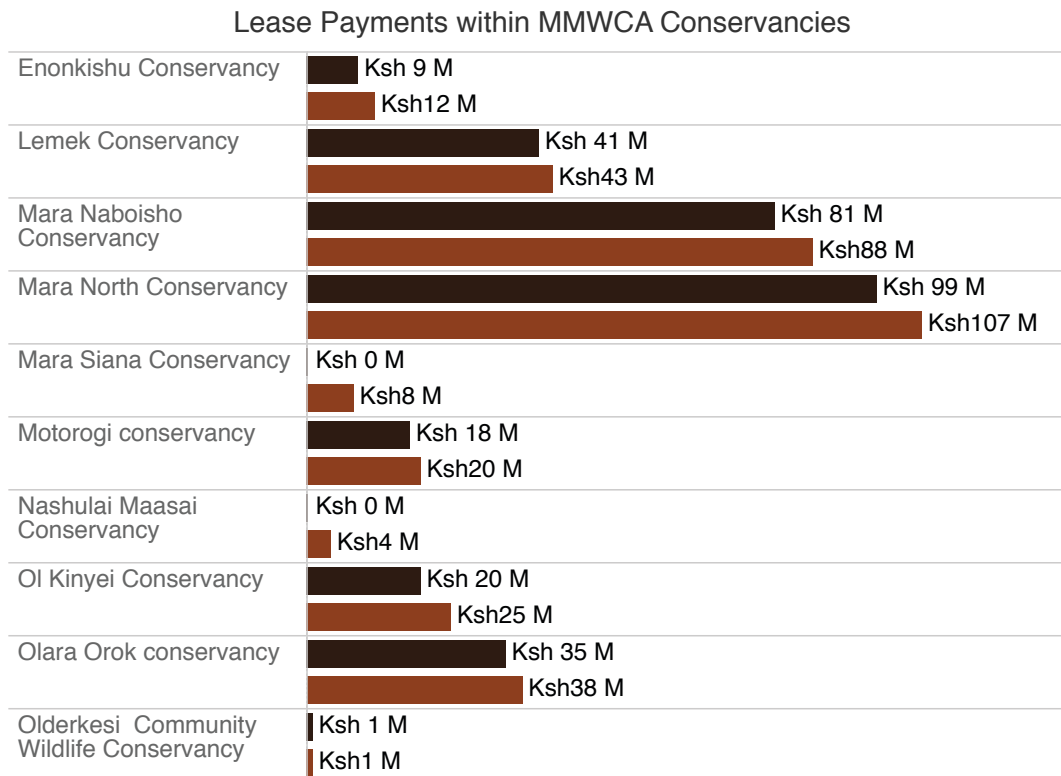


Photo: Kaleku Senchura



The Mara conservancies additionally directly paid Ksh 369 million in 2016 (up from Ksh 330 million in 2015)

leasing fees to households(Figure 20).These forms a significant direct income to communities.



**Figure 22:** Lease Payments in the Maasai Mara

Conservancies in the Mara, have become a key tourism destination. Conservancies wildlife diversity, improving tourism infrastructure and self-governed tourism development and management regulations have attracted 40 eco-tourism camps. Collectively, the camps that prioritise employment of local communities have created 861 jobs. The 16 conservancies contributed Ksh 46 million in 2015 and Ksh 71 million in 2016 toward community development projects. Project highlights include 105 teachers trained, 9 classrooms built, 200 guides sponsored through Koiyaki Guiding School and 916 books distributed.

The Mara Serengeti wildebeest migration, categorized as one of the wonders of the world utilizes the contiguous landscape created by conservancies.

Additionally, these lands contiguous to the national reserve offer prime habitat for ungulates that traverse the Mara-Serengeti ecosystem leading the phenomenal

great migration. The lands have been shown to expand the ungulate habitats when they become available as the conservancy model expands. A recent aerial count by KWS indicated a 91% (2,493) increase in the number of elephants counted within the Maasai Mara Ecosystem since 2014 from (1,448). Community conservancies have been shown to host increasing (2.6 times) lion densities of 11.87 lions/100km<sup>2</sup> in their landscapes.

Creating this continuity in landscapes also supports the local pastoral populations, while new value addition activities such as Mara Beef creates incentives for good range management and livestock conditions. Conservancies have also become a key dry season pasture refuge for the pastoral livestock while conservancies provide an institution framework for decision making and management of natural resources. The employment of conservancy rangers has ensured a zero-poaching landscape for the Mara wildlife.



## Northern Rangelands Trust

Conservancies in northern Kenya supported by the Northern Rangelands Trust covers 3.9 million Ha of land across Northern Kenya (2.7million Ha.) and North Rift (1.2 million Ha.) It supports 27 community conservancies that host 134,697 pastoral households from 5 counties: Samburu, Isiolo, Marsabit, Laikipia and West Pokot. NRT's mission is to build resilient community conservancies, transform lives, and secure peace and conserve natural resources. NRT supports it members in several ways:

- i. It raises funds for the conservancies. In 2016, NRT supported conservancies with a total of Ksh 854 million for conservancy operations. It seeks to create financial sustainability, with the hope that conservancies can finance a third of the operations through commercial enterprise, a third through government funding and a third through donor funding. County governments, such as Samburu and Marsabit, have in the recent past provided significant infrastructure development grants to conservancies, but in 2016 a new 50% cost-share model with the Samburu county government has been developed to support operational budgets in Nkoteiya. This shows a remarkable step in creating deeper engagements and practical development agendas at the county level.

### Partners

- The Grevy's Zebra Trust was established to address an urgent need to conserve Grevy's Zebra (*Equusgrevyi*) in the community rangelands of Kenya and Ethiopia.
- Ewaso Lions is dedicated to conserving lions and other large carnivores by promoting co-existence between people and wildlife.
- Lewa Wildlife Conservancy is the heart of wildlife conservation, sustainable development and responsible tourism in northern Kenya and our successful working model has provided the framework on which many conservation organizations in the region are based.

| No            | Conservancy                           | Year Established | Size (Ha)        | No. Household  | No. Rangers |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1             | Lewa Conservancy                      | 1995             | 22,258           |                | 94          |
| 2             | Il Ngwesi                             | 1996             | 9,101            | 1,752          | 17          |
| 3             | Lekurruki Conservation                | 1999             | 15,400           | 2,264          | 38          |
| 4             | Naibunga Conservancy                  | 2003             | 45,828           | 11,344         | 26          |
| 5             | Ngare Ndare                           | 2000             | 5,511            | 1,614          | 24          |
| 6             | Oldonyiro                             | 2016             | 55,338           | 5,560          | 21          |
| 7             | Leparua Community Conservancy         | 2014             | 33,600           | 8,590          | 16          |
| 8             | Nakuprat-Gotu Community Conservancy   | 2013             | 71,595           | 5,240          | 28          |
| 9             | Nasuulu Community Conservancy         | 2010             | 34,186           | 4,262          | 26          |
| 10            | Biliqo-Bulesa                         | 2007             | 377,284          | 4,781          | 36          |
| 11            | Nkoteiya                              | 2011             | 17,000           | 3,051          | 25          |
| 12            | Namunyak                              | 1995             | 287,149          | 17,691         | 85          |
| 13            | Sera Community Conservancy            | 2012             | 340,030          | 6,301          | 93          |
| 14            | Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy | 2002             | 49,983           | 4,797          | 28          |
| 15            | Ltungai Community Conservancy         | 2007             | 19,483           | 2,727          | 23          |
| 16            | Meibae Community Conservancy          | 2013             | 102,743          | 10,029         | 27          |
| 17            | Westgate Community Conservancy        | 2005             | 36,671           | 2,979          | 40          |
| 18            | Songa Community Conservancy           | 2011             | 103,867          | 9,754          | 14          |
| 19            | Jaldesa Community Conservancy         | 2012             | 52,078           | 13,565         | 14          |
| 20            | Shurr                                 | 2013             | 425,133          | 1,204          | 14          |
| 21            | Melako                                | 2004             | 546,777          | 17,192         | 38          |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |                                       |                  | <b>2,651,015</b> | <b>134,697</b> | <b>727</b>  |

**Table 9:** Conservancies under Northern Rangelands Trust







- ii. NRT provides conservancies with operational support through a network of regional managers, rangeland coordinators and research and monitoring officers. NRT monitors the management and programmatic performance providing landowners and donors with a degree of assurance and oversight.
- Regional Directors provide governance and management support to conservancy management and boards. They ensure that conservancies operate as legal entities in a transparent and equitable way for its members. They attend meetings and act as a sounding board and problem solvers for conservancy management.
- Rangeland coordinators work with conservancy staff to plan annual wet and dry season grazing plans at a conservancy and regional level. Conservancies form contiguous spaces for pastoral movement, and frequently experience movements of livestock from outside. This requires proper planning to direct and track movement and numbers, and estimate the availability of pasture. Additionally, 70% of these rangelands have been classified as severely degraded. NRT, is working with the Grevy's Zebra Trust to rehabilitate rangelands through planned grazing, bunched herding and grass re-seeding. 869 hectares have been cleared and re-seeded since 2012.

- Research and monitoring officers work with the 946 strong ranger network to patrol conservancies for security and wildlife monitoring. Security patrols work with the Lewa Radio Room to track and report incidences on a real-time basis. The intense security operations have been effective in lowering PIKE related to trophy hunting, but in 2016 NRT noted an emerging pattern of poaching related to human conflict (Figure 21). The organization is now adapting strategies to involve a wider community participation in wildlife protection and creating awareness in partnership with Save the Elephants.
  - o Wildlife COMMS, a devolved community based monitoring systems, has been one of the more successful wildlife monitoring programs within the Kenyan landscape. It involves the ranger network entering wildlife sightings, numbers and carcasses on a datasheet which are then uploaded into an MS-Access database for localized use in monitoring wildlife presence and numbers and planning security operations. Critical and threatened species such as the hirola and black rhino have successfully been re-introduced into the NRT community conservancies and their numbers have steadily grown.

