



LAIKIPIA
CONSERVANCIES
ASSOCIATION



Photo: Rio The Photographer, Ol Pejeta Conservancy

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



Table of Contents

Remarks from the chairperson	04
From the CEO's Desk	05
Abbreviations	08
LCA at a Glance	07
Laikipia conservational value	10
LCA's Strategic Plan And Objectives	12
LCA's Member conservancies	16
Maps	17
Highlights	18
LCA's Goals	21
Goal 1: Laikipia conservancies are recognized and valued	24
Goal 2: Effective and well managed conservancies	35
Goal 3: Laikipia landscape is collaboratively planned and managed.	38
Goal 4: Supportive policies and regulations enable incentivize conservancies	57
Goal 5: Conservancies are secure through long-term conservation tenure	65
Goal 6: Conservancies are financially prosperous and economic contributors to Laikipia.	



Photo: Rio The Photographer, Ol Pejeta Conservancy

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kip Ole Polos - Chair

Tom Sylvester - Vice Chair

Abdi Sora - Treasurer

Nelly Parmeris - Secretary

Mathew Naiptari - Member

Justin Heath - Member

EDITORIAL TEAM

Peter Matunge

Chief Executive Officer

EDITOR

Alex Lekishon

Communications & Grants Officer

COVER PHOTO

Rio The Photographer, Ol Pejeta
Conservancy

DESIGN & LAYOUT

Alex Lekishon

Remarks from the Chairman



As we conclude this year and reflect on our collective journey, I extend sincere appreciation to each member, government partners, donors, and the entire Laikipia community for steadfast support. Our commitment to a well-managed Laikipia landscape is evident in the face of challenges like the global pandemic, prolonged drought, and post-election aftermath. Despite these hurdles, our resilience, bolstered by your support, has set us on a commendable path to recovery, symbolized by the landscape's rejuvenation after abundant rains.

Our achievements showcase milestones such as the successful transition of community lands, empowering communities through governance training, and the launch of Mukogodo Forest PFMP and FMA. Strategic partnerships with Natural State, AB Entheos, and the DRIVE project underscore our dedication to collaboration and sustainability. We proudly celebrate our members' accolades and Loisaba's approval to receive 21 rhinos, recognizing their outstanding contributions.

This year marks a pivotal moment in our institutional development, establishing a fully operational secretariat and achieving milestones supported by the USAID grant. As we look ahead to the coming year, our optimism is grounded in a commitment to peace, security, collaboration, supportive policies and landscape connectivity.

I express gratitude for your continued support and commitment and look forward to a year of continued partnerships, shared successes, and a thriving Laikipia landscape.

Kip Ole Polos

Chairperson, LCA Executive Committee.

From the CEO's Desk



As one of the most important wildlife areas in Kenya, the future of Laikipia conservation depends on Conservancies. Laikipia Conservancies association(LCA) was established to strengthen these conservation institutions in this important landscape and grantees the sustainability of the conservation success stories that have been achieved by the landowners, communities and government in collaboration and partnership. Our focus, is to support and strengthen Conservancies to achieve a Laikipia Landscape that is connected, well-planned and well-managed for the benefit of the people of Laikipia , natural habitat and its wildlife. For LCA, a successful Conservancy is one; with a strong and effective institutional structures with clear management plans that links to the larger landscape, with a healthy and intact land that supports biodiversity and reinforces landscape connectivity, with a secure land tenure that is committed to long-term conservation, financially sustainable and finally the conservancy that generates social and economic impact and contributes to the local livelihoods.

To achieve this LCA continues to work with our members for landscape planning and collaboration, supported the transition of community lands and training on governance, working on LCA landscape carbon restoration project, supported ILMAMUSI PFMP and completion of SAPA for 6 members gives us a better understanding on how to engage community , mitigate negative impact and scale up positive impact for our communities. These efforts will unveiled conservancies' impacts, leading to a comprehensive action plan in the landscape.

As we reflect on the key achievements and challenges addressed throughout the year, Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA) looks ahead with optimism and determination. Our commitment to peace, security, collaboration, planning together, connectivity, and learning from each other reflects a forward-looking approach to landscape conservation. The completion of social impact assessments and institutional development; positions us to navigate future environmental landscapes effectively. Collaborations with government entities and other key stakeholders form the collaborative engagement of our Association. As we embrace the coming year, LCA remains steadfast in its mission, fostering optimism for continued positive impacts on the Laikipia landscape and the well-being of local communities

In this season of joy and reflection, let us celebrate not only the achievements but also the spirit of unity and collaboration that defines the LCA family. With gratitude in our hearts and hope for the future, I look forward to continued partnerships, shared successes, and a thriving Laikipia which we have achieved through our members' support both financially and in participation by providing the right data and attending our events and meetings.

Congratulations to OPC, Mugie, and Il Ngwesi for their well-deserved awards recognizing your outstanding contributions. We also celebrate the approval granted to Loisaba to receive 21 rhinos by the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife through the Kenya Wildlife Service.

Peter Matunge
LCA CEO.



Abbreviations

- LCA:** Laikipia Conservancies Association
USAID: United States Agency for International Development
CFA: Community Forest Association
SAPA: Social Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas
SMART: Spatial Monitoring and reporting tool
CoMMS: Conservancy Management and Monitoring System
TNC: The Nature Conservancy
USFWS: U.S Fish and Wildlife Service
GESI: Gender Equality and Social Inclusion
HWC: Human-wildlife conflict
KFS: Kenya Forest Service
KWS: Kenya Wildlife Service
AGM: Annual General Meeting
CLMCs: Community Land management Committees
PFMP: Participatory Forest management Plan
FMA: Forest Management Agreement
ILMAMUSI: Il Ngwesi, Makurian, Mukogodo, Sieku

For this report:

Ksh 150 = US\$ 1

Who We Are

The Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA) is a member-led umbrella organization established in 2019 to support and strengthen conservancies in Laikipia, Kenya. The conservancies are diverse in structure, governance and management, maturity growth, financial capacity, habitat and biodiversity but share a common goal, vision and challenges. The Association currently has 28 members covering over 4,000 sq km of land. Through LCA, members address common challenges and amplify their individual impact in the landscape, plan together and implement landscape management. LCA works to support and strengthen the work of conservancies in the landscape, by providing a unified vision, improving communication, fostering collaboration, building capacity, promoting an enabling policy environment, fostering stakeholder engagement and catalyzing conservation effort that conserve the landscape and people lives thrives. The common approach in the landscape promotes co-existence between people-people and wildlife-people.





VISION

A connected and well-managed Laikipia landscape that conserves nature and improves people's lives.

MISSION

To support and strengthen Laikipia conservancies.

Our Goals:



Laikipia Conservancies are recognized and valued
Increase public support and recognition for our members through better documenting and communicating the impacts of conservancies.



Supportive policies and regulations enable and incentivize conservancies
Promote an enabling policy and regulatory environment for our members at local and national levels.



Effective and well-managed conservancies
Elevate the impact of Laikipia conservancies by supporting and strengthening the management capacity of our members.



Conservancies are secure through long-term conservation tenure
Strengthen land tenure of member conservancies, ensuring long-term conservation.



The Laikipia conservation landscape is collaboratively planned and managed
Facilitate a collaborative planning and conservation management approach among conservancies across Laikipia.



Conservancies are financially prosperous and economic contributors to Laikipia
Develop new business mechanisms to strengthen the financial resiliency of our members.

Background:

The Laikipia Landscape and Conservancies:

Laikipia is one of the most important wildlife regions of Kenya where a deep sense of place and cultural attachment to the land has motivated people to find ways to co-exist with wildlife. Across this rangeland plateau fringed by highland forests, a mosaic of private and community conservancies collectively manage 4000 sq km of wildlife habitat, sustaining globally significant biodiversity while supporting a pastoral and ranching heritage with deep ties to the land.

private and community
conservancies collectively
manage

4000 sq km
of wildlife habitat

789,391 acres of Land

these conservancies represent an experiment in human-wildlife coexistence, sustaining a conservation ecosystem that supports wildlife while trying to meet the needs and aspirations of people.

The dual goals of conserving biodiversity and supporting thriving human communities is foundational to the conservancy concept in Laikipia.



What are conservancies?

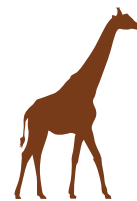
Conservancies are defined in Kenyan policy as an area of land set aside by an individual land owner, body corporate, group of owners, or a community for the purposes of wildlife conservation but for Laikipia; these are institutional structures where landowners— whether a community, a family, or an organization—can organize, control, and make decisions about their land, with conservation being a primary goal alongside other compatible activities for people, livestock and wildlife thriving and co-existing together.



LAIKIPIA CONSERVATION VALUE

Laikipia has some of Kenya's oldest and strongest conservancies. Collectively conservancies manage 40% of Laikipia, and sustain a unique and thriving tourism market, generate economic and social benefits to the people and they key partners in local development, and are critical to conservation in the landscape and act as model examples for other regions of Kenya. This holistic approach is exemplified by the integration of livestock- wildlife systems across most Laikipia conservancies, sustaining pastoral and ranching cultures and producing Kenya's highest quality, grass-fed beef, while also having key conservation impacts.

Through the work of community and other landowners and despite the absence of government wildlife protected areas, wildlife declined for the last 3 decades has been only 11% in Laikipia compared to 68% to the rest of the country.