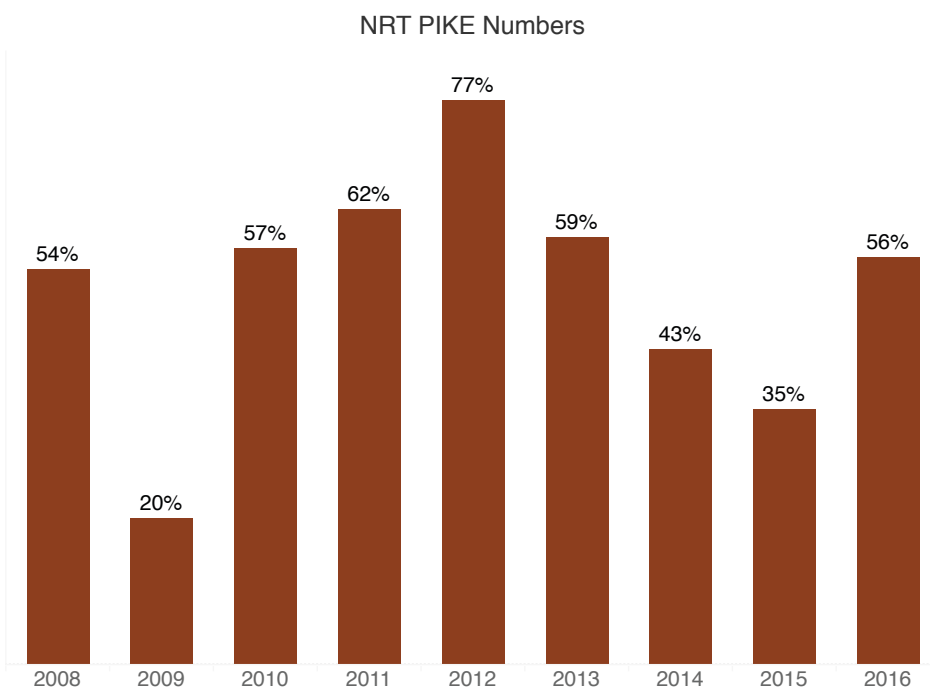


Figure 23: % PIKE trends for NRT conservancies.

## Partners

- GIZ is working with local and international partners to train young people on technical and vocational education and training, to equip them with appropriate skills to meet the demands of the labor market, especially the private sector. Other areas of support include renewable energy, good governance with a focus on combating corruption, peace-building and migration management.
- OI Pejeta Conservancy is a caretaker of the land, safeguarding endangered species and ensuring the openness and accessibility of conservation for all through innovation and empowerment.
- Save the Elephants conducts vital research on elephant behavior and ecology and pioneered GPS radio tracking in Africa to provide fresh insight into the life of elephants.



| Sources of Funds for Community Conservancy Operations | 2011       | 2012       | 2013        | 2014        | 2015        | 2016        |
|---|------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Donor - NRT (Ksh)                                     | 75,851,046 | 69,516,612 | 11,3651,221 | 166,910,524 | 166,328,550 | 224,640,923 |
| Government (Ksh)                                      | 0          | 0          | 0           | 5,666,194   | 0           | 3,442,000   |
| Commercial Income (Ksh)                               | 14,365,200 | 15,429,374 | 21,205,497  | 23,388,798  | 23,536,698  | 25,729,638  |
| Total Operating Budgets for all Conservancies         | 90,216,246 | 84,945,986 | 134,856,719 | 195,965,517 | 189,865,249 | 253,812,562 |
| Related Proportional Sources of Funding               |            |            |             |             |             |             |
| Donor (%)   | 0.84076926 | 0.81836253 | 0.84275535  | 0.85173416  | 0.87603472  | 0.88506621  |
| Government (%)  | 0          | 0          | 0           | 0.02891424  | 0           | 0.01356119  |
| Commercial Income (%)                                 | 0.15923074 | 0.18163747 | 0.15724465  | 0.1193516   | 0.12396528  | 0.1013726   |

**Table 10:** Sources of Finance for Conservancy Operations



## South Rift Association of Land Owners

South Rift Association of Land Owners (SORALO), a Land Trust established in 2004, works to create pastoralist communities that are empowered to ensure security of tenure over their resources in a just and sustainable manner to improve their livelihoods. SORALO covers a critical area connected the Mara Ecosystem, through the Loitas and towards the Amboseli Ecosystem. It has also preserved cross-border linkages for pastoral and wildlife movements to Tanzania.

The conservancies (core conservation areas) alone cover 38,850 Ha, however the entire area of interest spans 650,000 ha. The core conservancies of Shompole and Olkiramatian host over 50% of Grant's Gazelles and Wildebeest, over 40% of Impala and Ostrich and over 30% of Zebra found with the area of interest. Additionally, endangered and near threatened species such as the African Elephant, Cheetah, and Wild Dog are found within the conservancies

Through the scout network, poaching numbers have also reduced from an approximate high of 90% in 2012 to 73% in 2014. Lion numbers have also increased within the core conservancies from ten to forty known individuals that have been monitored through the "Rebuilding the Pride" program.

SORALO approaches wildlife conservation primarily through understanding challenges to community livelihoods, and assisting to promote appropriate and compatible land uses to wildlife conservation such as pastoralism and tourism. Through its Resource Assessor program, SORALO has trained Maasai youth on ecological monitoring. These individuals sit on community boards and grazing committees where they combine scientific information with traditional knowledge, managing wet and dry season grazing and maintaining grass-banks for extreme drought conditions. This has proved an effective and successful rangeland management system, and portrays a great learning example for replication of best practices. The program is housed at the Lale'enok Resource Centre, in Olkiramatian.

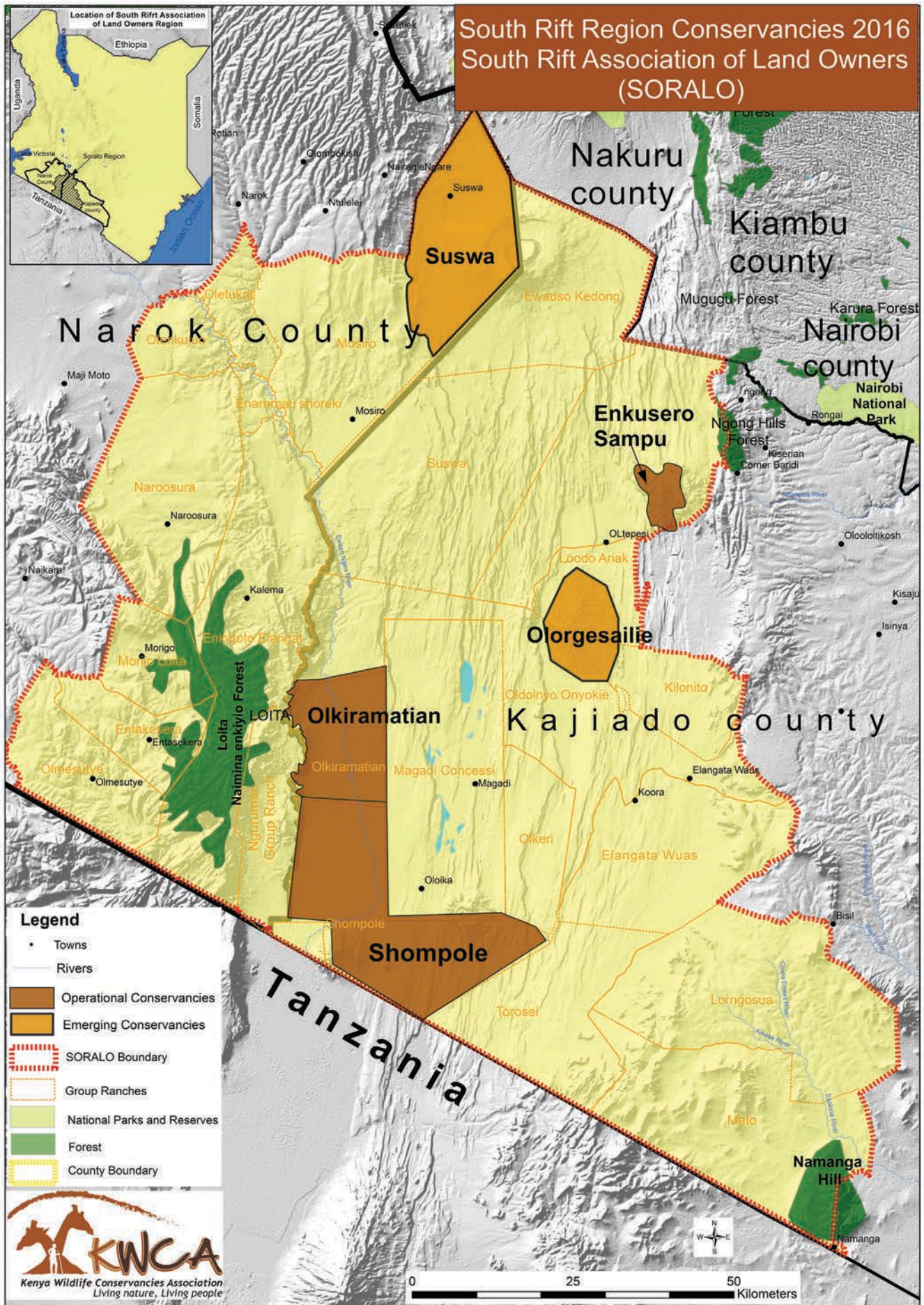
| No            | Conservancy       | Year Established | Size (Ha)     | No. Households | No. Rangers |
|---------------|-------------------|------------------|---------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1             | Suswa Conservancy | 2006             | 8,094         | 1,500          | 6           |
| 2             | Olkiramatian      | 2002             | 4,047         | 13,000         | 6           |
| 3             | Shompole          | 2000             | 8,094         | 3,500          | 7           |
| 4             | Enkusero Sampu    | 2013             | 2,428         | 3,000          | 3           |
| 5             | Ologesaile        | 2015             | 4,047         | 12,000         | 6           |
| 6             | Empaash           | 2009             | 12,140        | 200            | 1           |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |                   |                  | <b>38,850</b> | <b>33,200</b>  | <b>29</b>   |