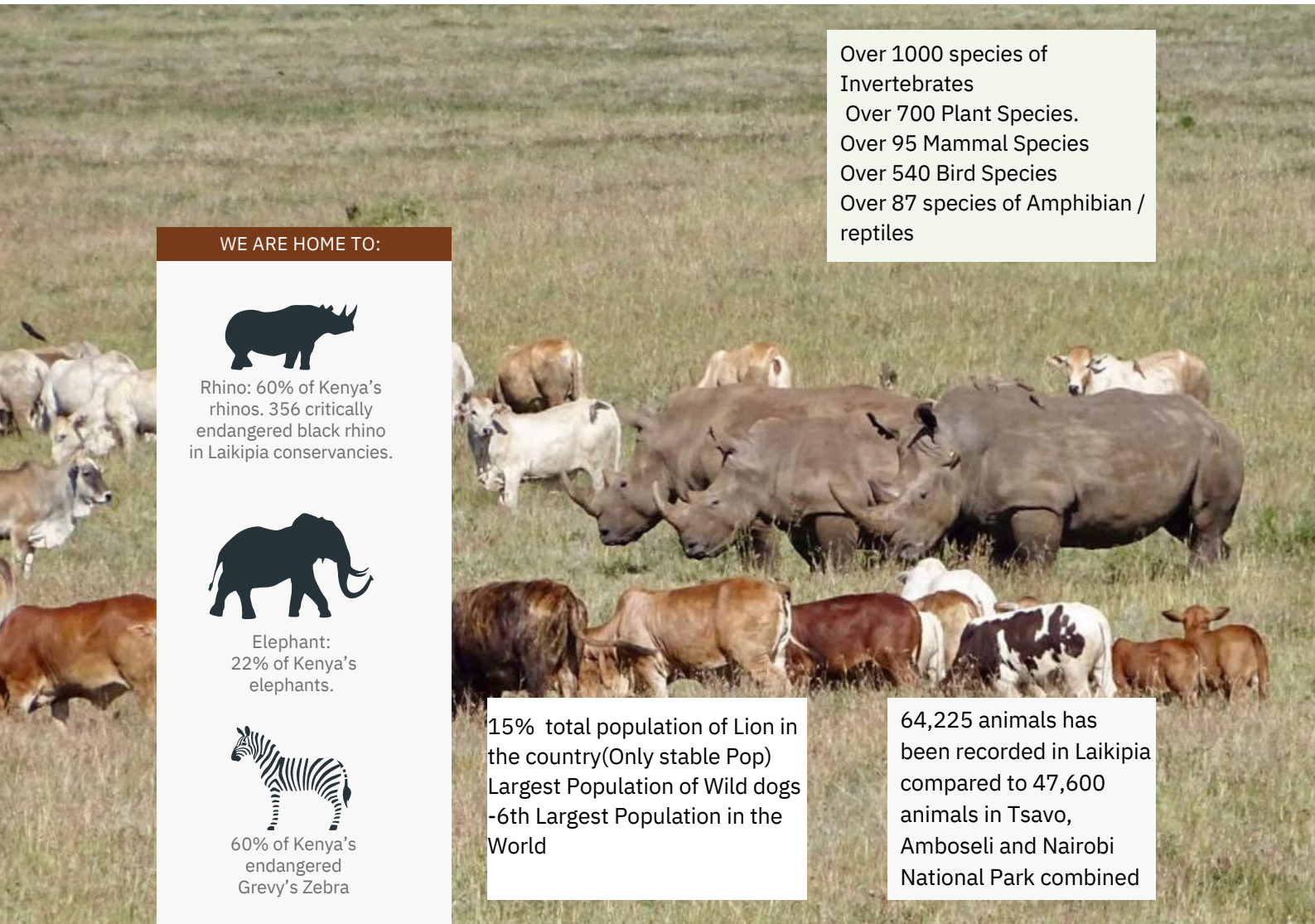


40%

of Laikipia is managed by some of the oldest and strongest conservancies in Kenya

While wildlife has declined across the country over the last three decades by 68%, in Laikipia it has been

11%



WE ARE HOME TO:



Rhino: 60% of Kenya's rhinos. 356 critically endangered black rhino in Laikipia conservancies.



Elephant: 22% of Kenya's elephants.



60% of Kenya's endangered Grevy's Zebra

Over 1000 species of Invertebrates
Over 700 Plant Species.
Over 95 Mammal Species
Over 540 Bird Species
Over 87 species of Amphibian / reptiles

15% total population of Lion in the country(Only stable Pop)
Largest Population of Wild dogs
-6th Largest Population in the World

64,225 animals has been recorded in Laikipia compared to 47,600 animals in Tsavo, Amboseli and Nairobi National Park combined

Laikipia County contains one of the largest single contiguous areas of conservation-compatible land use in East Africa, covering around 4,000 km². For comparison there is no single gazetted protected area in Kenya that is larger, with the exception of Tsavo East and Tsavo West National Parks. As a consequence Laikipia has enough space to hold large and viable populations of mega-fauna. Furthermore, until recently, the wildlife populations of Laikipia were relatively stable in the context of steep declines of such wildlife across Kenya both inside and outside of protected areas. Laikipia County is therefore one of the few viable refuges for mega-fauna left in East Africa.

The reason for Laikipia County's high biodiversity is the extent of the area of conservation-compatible land-use it contains, its varied topography and its geographical setting, straddling several ecological zones. The conservancies has continued to provide a natural refuge for wildlife as habitat, guaranteed security and space to roam for breeding and food. It is for these reasons that Laikipia also contains rare species and possibly endemics. However, from a conservation perspective, it is Laikipia's diverse community of large mammals that stands out, globally. It is the presence of stable populations of predators that led the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) to classify Laikipia as one of the three most important areas for large carnivore conservation in the country (KWS 2008).

The wildlife sector in Laikipia generates significant benefits at the local, national and international levels. The sector generates an annual average revenue of ksh 6.2 billion, Ksh 2.7 billions on purchases, ksh 400 millions expended on social projects and the sector employs over 4700 staff.

Laikipia County provides important lessons for delivering conservation outside of formally protected areas. The wildlife of Laikipia occurs on land that is owned and used by different groups of people for different purposes. This has been achieved through the adoption of conservation compatible systems of land-use, encouraged by conservancies.



LCA'S STRATEGIC PLAN & OBJECTIVES

Our Strategic Goals:

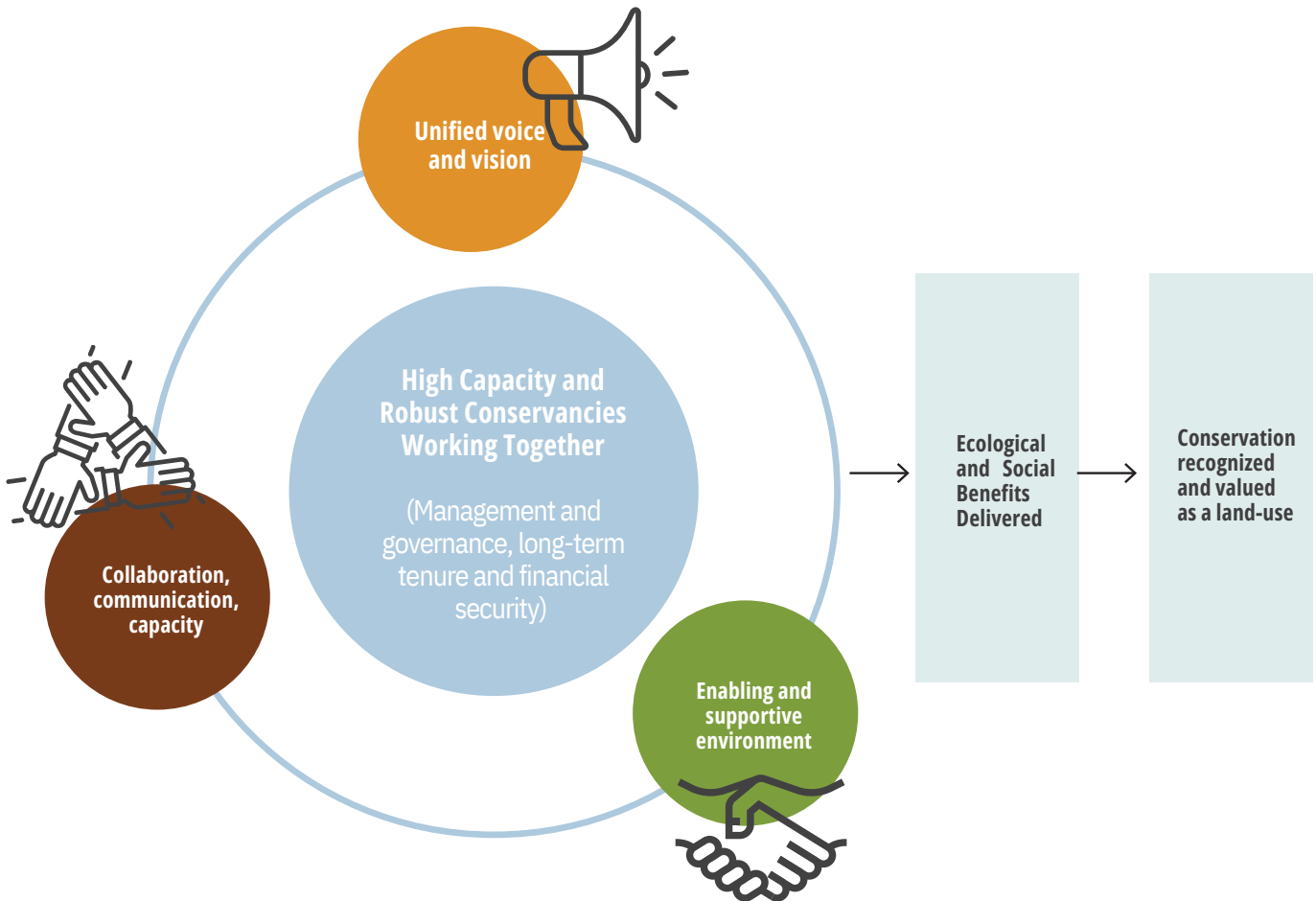
- 01 Laikipia conservancies are recognized and valued
- 02 Effective and well-managed conservancies
- 03 The Laikipia conservation landscape is collaboratively planned and managed
- 04 Supportive policies and regulations enable and incentivize conservancies
- 05 Conservancies are secure through long-term conservation tenure
- 06 Conservancies are financially prosperous and economic contributors to Laikipia



Strategic Framework: Achieving the Vision

Through a unified voice and vision, facilitating collaboration and communication, and creating an enabling environment, we will support and grow an intact landscape network of high capacity and robust conservancies across Laikipia. Working together, this network will deliver

long-term social and ecological benefits, support healthy habitats and wildlife, and establish conservation as a relevant, respected, and viable land-use option both in the landscape and as an example for other regions of Kenya.



Landscape Threats and Opportunities:

THREATS

Social: Population growth, increased settlement, and expanded pressure on land and resources; land speculation and subdivision fragmenting the landscape; habitat conversion for agricultural expansion; infrastructure development and lack of land-use planning or an ecosystem plan; insecurity.

Environmental: Climate change; loss of landscape connectivity; habitat degradation; invasive species; water stress and scarcity.

Political: Hindering policies and regulations, and lack incentives for conservancies; conservancies and conservation land not seen as important.

Tenure: Group ranches still to transition to community land; vulnerability of some private conservancy ownership models; absentee landowners in critical corridor areas.

Conservancy capacity: Poor communication between conservancies and with other stakeholders; need for more scientifically informed management; financial vulnerability; transparent and accountable governance; clear management plans and goals at individual and landscape level.