**Table 11:** Conservancies under South Rift Association of Land Owners

## Partners

- African Conservation Centre's mission is to conserve biodiversity in East Africa and beyond through the collaborative application of scientific and indigenous knowledge, improved livelihoods and good governance through development of local institutions.
- Borderland Conservation Initiative aims to conserve large, free-ranging elephant and lion populations along the Kenya-Tanzania borderland through coordination of conservation efforts and cooperation between key interest groups.
- Elephant Voices advances the study of elephant cognition, communication and social behavior, and promotes the scientifically sound and ethical management and care of elephants through research, conservation, advocacy and the sharing of knowledge.
- Mara Elephant Project saves and protects the African elephant population in the Mara by combatting the ruthless operations of poachers and fostering positive human-elephant relations.
- The Mara Predator Project is building an identification database of lions in and around the conservancies north of the Maasai Mara National Reserve. By tracking individuals, they identify pride home ranges and population trends for effective conservation techniques.
- Lion Guardians is a conservation organization dedicated to finding and enacting long-term solutions for people and lions to coexist across Kenya and Tanzania.
- Save the Elephants conducts vital research on elephant behavior and ecology and pioneered GPS radio tracking in Africa to provide fresh insight into the life of elephants.
- PAMS (Tanzania) support meaningful projects that conserve biodiversity, wilderness, habitats and ecological processes through actions that benefit nature and communities.





Map 7: Conservancies under the South Rift Association of Land Owners Association



Athi Kapiti Wildlife Conservancies Association is still in its nascent stages registered in March 2014. This expansive dispersal area around the Nairobi National Park includes the 6 ranches to the south, that amount to a block some 3.5 times larger than the park. It also creates a key corridor for wildlife movements between the park and the Kajiado and Amboseli plains.

Over the last 20 years, the Athi Kaputiei ecosystem has undergone rapid and drastic changes that have affected

land use mostly driven by expansion of human settlement, increased fencing, wildlife poaching, and construction of physical infrastructure has increased sand mining and quarrying. Although these changes have generated economic opportunities for some, they have come at a greater cost to wildlife and to pastoral livelihoods in general; a recent study by a group of scientists led by Dr. Joseph Ogutu of the University of Hoheinheim in Germany provides evidence of the imminent collapse of the localized migration of the wildebeest

|               | Conservancy                           | Year Established | Size (Ha)     | No. of Households | No. of Scouts |
|---------------|---------------------------------------|------------------|---------------|-------------------|---------------|
| 1             | Ereto Kipeto                          | 2014             | 121           | 300               |               |
| 2             | Kipwa Conservancy                     |                  | 121           | 1                 |               |
| 3             | Kwa Kyelu Sanctuary                   |                  | 809           |                   |               |
| 4             | Lisa Ranch                            | 1988             | 2,428         | 7                 | 3             |
| 5             | Machakos Ranching                     |                  | 4,047         |                   |               |
| 6             | Nanapa                                |                  | 3,600         | 29                |               |
| 7             | Olerai Wildlife Community Conservancy | 2007             | 3,520         | 1,440             | 10            |
| 8             | Rimpa Consevancy                      |                  |               |                   |               |
| 9             | Silole sanctuary                      |                  |               |                   |               |
| 10            | Ulu Conservancy                       |                  |               |                   |               |
| <b>Totals</b> |                                       |                  | <b>14,646</b> | <b>1,777</b>      | <b>13</b>     |

**Table 12:** Conservancies under Athi-Kapiti Wildlife Conservancies Association











## NRT- Coast

NRT-Coast was established in 2010 by NRT. The management of NRT Coast is through a board and council of elders. Its headquarters is in the ancient port of Lamu, and supports seven coastal community

conservancies covering an area of 519,796. NRT-Coast supports these communities to implement sustainable natural resource management plans, monitor fishing, and build their capacity for effective governance.

| No            | Conservancy                         | Year Established | Size (Ha)      | No. Household | No. Rangers |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1             | Lower Tana Delta Conservation trust | 2004             | 51,785         | 14,624        | 13          |
| 2             | Ndera Community Conservancy         | 2010             | 116,370        | 7,300         | 11          |
| 3             | Ishaqbini                           | 2007             | 68,700         | 8,752         | 38          |
| 4             | Awer Community Conservancy          | 2013             | 153,318        | 2,916         | 17          |
| 5             | Hanshak Nyongoro Conservancy        | 2013             | 77,896         | 11,102        | 11          |
| 6             | Kiunga Marine Community Conservancy | 2013             | 23,896         | 84            | 19          |
| 7             | Pate Island Conservation Group      | 2013             | 27,831         | 11,847        | 10          |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |                                     | -                | <b>519,796</b> | <b>56,625</b> | <b>119</b>  |

**Table 13:** Conservancies under NRT Coast



## Lamu Conservation Trust

The Lamu Conservation Trust supported by David Sheldrick Trust is a community conservation initiative conserving the indigenous cultures, wildlife and marine ecologies of the greater Lamu eco-region. It hosts four conservancies covering a total of 76,602 Ha of marine and terrestrial lands.

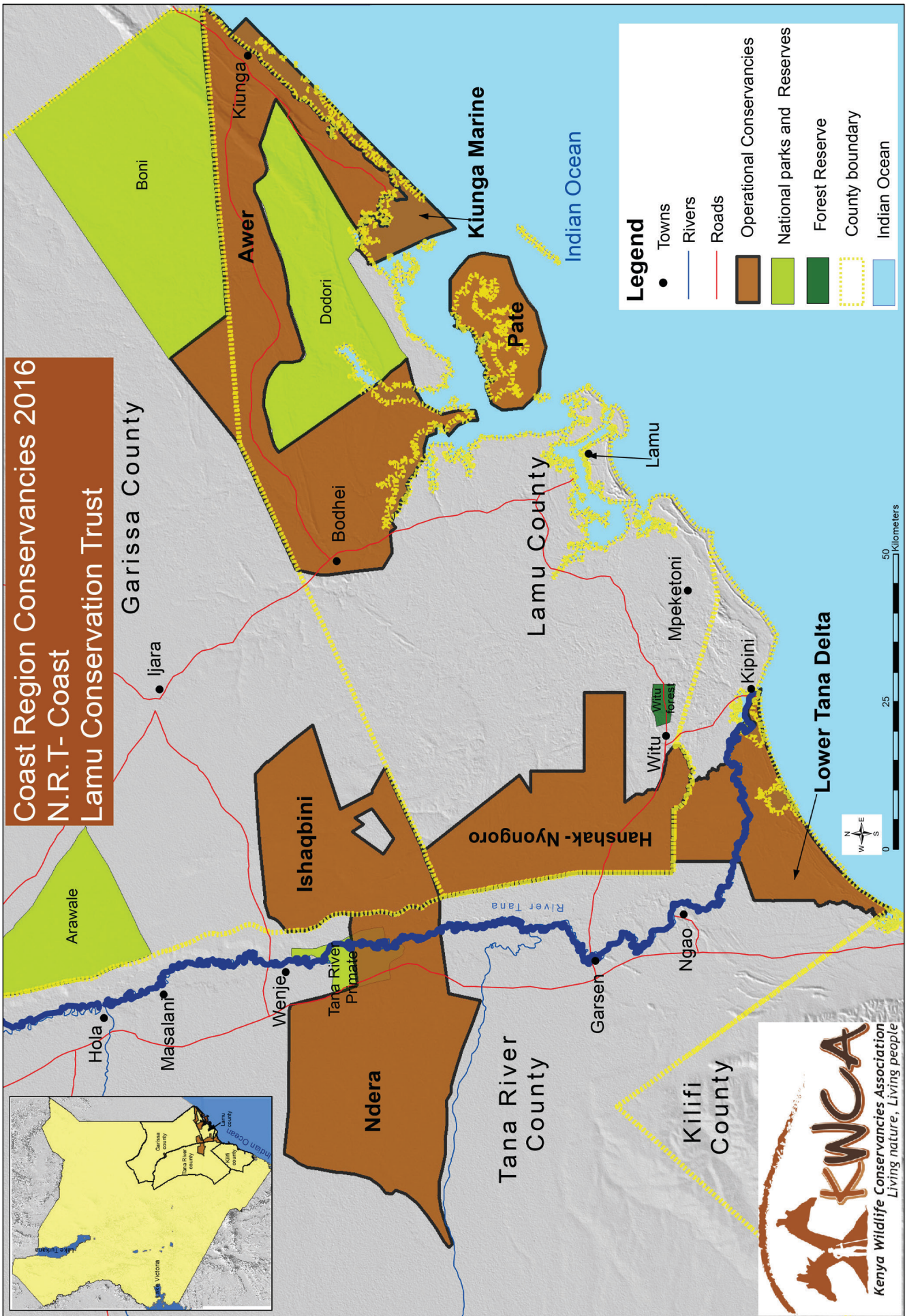
### Partners

- David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust is today the most successful orphan-elephant rescue and rehabilitation program in the world and one of the pioneering conservation organizations for wildlife and habitat protection in East Africa.
- National Museum of Kenya multi-disciplinary institution whose role is to collect, preserve, study, document and present Kenya's past and present cultural and natural heritage.

| Conservancy  | Year Established            | Size (Ha) | No. of Households | No. of Scouts | No. of Staff |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 1            | Amu Ranch                   | 2012      | 25,091            | -             | -            |
| 2            | Galana Wildlife Conservancy | 2009      | 24,000            | -             | 4            |
| 3            | Kipini Conservancy          | 2004      | 26,500            | -             | -            |
| 4            | Witu Community Ranch        | -         | 1,011             | -             | -            |
| <b>Total</b> |                             |           | <b>76,602</b>     | <b>0</b>      | <b>4</b>     |

**Table 14:** Conservancies under Lamu Conservation Trust





## Rift-Lakes Conservancies Association

Rift Lakes Conservancies Association was registered in April 2014 to bring together conservancies located within the floor of the Rift Valley spanning the area between Mt. Longonot, Lake Naivasha, Lake Elementaita, Lake Nakuru, Lake Baringo and Lake Bogoria. The association brings together community and private conservancies and ranches in Nakuru and Baringo Counties to secure wildlife corridors and habitats while generating benefits to the landowners and communities. Kenyas' great rift is one of the most recognized geographical feature, extending for about 6,000 Kms. The great rift contains one of the most spectacular lakes, valleys and mountains among them Mt. Longonot, Hellsgate, lake Naivasha, lake

Elementaita, lake Baringo, lake Nakuru and lake Bogoria are recognizes as important bird areas. Conservancies in Nakuru are under private land holding while those in Baringo are under community lands.