OPPORTUNITIES:

LCA Members: Laikipia has some of the strongest and most successful conservancies in Kenya, and are well positioned to support younger conservancies through knowledge transfer and technical support.

Conservancy movement: Conservancies are recognized legally and the national conservancy movement is growing more robust, developing an identity, and establishing a collective voice. The Laikipia Conservancies Association will be a Regional Association linked to the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA), and through this structure Laikipia conservancies can participate in and shape national processes and dialogues that affect them.

Devolution and County Government: The devolution of decision-making and governance to a more local level provides opportunities not only for conservancies to participate in county level processes, but also to work with local government as key partners in planning and development.

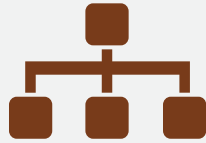
Legal reforms: A number of reforms strengthen devolved, participatory engagement in conservation and the decision-making rights of landowners and communities such as the Constitution, the Wildlife Act, and the Community Land Act.

Tourism: Laikipia conservancies provide the opportunity for further tourism investment, presenting a unique product and strong complement to established circuits in national parks and reserves. They also present the opportunity to scale-up a local wildlife tourism market.

Livestock: The holistic management of livestock and wildlife across Laikipia conservancies provides opportunity for scaling up a conservation beef product, contributing to food security, providing jobs, and establishing expertise in commercial livestock production alongside conservation.



LCA's lense towards a successful conservation model



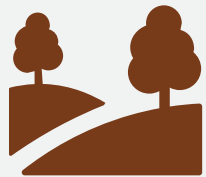
Governance/ management:

A strong and effective institutional structure with clear management plans, goals, and systems that links the conservancy with others in the wider landscape to create mutually beneficial relationships with neighbors and other stakeholders.



Environment:

Healthy and intact land area that supports biodiversity and thriving wildlife populations, improves habitat and controls invasive species, and reinforces landscape connectivity.



Tenure:

Conservancy land is secure and committed to long-term conservation.



Finances:

Financially prosperous through diverse revenue streams, participates in wider financial activities with other conservancies, and contributes to economies of scale through collaboration.



Social impact:

Generates social and economic impact and contributes to local livelihoods, and continually reflects on its own social footprint.

TOGETHER
WE ARE



www.laikipiaconservancies.org



Ole Naishu, Kundura, Kipepeo, Ol Malo and Tango Maos Conservancies

HIGHLIGHTS

January - Dec 2023

Conservancies Governance Institutional Development



- 10 membership collaboration meetings
- 11 Community conservancy meetings
- 13 Land tenure secured for community land & 13 CLMC trained on governance
- Mukogodo Forest: PFMP launched and FMA approved
- 26 Community registers issued

- LCA staff trained on Data Protection, First Aid & Occupational Health
- 12 LCA staff - A fully operational secretariat
- 5 Institutional policies developed & approved

Peace & Security



- 8 Peace & Security meeting held

Funds Mobilized



- \$ 972,005 funds mobilized

Infrastructure



- Iingwesi and Lekuruki Conservancies road completed

Landscape Connectivity

- 2 Corridors done: Lounyek Corridor connecting LNC - Mugie.
- Southern Corridor: Connecting OPC - Mutara - Segera

Policy Advocacy



- 12 County & National gov't engagement
- 1 Regional Association visit

LCA Data Hub

- LCA EarthRanger server established as a common data sharing platform;
- 4 members sharing data, 5 waiting ER2ER.
- 5 members using SMART platform, 13 members using EarthRanger, 9 members signed MoUs to share data.
- 3 SAPA activities completed
- 2 Satisfaction survey completed



Landscape & Financial Sustainability:

LCA Landscape Restoration Carbon Project

Completed:

- Carbon Scoping Study with The Landscape and Livelihoods Group
- Project Concept Note: Potential Project Area, Problem Analysis, Potential landscape restoration Interventions, Draft Theory of Change, potential project implementing partners, possible governance structure, summary of all available data.
- Preliminary Stakeholder Engagement Plan in FPIC Process

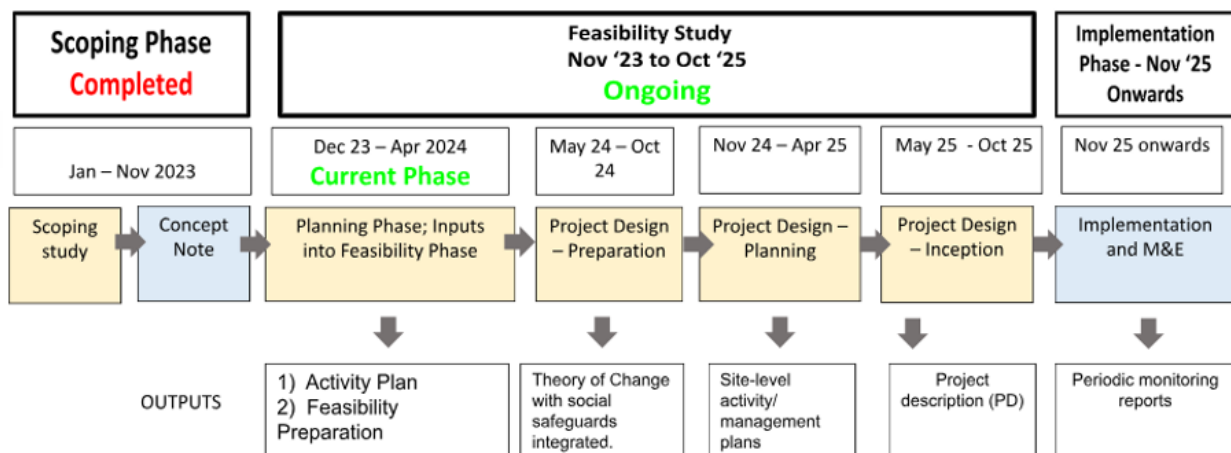
Developed:

- Carbon Project Primer: Carbon 101, Key Concepts, Carbon Markets

Signed MOU with:

- Natural State
- TNC ensuring continued Funding for the project

Project Development Phases



TRAINING OUTREACH

A sizeable number of community land management committee (CLMC) have been trained on community land management and administration. The thirteen CLMCs have reasons why they should

13 community lands trained

195 Members directly Trained

Close to 26,000 members indirectly benefited from the said training

69,464.61 hectares of land has been covered by the training in terms of size of community lands combined

Goal 1:

Laikipia conservancies are recognized and valued



We support our members to better understand, document, and communicate their environmental and social impacts in order to grow into a valued stakeholder group in Laikipia. While the conservancies are having important environmental and social impacts, these are not always well communicated or understood by the wider public. Through improved communication, information sharing, and impact monitoring, we will better tell the story of Laikipia conservancies and promote their recognition locally, nationally, and globally. This, in turn, will support our members to learn and grow, and strengthen relationships and partnerships with local communities, government, and other conservation and social development stakeholders.

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES/ GOAL:

1. Develop a communication strategy to raise the profile of Laikipia conservancies
2. Create an information hub for member conservancies and assist with marketing
3. Compile annual impact reports to show and communicate the ecological, social, and economic impacts of Laikipia conservancies
4. Facilitate social impact assessments of member conservancies

conservancies have a strong and well communicated identity and brand

- Increased public and government support for Laikipia conservancies

10-YEAR OBJECTIVE:

- Laikipia conservancies are globally recognized and are considered key partners in local and national conservation and development goals

LCA Data Hub



The main objective of the Data Hub is to establish a common data platform within LCA members to bring together environmental, social, and economic data in order to monitor impacts and trends at the landscape scale for improved decision-making and forecasting

LCA Data Hub Focus Areas:



- EARTHANGER as a common platform across the landscape
- Social economic data using common platform
- Bi-annual members satisfaction surveys using one platform
- SAPA as a component of the hub
- Research library (Members, public, government, researchers tech)

LCA Data Hub Status:

1. LCA ER Server established as a common data sharing platform. 9/28 members sharing.
2. **10** members have no any form of ecological monitoring tool or platform



Laikipia Conservancies Association Rolls Out EarthRanger For Realtime Data Collection & Monitoring



The availability of Data is a key catalyst in delivering our collective impacts as Laikipia Conservancies Association. As a growing data hub, we collect, analyze and disseminate data from our members to enable; both external and internal communications activities, advocacy, driving decision-making, carbon-related studies, and fundraising toward driving our impacts. Since October 2022, Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA) in partnership with USAID commenced the migration of our members from SMART (Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool) to EarthRanger.

EarthRanger is a software solution that aids protected areas and conservancy managers, ecologists, and wildlife biologists make more informed operational

decisions for wildlife conservation. Protected area managers need to be able to monitor wildlife and their natural habitats in real-time. EarthRanger collects, integrates, and displays all historical and available remote sensing data available and combines it with reports from the field to provide one unified view of wildlife, rangers, enforcement assets, and infrastructure within a protected area.



EarthRanger: LCA decided on Earth Ranger as the monitoring platform for both biodiversity and social economic factors. EarthRanger was selected because it is the most versatile and functional platform on which to host the data hub. Despite at least 12 members having a compatible data collection platform (SMART or EarthRanger) only 12 conservancies have signed agreements and 5 are actually sharing live data, while 10 have no data collection capability whatsoever. Space for Giants continues to support the integration of individual LCA conservancies to the LCA data hub at <https://laikipiaconservancies.pamdass.org>. Data from eight conservancies has been streaming into this central data hub. In collaboration with five LCA conservancies, Space for Giants continues to produce monthly EarthRanger Landscape reports. However, 8 more conservancies in the landscape were already using EarthRanger, making a total of 13 Conservancies able to share EarthRanger data to the LCA platform. To date 9 conservancies have signed MOU and are now being linked to the LCA server. The support of Space for Giants was instrumental in the integration of the data hub, while the training of LCA staff will enable ongoing use of the platform.

EarthRanger training for LCA staff was done by Space For Giant, while those conservancies that signed their MoUs were integrated onto the platform, Space For Giant also provided refresher training for Segera and Suyian.

13 conservancies are currently running on EarthRanger. Among these members, **five**, namely; Sossian, Suyian, Olmaisor, Il Mamusi, and Lolldaiga have been trained on how to efficiently navigate EarthRanger so that each assigned user, particularly the rangers, who collect data from the field and feed it into the system, can utilize the full capabilities of the software. In addition to training, the conservancies have been issued with Android phones and admin Laptops, facilitated by the USAID grant to empower the conservancies in data management and collection.