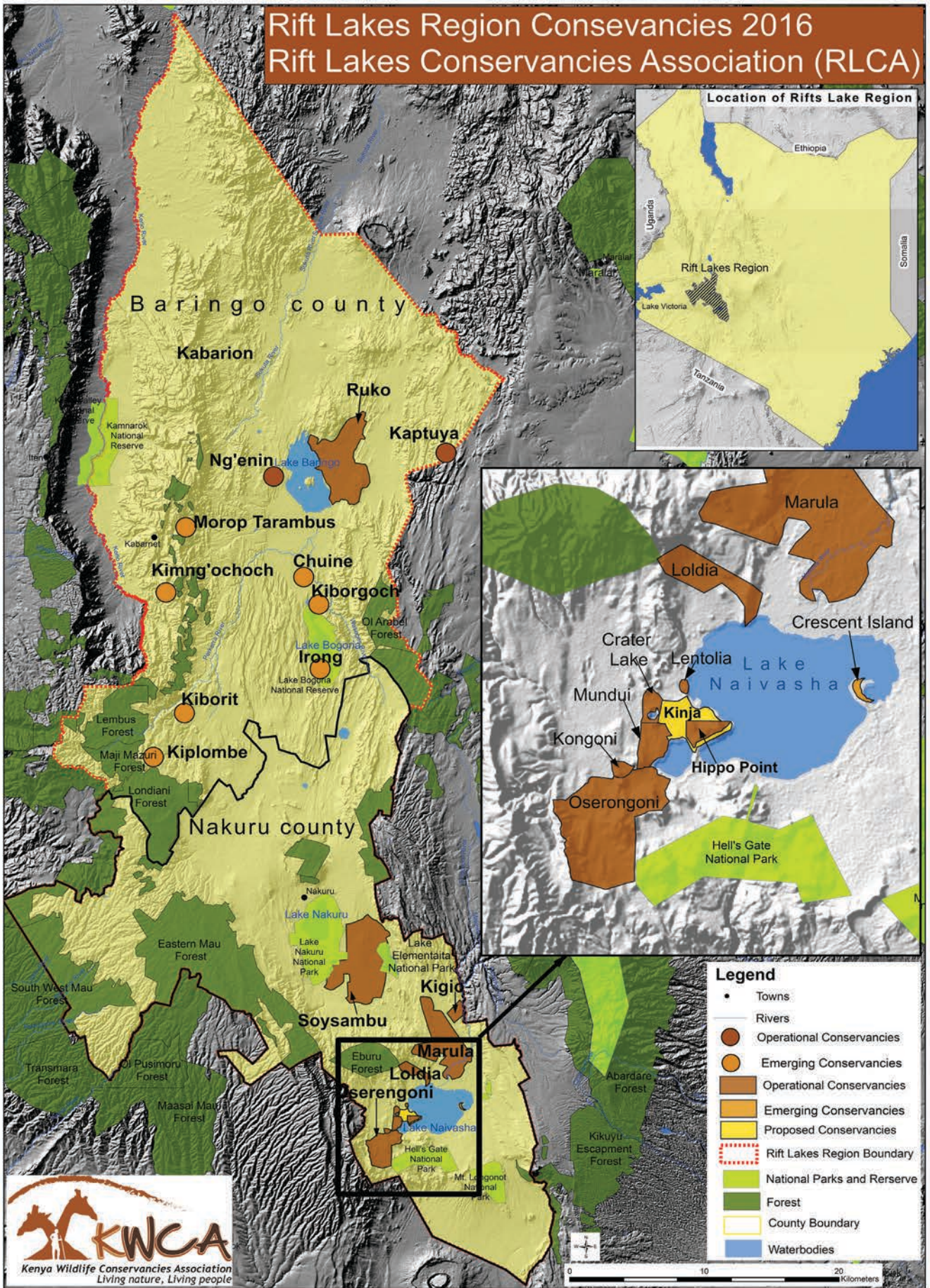
Rift Lakes Wildlife Conservancies Association is composed of 10 nascent community conservancies in Baringo county and 15 more established private conservancies in Nakuru county. Together they cover over 447,377 Ha supporting 20,458 households. The association was established to coordinate stakeholders involved in wildlife conservation and provide a shared platform for stakeholders to participate in the conservation of the iconic natural resources.

| No            | Conservancy  | Year Established | Size (Ha)      | No. Households | No. Rangers |
|---------------|--|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1             | Marula Estate                                      | 2010             | 10,000         | 1              |             |
| 2             | Kigio Wildlife Conservancy                         | 2007             | 1,416          | 1,187          | 13          |
| 3             | Hippo-point Naivasha Conservancy                   | 2003             | 200            | 12             | 9           |
| 4             | Lentolia Farm                                      | 2004             | 44             | 4              | 2           |
| 5             | Mundui Estate                                      | 2002             | 405            | 18             | 12          |
| 6             | Kongoni Conservancy                                | 2000             | 356            | 30             | 19          |
| 7             | Sanctuary Farm                                     | 1979             | 3,500          | 12             | 2           |
| 8             | Soysambu Conservancy                               | 2007             | 19,200         | 760            | 64          |
| 9             | Loldia Conservancy                                 | 2002             | 2,000          | 24             | 7           |
| 10            | Ng'enyin Community Conservation Area               | 2001             | 49             | 115            | 100         |
| 11            | Wilele Wildlife Conservancy                        | 2012             | 607            | 2              | 6           |
| 12            | Ruko Community Wildlife Conservancy                | 2007             | 17,897         | 2,462          | 18          |
| 13            | Kaptuiya Community Wildlife Conservancy            | 2003             | 20,000         | 294            | 5           |
| 14            | Olerai Sanctuary                                   | 2001             | 162            | 1              | 9           |
| 15            | Crater Lake Game Sanctuary                         | 1995             | 4,047          | 1              | 9           |
| 16            | Bila Shaka   | 2001             | 100            | 1              |             |
| 17            | Oserengoni   | 1995             | 7,000          | 1              | 29          |
| 18            | Crescent Island                                    | 1995             | 76             | 1              | 5           |
| 19            | Kiborgoch Community Wildlife & Wetland Conservancy | 2015             | 3,500          | 750            | 6           |
| 20            | Kabarion Conservancy                               | 2011             | 80,000         | 300            | 15          |
| 21            | Irong Community Conservancy                        | 2010             | 1,000          | 10,202         | 0           |
| 22            | Chuine Community Conservancy                       | 2012             | 10,000         | 330            | 0           |
| 23            | Morop Tarambus                                     | 2010             | 265,000        | 3,600          | 0           |
| 24            | Kimngochoch  | 2012             | 575            | 200            | 0           |
| 25            | Kiplombe Community Conservancy                     | 2015             | 243            | 150            | 15          |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |  |                  | <b>447,377</b> | <b>20,458</b>  | <b>345</b>  |

**Table 15:** Conservancies under Rift Lakes Wildlife Conservancies Association



# Rift Lakes Region Consevancies 2016 Rift Lakes Consevancies Association (RLCA)



Map 10: Conservancies under Rift-Lakes Wildlife Conservancies Association



## Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association

Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association work with 26 conservancies covering 361,127 Ha. Established in 2013, TTWCA works with ranches in Taita Taveta county. These ranches were organized as hunting blocks before independence and later converted to cattle ranches. Together, they formed the Taita Taveta Ranches Association registered in 2008. Poorly performing cattle ranches led to KWS engaging with land owners to conserve wildlife to enable income generation through tourism as well as livestock production. KWS facilitated