The LCA secretariat has also received Earth Ranger Training to capacity build them into receiving, analyzing, securely handling, and disseminating data. LCA will continue to ensure a secured, tech-driven, and efficient flow of data from its members into the data hub as it is essential in achieving our strategic goals.

Conducting A Social Impact Assessment On Three Member Conservancies Using The SAPA Methodology.

Laikipia Conservancies Association, with support from USAID has supported Ol Jogi, Mugie, and Lolldaiga Conservancies in conducting a social impact assessment using the Social Assessment of Protected Areas (SAPA) methodology. SAPA is a relatively simple and low-cost methodology for assessing the positive and negative impacts of a protected or conserved area (PA/CA) and related conservation and development activities on the well-being of communities living within and around the PA/CA. It uses a multi-stakeholder process that enables PA/CA stakeholders to work together to increase and more equitably share positive social impacts, and reduce negative social impacts.



Out of the three conservancies, Lolldaiga complete the assessment exercise having concluded all the phases of the Stakeholders Workshop which consisted of forty representatives from all communities that surround Lolldaiga. The Stakeholder's Workshop aims to evaluate and validate the findings of the Focus Group Discussions.



A SAPA (Social Impact Assessment of Protected Areas) for Lolldaiga conservancy was completed and the findings shared to their stakeholders. The completion of this SAPA brings the total conservancies which have undertaken SAPA to 6. Going forward, the association members will aim to do more SAPA in the landscape, including the community conservancies. Additionally, developing lessons learnt from the six conservancies which are implementing SAPA recommendations has been done, with “Guidelines for Social Impact for Conservancies” prepared, and ready for sharing with all LCA members.

From LolDaiga Conservancy validation stakeholders workshop, to receive survey findings from the communities neighboring the Conservancy, the stakeholders validated the findings and gave ideas on how to address the issues raised in the findings.

Some of the survey findings include the following;

1. Social profiles of the four communities (Mayianat, Kimugandura, Muramati and Umande) where the survey was done has significantly improved.
2. Employment opportunities increased at 83%
3. Security matters improved at 70%
4. Access to grazing, water support, scholarship support improved as per fundings
5. There's significant minimal gap on gender on matters employment
6. Governance, transparency & information sharing, benefit sharing improved significantly.

Some of the negative social impacts from the survey includes; Human wildlife conflict, employment opportunities inclining to male gender, Undefined community boundaries amongst others.

Other LCA members that have undertaken the exercise are Borana Conservancy, Loisaba Conservancy, Olpejeta Conservancy, Mugie conservancy and Ol Jogi Conservancy.



Goal 2:

Effective and well-managed conservancies



LCA envisioned growing the management capacity of our member conservancies by supporting the decision-making, leadership, and processes that are critical to highly effective organizations. Through clear and representative internal processes, LCA support conservancies to identify their goals and priorities, create management plans to guide their impact and work, and create a cohort of strong conservancy leadership that collaborate across the landscape. This will not only enable conservancies to better achieve their goals and be responsive to their diverse stakeholders, but will provide coordination and alignment across conservancies for elevated impact at the landscape level.

STRATEGIES TO ACHIEVE OBJECTIVES/GOAL:

1. Assist conservancies to create management plans, articulate goals, and develop strategic plans
2. Develop and support a leadership training and governance strengthening program for member conservancies

5-YEAR OBJECTIVES:

1. All conservancies have management plans and clear goals
2. Governance and management capacity built

10-YEAR OBJECTIVE:

- All conservancies have high capacity and effective management and governance structures

Member Conservancies Visits



In the year , the LCA team visited Suyian, Enasoit, Mugie, LNC, Ol Maisor, Sossian. The purpose of these meetings was to hold a one on one discussion with Members on developing a working relationship with the Association and Members, towards LCA's goals of breaking the silos to foster a partnership in addressing landscape conservation challenges. The meetings also set out to understand Member needs, in communication strategies and

key messages, based on the overarching LCA communications strategy. The meetings were also instrumental in gathering all current data on key LCA impacts (both as an organization as well as individual members. This data is pivotal in supporting LCA's programs as well as the Association's policy and advocacy program.

The outcome of these meetings has seen increased collaboration among Members in working towards a well connected landscape. We have through the LCA brought Members to support joint security patrols, support to rangers , implement landscape restoration activities among them restoration activities.

In 2024, LCA set out to sustain the Member visits in our endeavor to sustain a working relationship with Members.



ECDE Classroom Groundbreaking supported by Mukutan Conservancy

Celebrating Olpejeta Conservancy



Ol Pejeta Conservancy's Recognition: Ol Pejeta Conservancy has been honored as Africa's Leading Conservation Company at the esteemed World Travel Awards. This achievement stands as a testament to their steadfast dedication to wildlife conservation, sustainable tourism, and the tireless efforts of their Ol Pejeta devoted team.



Celebrating Mugie Conservancy



Mugie Conservancy's Accolades: Mr. Max Lovatelli, Operations Manager at Mugie Conservancy, proudly represented the conservancy at the prestigious Eco Warrior Awards 2023 in Nairobi. The entire team was elated by the recognition in two distinct categories:

- Best Conservancy in Promoting Community Development (Sponsored by KWCA and Ecotourism Kenya)
- Exceptional leadership in promoting human-wildlife coexistence (Sponsored by African Wildlife Foundation and Ecotourism Kenya)

This recognition stands as a testament to Mugie's unwavering commitment to environmental stewardship, wildlife conservation, and local community welfare.