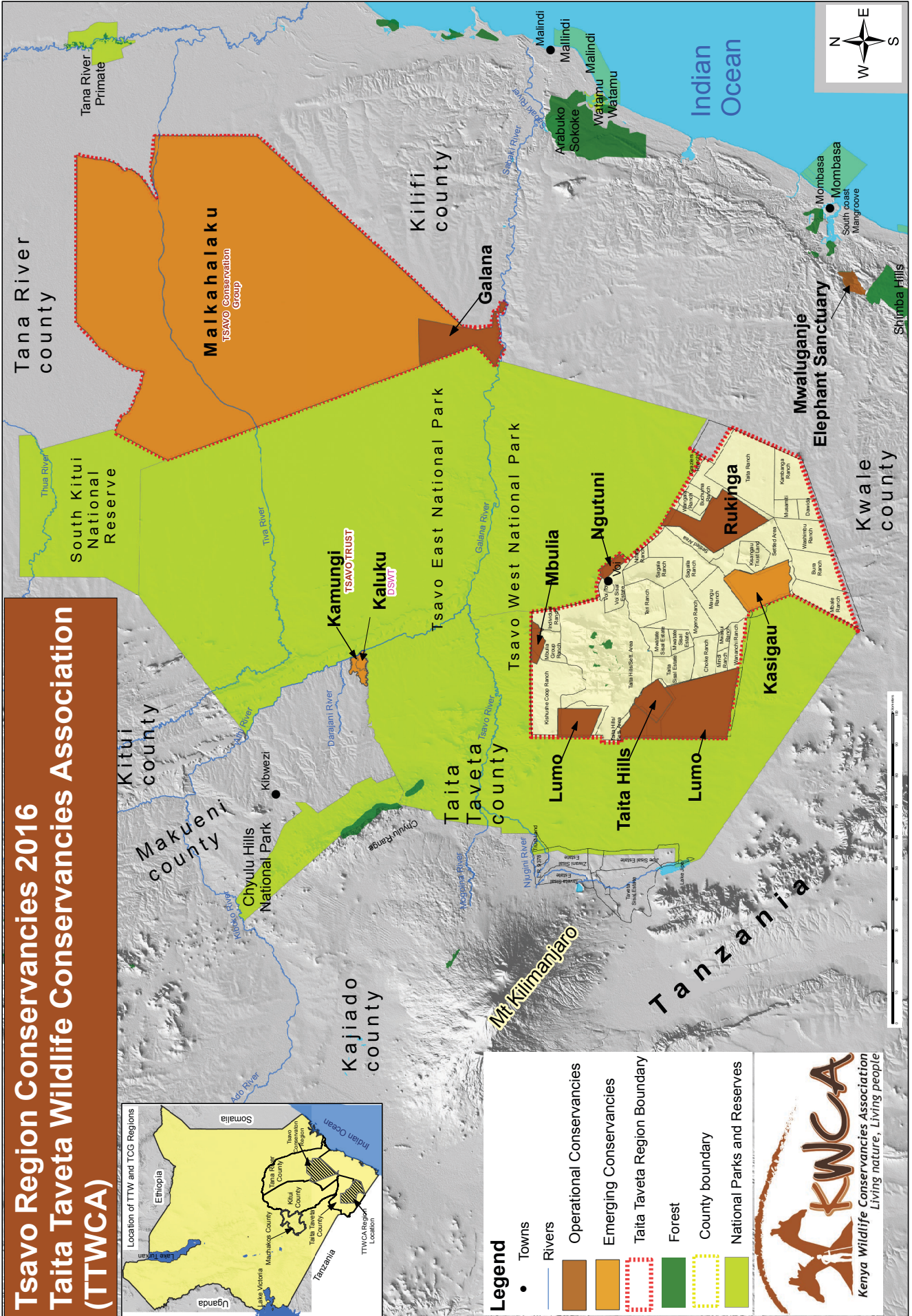
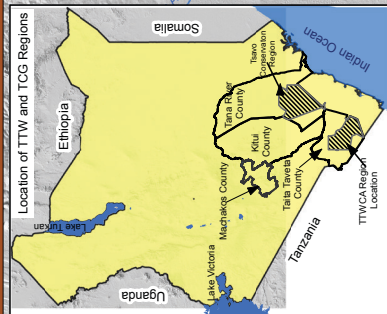
visits to conservancies in Laikipia and Samburu counties to benchmark development of conservancies. This led to the ranch owners resolving to convert their ranches to wildlife conservancies that support cattle ranching as well in 2012. With support from Kenya Land Conservation Trust, the ranchers developed a Constitution to govern the upcoming association of conservancies and in 2013 registered TTWCA. The conservancies are critical wildlife corridors between Tsavo East and West national parks.

| No            | Conservancy                         | Year Established | Size (Ha)      | No. Households | No. Rangers |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|
| 1             | Lumo Wildlife Conservation Trust    | 2001             | 45,788         | 4,000          | 14          |
| 2             | Taita Ranch                         | 2013             | 38,040         | 350            | 15          |
| 3             | Oza Group Ranch                     | 2013             | 11,200         | 2,600          |             |
| 4             | Wangala Ranch                       | 2013             | 2,000          | 3              | 5           |
| 5             | Golini Mwaluganje                   | 1993             | 6,500          | 3,000          | 6           |
| 6             | Rukinga                             | 1997             | 34,398         | 50             | 85          |
| 7             | Taita Hills Wildlife Sanctuary      | 1972             | 11,331         |                | 20          |
| 8             | Mbulia Conservancy                  | 2011             | 4,613          | 3,200          | 6           |
| 9             | Ngutuni Sanctuary                   | 2000             | 4,046          |                |             |
| 10            | Kasigau Ranching Company Ltd        | 2013             | 20,800         | 2,200          | 5           |
| 11            | Mkuki Ranch                         | 2013             | 23,996         |                |             |
| 12            | Amaka Ranch                         | 2013             | 5,988          | 30             | 5           |
| 13            | Maungu Ranching Company Ltd.        | 2013             | 21,619         | 1,249          | 7           |
| 14            | Wushumbu Ranch                      | 2013             | 19,468         |                |             |
| 15            | Dawida Ranching Company Ltd         | 2013             | 4,000          |                |             |
| 16            | Kambanga Ranching Company Ltd       | 2013             | 13,600         | 300            | 5           |
| 17            | Mgeno Ranching Company Ltd          | 2013             | 21,200         | 515            | 5           |
| 18            | Bura Ranch                          | 2013             | 15,355         | 1,400          |             |
| 19            | Mramba Ranch                        | 2013             | 11,874         | 15,000         | 10          |
| 20            | Galana Wildlife Conservancy         | 2009             | 24,000         |                | 4           |
| 21            | Izera                               | 2016             | 8,000          |                | 9           |
| 22            | Taita Sisal Estate Sanctuary        | 2016             | 2,428          |                | 12          |
| 23            | Ndara                               | 2016             | 2,023          |                |             |
| 24            | Lualenyi Community Conservancy      | 2014             | 4,856          |                |             |
| 26            | Peregrine Conservation Area(Kaluku) | 2015             | 1,214          |                |             |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |                                     |                  | <b>358,337</b> | <b>33,897</b>  | <b>213</b>  |

**Table 16:** Conservancies under Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association



# Tsavo Region Conservancies 2016 Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA)



Map 11: conservancies under Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association



## Western Wildlife Conservancies Association

The Western Wildlife Conservancies Association is the youngest regional association formed under the guidance of KWCA. It was registered in April 2014 and its current in its nascent stage of development. it is located within the

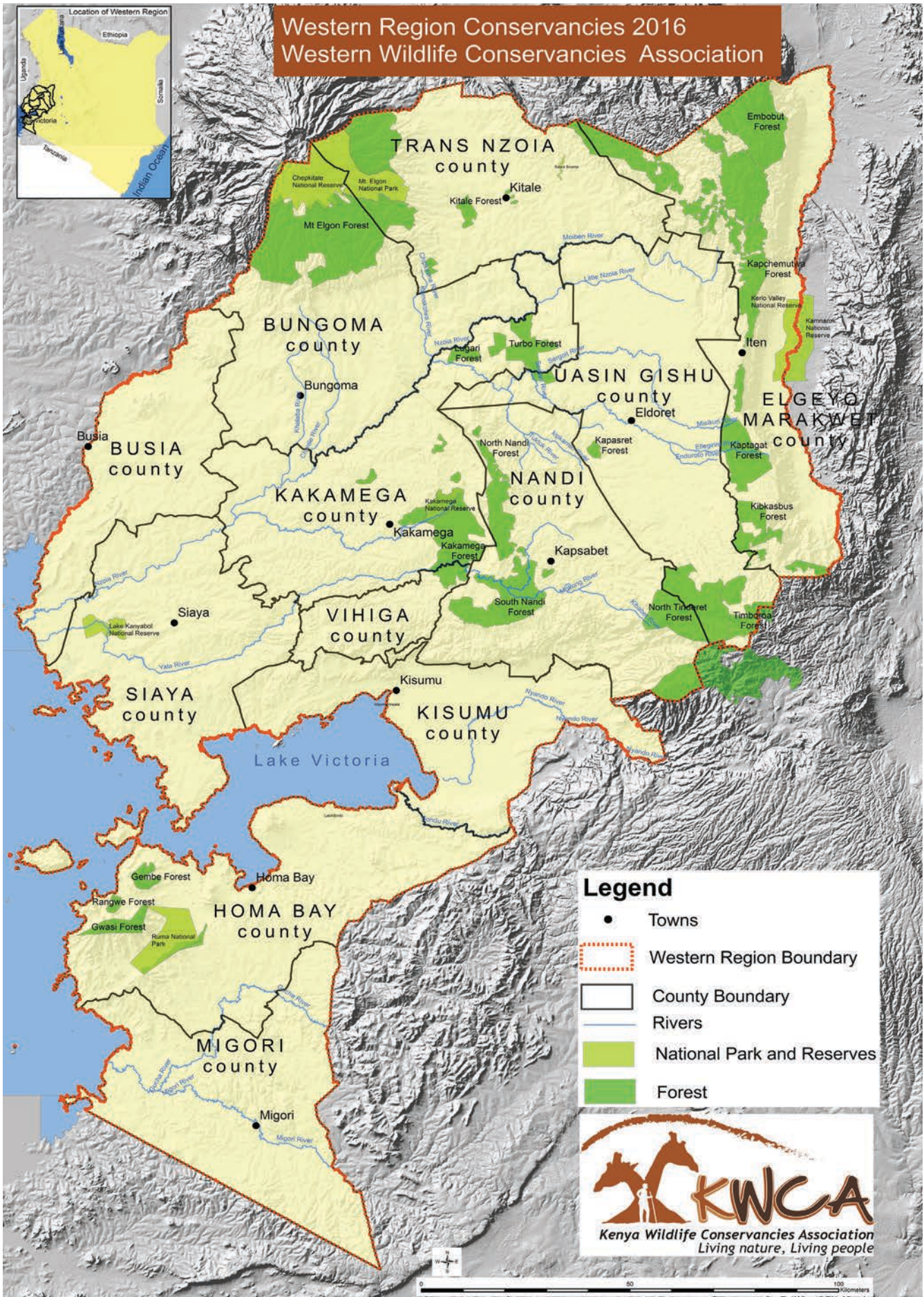
larger Western Kenya, Nyanza and North Rift. It currently hosts 16 conservancies covering 31,164 Ha at various stages of development.

| No            | Conservancy                               | Year Established | Size(Ha)      | No.Households | No. Rangers |
|---------------|---|------------------|---------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1             | Kitale Nature Conservancy                 | 2010             | 120           | 5             | 3           |
| 2             | Sergoit Farm                              | 1953             | 1,214         | 2             | 20          |
| 3             | Gwasi Hills Community Forest Association  | 2009             | 4,835         | 40            | 2           |
| 4             | Kibirong                                  | 2010             | 267           | 350           | 17          |
| 5             | Cheborwa Conservancy                      |                  | 680           | 15            | -           |
| 6             | Kapkurmoi Cultural and Conservation/Rimoi | 2008             | 40            | 70            | 1           |
| 7             | Kaimosi Mission Wildlife Conservancy      | 2011             | 80            | -             | 4           |
| 8             | Kibargoi Wildlife Conservancy             | 2014             | 4,000         | 118           | 6           |
| 9             | Kingwal Community Conservancy Trust       | 2013             | 2,000         | 400           | 20          |
| 10            | Kositei                                   | 2014             | 8,498         | -             | 16          |
| 11            | Orwa                                      | 2013             | 9,413         | -             | -           |
| 12            | Mukhondo Conservancy                      | 2009             | 17            | -             | -           |
| <b>TOTALS</b> |   |                  | <b>31,164</b> | <b>1,000</b>  | <b>89</b>   |

**Table 17:** Conservancies under Western Wildlife Conservancies Association







Map 12: Conservancies under Western Wildlife Conservancies Association



## Tsavo Conservation Group and Tsavo Trust

**Tsavo Conservation Group** works with Malkahalaku conservancy to secure wilderness areas in Kenya’s iconic Tsavo landscape and beyond, for the benefit of wildlife, habitat and people. They use a ‘Stabilization through Conservation’ approach with a focus on innovation, partnership and stewardship. This involves building societies that acknowledge and benefit from the co-existence with wildlife.

**Tsavo Trust** is a Kenyan non-profit organization supporting Kamungi conservancy in the greater Tsavo ecosystem to ensure the survival, security and ecological integrity of the regions natural landscape. Tsavo Trust works with communities in Ukambani, Orma, Kulalua and Galana to develop revenue-earning potential of the region while enhancing environmental conservation

### Partners

- The Zoological Society of London (ZSL) is an international scientific, conservation and educational charity whose mission is to promote and achieve the worldwide conservation of animals and their habitats.
- Save the Elephants conducts vital research on elephant behavior and ecology and pioneered GPS radio tracking in Africa to provide fresh insight into the life of elephants.

| No           | Conservancy            | Year Established | Size(Ha)       | No.Households | No. Rangers |
|--------------|------------------------|------------------|----------------|---------------|-------------|
| 1            | Malkhalaku Conservancy | 2014             | 480,830        | 7,000         | 26          |
| 25           | Kamungi Conservancy    | 2015             | 2,800          | 700           | 12          |
| <b>TOTAL</b> |                        |                  | <b>483,630</b> | <b>7,700</b>  | <b>38</b>   |

**Table 18:** Conservancies under Tsavo Conservation Group and Tsavo Trust



Photo: KWCA



# Chapter 4: Threats to Conservancies

Despite the important role played by conservancies in Kenya, these commendable efforts are likely to be impacted by a myriad of threats which have bedeviled wildlife conservation in the country. These includes: -

**Land Use Change:** Continued expansion of arable and irrigated agriculture into the drier counties where conservancies are found leads to habitat loss, fragmentation, loss of dry season grazing areas and an increased incidence of human/wildlife conflicts. Among the counties of Kajiado, Laikipia, Nakuru and Narok where most conservancies occur, crop land has increased by 50% and settlement by 150% in the last 10 years. If the benefits accruing from wildlife conservation/tourism are not comparable with other land uses, agriculture expansion will continue to be a threat particularly driven by increased demand to feed the growing population in the rangelands. Expansion of cultivation is associated with clearing of natural vegetation, charcoal burning, fencing and water abstraction that impacts wildlife movement, feeding, breeding and survival. Lack of enforceable land use plans presents a major threat to the growth of conservancies.

**Land Degradation:** Most of the wildlife rich counties are inhabited by pastoralists whose culture defines wealth in terms of livestock herds. Recurrent droughts and poor land use practice leads to overgrazing, soil erosion and ultimately land degradation. This is compounded by factors such as flooding and frequent drought. Pasture and water scarcity drive pastoral livestock to protected areas and conservancies. External influences from migrants elsewhere has led to loss of vegetation cover due to cutting of trees for fuelwood and charcoal burning.

**Human-Wildlife Conflicts:** conflict between people and wildlife is prevalent in all areas where wildlife and people co-exist. Elephants, the plains wildlife feed on or destroy crops while the cats attack and kill livestock. As people protect their property, occasionally human or wildlife is lost. Competition for water and pasture as these resources dwindle further escalate the conflict. HWC also adversely affects household incomes particularly where promise for compensation is not forthcoming or is delayed.

**Poaching:** Subsistence and commercial trade in wildlife products represents a major threat to wildlife in conservancies as well as in national parks and reserves. While a recent notable decline in poaching has been reported particularly for elephants and rhino, game meat and trade in animal products remains a challenge for conservancies. The situation is made worse by the proliferation of firearms that are in the hands of local communities in certain parts of the Country such as northern Kenya; largely due to the

breakdown of law and order in Somalia in the early 1990s. Taita Taveta, Nakuru, Kajiado, Narok, Isiolo, Samburu and Marsabit are among the counties heavily affected by trade in wildlife .

**Inadequate Social and Economic Benefits:** wildlife conservation as a land use is expected to generate benefits comparable to other land uses. Wildlife tourism and sale of local products are the main avenues for generating benefits in conservancies. Today, many conservancies either lack tourism potential or capital investment to effectively invest enterprises that generate benefits to the many landowners. This is particularly a challenge for conservancies in community land where membership runs into several thousand members. Upon establishing a conservancy, community members develop expectation to benefit, when these benefits are not realized or do not lead to improved livelihoods of the land owners, other competing land uses that are not compatible with wildlife conservation will take precedence.

**Poor Governance:** For conservancies to thrive, they must effectively deliver on the purpose for their establishment. Failure to achieve this will make the conservancy owners disgruntled and less supportive of the conservancy goals and objectives. Poor governance has been a bone of contention among many of the conservancies.

**Insecure Land Tenure:** A significant amount of land especially in Baringo, Turkana, Marsabit, Isiolo, Tana River and Lamu counties falls in category of former Trust Land previously before coming into place of the Community Land Act 2016. Most conservancies have to date been established in these areas. This is a transitional period and although the Act allows for community land to be titled, how well the process will be done to ensure a smooth transition and that local communities are not disenfranchised of their land rights remains critical for the survival of conservancies.

**Slow rate of Policy Implementation and Weak Law Enforcement:** Effective law enforcement is key to ensuring that wildlife and its habitats are secured. While commendable efforts have been made by the team of games scouts on the ground working in collaboration with KWS, a lot still needs to be done on the ground. KWS require adequate funding to effectively carryout their overall responsibility of ensuring wildlife security nationally. The game scout's salaries, allowances and even their security bases, radio and other communications equipment are currently funded by various agencies that are supporting conservation in Kenya. This is not a sustainable approach since the donors can withdraw their funding any time.

## Chapter 5: The Future and Way Forward

Kenya is a signatory to the Convention on Biological Diversity's (CBD). The Plan on Biodiversity provides an overarching framework on biodiversity conservation and management internationally and includes 20 Aichi Biodiversity Targets, which Parties to the CBD have committed to achieve by 2020 (CBD, 2010). Target 11, under Strategic Goal C, aims to improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity. The target indicates that by 2020, at least 17 % of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 % of coastal and marine areas of important for biodiversity and ecosystem services are conserved.

This conservation effort is not limited to national parks and reserves but include "Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures" (OECM).

Kenya has currently secured 8% of its terrestrial land area under parks and reserves. An additional 4% is protected by forest reserves bringing the total up to 12% (6.98 Million Ha) of land under conservation. This is below the 17% (9.88 Million Ha) target. To achieve the 17% target within the next 3 years, conservancies, categorized as OECMs have potential to attain (6.46 Million Ha) and exceed by 16 % Kenya's international obligation to the CBD.

In addition to the 4.3 Million ha covered by the 110 established conservancies, 50 conservancies with a potential

to add 2.4 Million ha to the conservation landscape have been proposed or are emerging.

However, establishing conservancies at this scale requires significant financial and human resources to create solid foundations for conservancies to build and grow on. Trainings, community mobilization, legal registrations, creation of governance and benefit sharing mechanisms and establishing the appropriate livelihood enhancement and conservation programs require time and effort.

KWCA has partnered with KWS to become a one stop shop platform for conservancy information and registration. The Wildlife Act 2013 and the Conservancy and Sanctuary under development after regulations set out the specific requirements and documentation that is needed to register a Conservancy, and the frequency for renewal of registration. KWCA will be responsible for the initial registration of conservancies and will ensure that proper documentation support is availed, verify legalities and endorse the conservancies before they are entered into the KWS database. KWS will furthermore issue wildlife user rights to the conservancies. This registration process will also ensure that wildlife scouts are registered and trainings provided to standardize roles and operations. This is aimed at providing conservancies legal recognition and to streamline operations.

*Conservancies are the single most successful conservation initiative since the creation of national parks in the 1940s. They protect land for Kenya's wildlife and even more important create sanctuaries for safety. In addition, conservancies bring benefits in the form of direct payments and jobs to the people who share their land with wildlife."*

*Cynthia Moss- Elephant Conservationist.*

Photo: KWCA



By combining conservation of wildlife habitats with livelihood development, the conservancy model offers an avenue to manage large tracts of land open to wildlife movement. This in turn maintains the genetic integrity of species, creates resilience to climatic impacts on available habitats and allows wildlife populations to at minimum remain stable. There are many parts of Kenya, in particular Western, Northern and Eastern that offer great conservancy potential. Marginalized populations in these areas would benefit immensely from establishing conservancies. This would clarify land rights, benefit sharing structures, introduce livelihood enhancement opportunities, and provide coordinated access to development initiatives for basic services such as access to water, health and education. Creating these contiguous land connections can also benefit wildlife as demonstrated by Save the Elephants in 2016, where Morgan, an impressive bull elephant, moved 220 km from Ishaqbini conservancy to Somalia, indicating a movement for the first time in 20 years<sup>10</sup>. Identifying these areas, creating the local capacity, and building the conservancies remains a key focus for KWCA and partners going into the future.

Conservancies provide a public service by protecting and conserving wildlife outside of national gazetted protected areas. They also enhance livelihoods through provision of social services such as schools, bursaries, access to

water and health, improve security conditions and create a mechanism for coordination across a landscape. The establishment of conservancy management plans, and KWCA support to establish monitoring and evaluation systems, conservancies can demonstrate linkages to Vision 2030, the Sustainable Development Goals and East African Community goals on the development and conservation agendas. In 2016, Lewa Wildlife Conservancy, a private conservancy, invested USD 1.14 million in supporting education programs and treated 40,000 local community members through their health centers. Within the community conservancies hosted by NRT, Ksh 40 million was used to provide education, rangeland rehabilitation, infrastructure and health support to the communities. Counties, such as Samburu, have recognized this role and support community conservancies annually through a budget line. Yet, more can be done at both the county and national level. KWCA seeks to increase this recognition and support at both government hierarchies and ultimately garner support from the National Treasury through budget lines to KWS to support conservancies.

KWCA will continue to play a critical role in the growth and support of conservancies through partnerships, capacity, advocacy and addressing the needs of private, group and community conservancies.



<sup>10</sup> <http://www.savetheelephants.org/about-ste/press-media/?detail=a-lone-bull-from-kenya-braves-somalia-for-first-time-in-20-years>

## Way Forward

- **Increase Social Economic Investments in Conservancies:** While some conservancies are generating substantial income for the land owners, many of them are not due to various reasons. Some of the conservancies are yet to find tourism investors. Improvements can also be made in other tourism related enterprises such as beadwork and curios, cultural villages and museums. Where this is already happening such as in the NRT conservancies, these should be scaled up. Setting up of a national conservation fund and/or a conservancy grant facility is an important step in securing resources to increase investment.
- **Incentivize Community and private landowners and investors to support conservancies:** The national and county government and development partners to collaborate in incentivizing adoption of conservancies as a tool for community development and biodiversity conservation. This is in recognition that benefits from wildlife conservation are necessary to offset costs associated with living with wildlife.
- **Strengthen Conservancy Management:** Many of the conservancies currently require technical and financial support to put in place functional governance structures with the necessary safeguards. This is more so for conservancies where land ownership is community without very clear demarcations of what individual landowners stake is in the conservancy. This would ensure that their affairs are handled transparently and equitably and that any social economic development projects are implemented successfully for the benefit of the entire membership. A conservancy leadership and management training onsite or in partnership with training institutions will help fill this gap. Further implement the Community Land Act 2016 in community areas to strengthen community land rights to stimulate involvement in conservancies.
- **Strengthen national umbrella body for Community and Private Conservancies (KWCA) and Regional Associations** as coordinating platforms to develop standards, strengthen networking and sharing of best practices for conservancies.
- **Invest in Training of Community Scouts:** Many of the community scouts deployed in community conservancies are untrained or have received inadequate training. Since they play a complimentary role in securing wildlife, the Government through KWS should commit resources for their training. The current costs of training a scout is enormous and many of the developing conservancies cannot afford it.
- **KWS Should Play a Bigger Role in Providing Security for Wildlife including Conservancies:** KWS recognizing the complimentary role of conservancies should commit more resources to overall policing and surveillance of dispersal areas and corridors. While conservancy rangers have played a very significant role in ensuring security, the sustainability of this is dependent on continued funding from external sources. This should be leveraged by greater investment by national and county governments to reduce donor dependency. A combined effort from KWS and conservancy rangers will yield results.
- **Strengthen Conservation planning at the ecosystem level:** Conservancies, National Parks and national reserves are complementary and should be managed as interlinked parts of an ecosystem particularly where migratory species are domiciled. Greater support should be provided to development and implementation of county spatial plans, ecosystem plans and protected area management plans.
- **Promote Investments in Livestock in the pastoral Counties:** pastoralism is one of the few land uses compatible with wildlife conservation, there has been very little investments in terms of improving livestock production, rangeland management, marketing and the associated infrastructure. As a result, the returns from livestock have been low and have not played any significant role in terms of improving rural communities' livelihoods. This opportunity has therefore not been capitalized to maximize on the returns from a livestock/wildlife land use mix.
- **Invest in Rangelands Management:** Investment in the management of rangelands through collaboration with the relevant agencies out after stem the serious problem of land degradation. This will be achieved through a mix of strategies such as reduction in the size of herds, extending areas under Holistic Management and bunched grazing among others.
- **Formally recognize conservancy lands as a Land Use:** While the wildlife Act 2013 recognizes conservation in community and private lands there is need for greater support and political goodwill for those opting for this land use.

The opportunity cost for conserving wildlife on land should be accounted for so that conservation is considered a worthwhile land use.



● **Reduce Human Wildlife Conflicts:** Even where land owners have established conservancies, human wildlife conflict remains a threat. Greater investment in human wildlife conflict mitigation strategies and an effective and efficiently delivered compensation mechanisms is necessary to reduce conflict and increase tolerance for those coexisting with wildlife.

● **Conduct an assessment report on the intrinsic value of conservancies to the national GDP**

An assessment report showcasing the economic and social impact/value of conservancies in Kenya will enable KWCA and other conservation partners to build a case for conservancies and garner financial and technical support for wildlife conservation

*Wildlife cannot be conserved without taking care of the welfare of the communities, the land, the livestock and other livelihood activities. They are all interlinked*

*Michael Mbithi,*

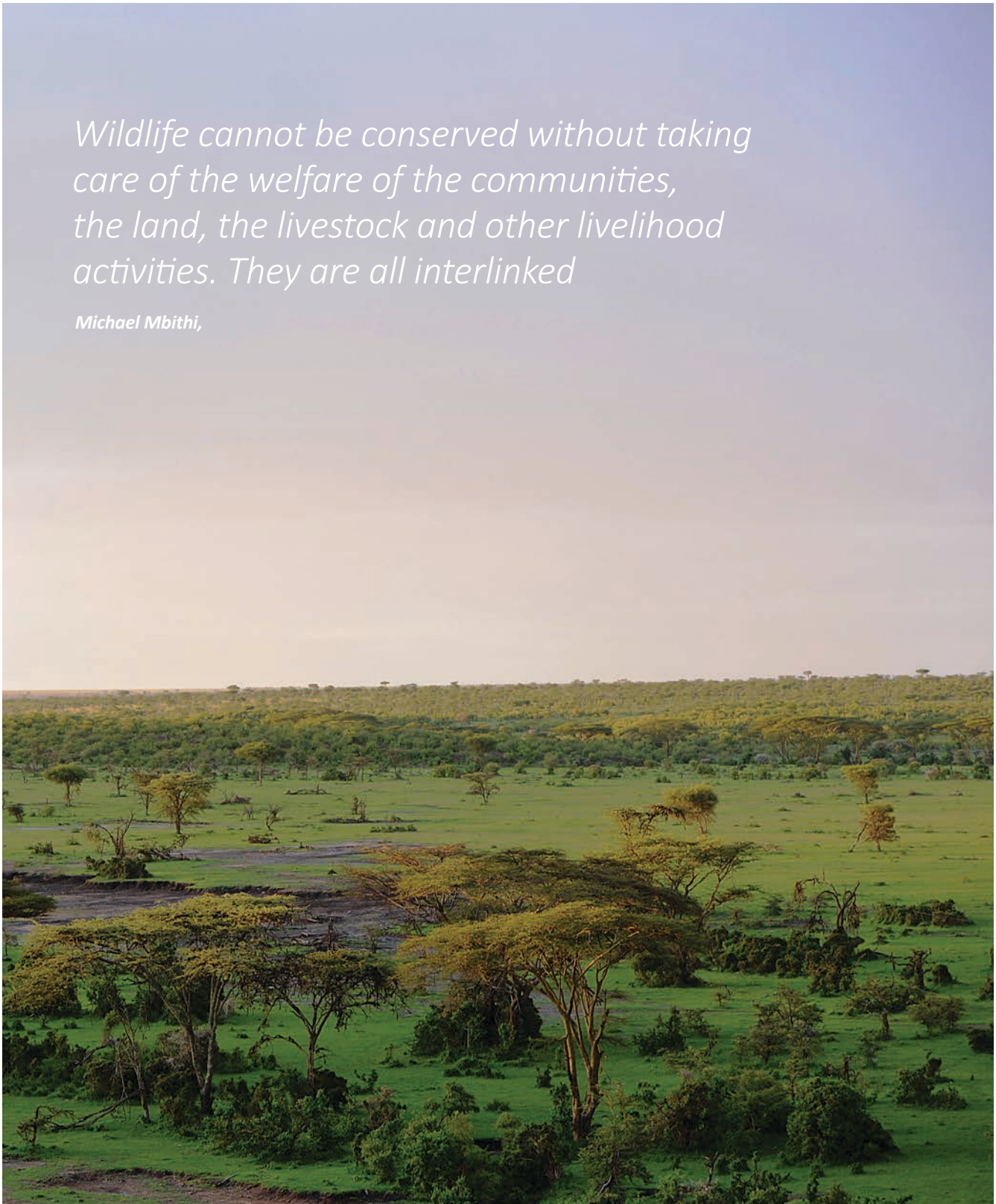


Photo by Kirsti Ikonen / Basecamp Explorer

# Acknowledgements

This publication would not be made possible without the support of USAID Kenya and The Nature Conservancy. We appreciate the support from our partners and the Government of Kenya, regional associations, conservancies and tourism partners who were integral in the development of this report.



Ministry of Environment and Natural Resource



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE



Protecting nature. Preserving life.



AFRICAN CONSERVATION CENTRE





# Regional Associations

| REGIONAL ASSOCIATION                            | Website   |
|---|---|
| Amboseli Ecosystem Trust                        | <a href="http://www.amboseliecosystemtrust.org/">http://www.amboseliecosystemtrust.org/</a> |
| Athi Kapiti Wildlife Conservancies Association  |   |
| Laikipia Wildlife Forum                         | <a href="http://www.laikipia.org/">http://www.laikipia.org/</a>                             |
| Northern Rangeland Trust                        | <a href="http://www.nrt-kenya.org/">http://www.nrt-kenya.org/</a>                           |
| Northern Rangeland Trust - COAST                | <a href="http://www.nrt-kenya.org/coast/">http://www.nrt-kenya.org/coast/</a>               |
| Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association  | <a href="http://www.maraconservancies.org/">http://www.maraconservancies.org/</a>           |
| Rift Lakes Conservancies Association            |   |
| Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association |   |
| Tsavo Trust                                     | <a href="http://tsavotrust.org/">http://tsavotrust.org/</a>                                 |
| TSavoCon  | <a href="http://www.tsavocon.org/">http://www.tsavocon.org/</a>                             |
| South Rift Association Land Owners              | <a href="http://soralo.org/">http://soralo.org/</a>   |
| Western Wildlife Conservancies Association      |   |
| Lamu Conservation Trust                         | <a href="http://lct.webfactional.com/">http://lct.webfactional.com/</a>                     |

# Tourism Eco-lodges in Conservancies

| No                     | Tourism Operators                      | Conservancy                             |
|------------------------|--|---|
| <b>Amboseli Region</b> |  |   |
| 1                      | Tawi Lodge                             | Tawi Kilitome Conservancy               |
| 2                      | CampiYa Kanzi                          | Kanzi Conservancy                       |
| 3                      | Tortilis Camp                          | Kitirua                                 |
| 4                      | K&D Campsite                           |   |
| 5                      | Porini Amboseli Camp                   | Eselenkei Conservancy                   |
| 6                      | Satao Elerai                           | Satao Elerai Conservancy                |
| 7                      | Oldonyo Wuas                           | Imbirikani Conservation Area            |
| 8                      | Sidai House                            | Sidai Oleng Conservancy                 |
| 9                      | Ngoja Kidogo Basic Campsite            | Lisa Ranch and Sanctuary                |
| 10                     | Olerai Camp                            | Olerai Wildlife Community Conservancy   |
| <b>Laikipia Region</b> |  |   |
| 1                      | The Mutukan Retreat and Makena's Hills | Olari Nyiro/Laikipia Nature Conservancy |
| 2                      | Sangare Under Canvas                   | Sangare Conservancy                     |
| 3                      | Sosian Lodge                           | Sosian Samburumburu Ltd                 |
| 4                      | Sweetwaters Tented Camp                | Ol Pejeta Conservancy Limited           |
| 5                      | Olpejeta House                         |   |
| 6                      | Porini Rhino Camp                      |   |
| 7                      | KichecheBushcamp                       |   |
| 8                      | Borana Lodge                           | Borana Conservancy                      |
| 9                      | Riding Wild                            |   |
| 10                     | Laragai House                          |   |
| 11                     | Sirai House                            |   |
| 12                     | Arjijo House                           |   |

|                           |                         |                                      |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 13                        | Ol Jogi Ltd             | Ol Jogi Ltd                          |
| <b>Maasai Mara Region</b> |                         |                                      |
| 1                         | Losokwan Camp           | Lemek Conservancy                    |
| 2                         | Mara River Lodge        |                                      |
| 3                         | Duma Camp               |                                      |
| 4                         | Saruni Wild Camp        |                                      |
| 5                         | Mara Concord Lodge      | Mara Naboisho Conservancy            |
| 6                         | Asilia Naboisho Camp    |                                      |
| 7                         | A, Basecamp Dorobo,     |                                      |
| 8                         | Basecamp Eagles View    |                                      |
| 9                         | Encounter Mara Camp     |                                      |
| 10                        | Olseki Camp             |                                      |
| 11                        | Kicheche Valley         | Mara North Conservancy               |
| 12                        | Saruni Camp             |                                      |
| 13                        | Elephant Pepper Camp    |                                      |
| 14                        | Exploreams Mara Rianta  |                                      |
| 15                        | Safaris Unlimited       |                                      |
| 16                        | Karen Blixen Camp       |                                      |
| 17                        | Kicheche Mara Camp      |                                      |
| 18                        | Royal Mara Safari Lodge |                                      |
| 19                        | Offbeat Mara Camp       |                                      |
| 20                        | Serian Camp             |                                      |
| 21                        | Mara Plains Camp        | Olderkesi Wildlife Conservancy Trust |
| 22                        | Nomadic Encounter       |                                      |
| 23                        | Cottars Camp 1920       |                                      |

|                       |                            |   |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|---|
| 24                    | Porini Lion                | Olare Motorogi Conservancy                |
| 25                    | MahaliMzuri                |   |
| 26                    | OlareKempinski             |   |
| 27                    | KichecheBushcamp           |   |
| 28                    | Great Plains               | Olkinyei Conservancy                      |
| 29                    | Porini Mara                |   |
| 30                    | Fairmount Mara Safari Club | OlchorroOiroua Conservancy                |
| 31                    | Richards Camp              |   |
| 32                    | Enkerende Island           |   |
| 33                    | Enkerende Tented Camp      |   |
| 34                    | Nubian Camp                | Enonkishu Conservancy                     |
| 35                    | House in The Wild          | Siana Conservancy                         |
| 36                    | Entumoto Safari Camp       |   |
| 37                    | Spirit of Maasai Mara Camp |   |
| 38                    | Sekenani Camp              |   |
| 39                    | Osero Camp                 |   |
| 40                    | Olarro Camp                | Olarro Conservancy                        |
| 41                    | Oldarpoi Camp              | Nashulai Conservancy                      |
| <b>Northern Kenya</b> |                            |   |
| 1                     | Saruni Rhino               | Sera Conservancy                          |
| 2                     | Sasaab Lodge               | Westgate Community Conservancy            |
| 3                     | Saruni- Samburu            | Kalama Community Wildlife Conservancy Ltd |
| 4                     | Sessia Tented Camp         | Nakuprat- Gotu Community Conservancy Ltd  |
| 5                     | Sarara Camp                | Namunyak Conservancy                      |
| 6                     | Kitich Camp                |   |
| 7                     | OlentileSanctuary          | Naibunga Conservancy Trust                |
| 8                     | Twala Women Cultural Boma  |   |
| 9                     | KoijaStarbeds              |   |
| 10                    | OlgabolBandas              |   |
| 11                    | Lewa Wilderness            | Lewa Wildlife Conservancy                 |
| 12                    | Lewa Safari Camp           |   |
| 13                    | Lewa House                 |   |
| 14                    | Kifaru                     |   |
| 15                    | Sirgoi Lodge               |   |
| 16                    | lingwesi Eco- Lodge        | Ilingwesi Conservancy                     |
| 17                    | Tassia Lodge               | Lekurruki Conservation Ltd                |
| <b>Coast Region</b>   |                            |   |
| 1                     | Kiwayu Safari Village      | Kiunga Community Conservancy              |
| 2                     | Munira Camp                |   |
| 3                     | Champali                   |   |
| 4                     | Delta Dunes Lodge          | Lower Tana Delta Conservation Trust       |

|                           |                                    |   |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| <b>Rift Lakes Region</b>  |                                    |   |
| 1                         | Chui Lodge,                        | Oserengoni Wildlife Sanctuary                     |
| 2                         | Kiangazi House                     |   |
| 3                         | Santuary Farm Campsite,            | Sanctuary Farm                                    |
| 4                         | Santuary Farm Clubhouse Restaurant |   |
| 5                         | Santuary Farm Horse Riding Safaris |   |
| 6                         | Hippo Point/ Naivasha              | Hippo Point Naivasha Conservancy                  |
| 7                         | Lentolia                           | Lentolia Farm                                     |
| 8                         | Lake Elementaita Serena Camp       | Soysambu Conservancy Ltd                          |
| 9                         | Sleeping Warrior Camp aLodges      |   |
| 10                        | Mbweha Camp                        |   |
| 11                        | PundaMilia Camp                    |   |
| 12                        | Sunbird Lodge                      | Loldia Conservancy                                |
| 13                        | Loldia House                       |   |
| 14                        | Kigio Wildlife Lodges              | Kigio Wildlife Conservancy                        |
| 15                        | Kongoni Lodge,                     | Kongoni Conservancy                               |
| 16                        | Chui Cottage,                      |   |
| 17                        | Pilipili Cottage                   | Mundui Estate                                     |
| 18                        | Mundui House                       |   |
| 19                        | Tumbili Cliff Lodge                | Ngenyin Community Conservation Area               |
| <b>Taita Region</b>       |                                    |   |
| 1                         | KampiYaNdovu                       | Golini- Mwaluganje Community Wildlife Conservancy |
| 2                         | Mwarangunyi Village                | Wangala Ranch                                     |
| 3                         | Lions Bluff Lodge                  | Lumo Wildlife Conservation Trust                  |
| 4                         | Kulalu Camp                        | Galana Wildlife Conservancy                       |
| 5                         | Ndolwa House                       | Oza Group Ranch                                   |
| 6                         | Kamungi Bandas                     | Kamungi Conservancy                               |
| <b>Western Region</b>     |                                    |   |
| 1                         | Snake Park                         | Kapkurmoi Cultural and Conservation(Rimoi)        |
| 2                         | Kitale Nature Conservancy          | Kitale Nature Conservancy Ltd                     |
| 3                         | Kaimosi Guest Houses               | Kaimosi Mission Wildlife Conservancy              |
| 4                         | MasolBandas                        | Masol Wildlife Conservancy                        |
| <b>Athi Kapiti Region</b> |                                    |   |
| 1                         | Kipwa Eco Lodge Conservancy        | Kipwa Conservancy                                 |





Photo: John Kisimir





# Communities at the centre of Wildlife Conservation.