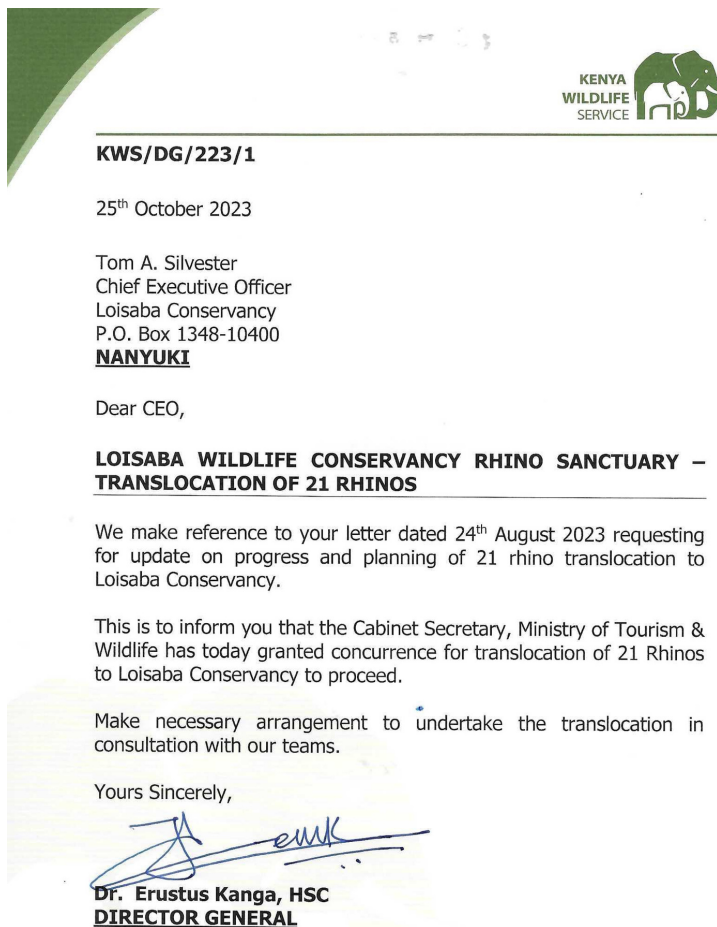


These achievements underscore the commitment and collaborative spirit of our conservancies towards sustainable coexistence, wildlife conservation, and community development. We celebrate these milestones and remain dedicated to our mission of fostering a harmonious balance between nature and humanity.

Loisaba Conservancy: 21 Rhino Translocation Approval



In a landmark development, Loisaba Conservancy, a valued member of LCA, received the coveted concurrence for a substantial rhino translocation. This approval, comprising 21 rhinos, was granted by the Cabinet Secretary for the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife through the Kenya Wildlife Service. The approval stemmed from a formal request presented in a letter by Loisaba Conservancy on the 24th of August, 2023, outlining the comprehensive plans and rationale for the translocation.



KWS/DG/223/1

25th October 2023

Tom A. Silvester
Chief Executive Officer
Loisaba Conservancy
P.O. Box 1348-10400
NANYUKI

Dear CEO,

**LOISABA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCY RHINO SANCTUARY –
TRANSLOCATION OF 21 RHINOS**

We make reference to your letter dated 24th August 2023 requesting for update on progress and planning of 21 rhino translocation to Loisaba Conservancy.

This is to inform you that the Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Tourism & Wildlife has today granted concurrence for translocation of 21 Rhinos to Loisaba Conservancy to proceed.

Make necessary arrangement to undertake the translocation in consultation with our teams.

Yours Sincerely,


**Dr. Erustus Kanga, HSC
DIRECTOR GENERAL**

The concurrence signifies a pivotal step in the conservation efforts of both Loisaba and the broader Laikipia region, reinforcing our collective commitment to the protection and preservation of these magnificent creatures. This notable achievement underscores the dedication of our member conservancies and their significant role in the ongoing conservation endeavors within the Laikipia landscape. It is a testament to the collaborative spirit and shared vision that continues to drive our mission of safeguarding Kenya's rich wildlife heritage.

Walk Wild 2nd Edition Mukogodo Forest



The Mamusi Community Forest Association organized the second Mukogodo Forest Walk Wild event. This is a 10km walk through one of Kenya's remaining dryland forests and the largest in Laikipia county, which aims to raise awareness about the critical threats to the forest such as climate change. Ilmamusi CFA is our member as we participated in the Walk and also mobilized Members to put together teams to take part in the walk not only in partnership with one of LCA's Members, but as part of our partnership towards our shared goals on landscape restoration activities. The Walk Wild event was inaugurated in 2022.

This year's walk was also instrumental as it coincided with the national 15 billion tree growing campaign which aims at restoring Kenya's forest cover.

The forest continues to be a lifeline for local communities, supporting activities such as honey production, pastoralism, medicinal herbs, ecotourism, conservation, and pasture production.

We thank Members for mobilizing teams to take part in the Walk Wild event, a show of commitment to environmental conservation and community well-being.



WALK WILD
2ND EDITION
MUKOGODO FOREST
25 NOVEMBER 2023 8:30am - 12 Noon

Together, we restore, protect, and ensure a sustainable future for the Mukogodo Forest and its communities. Every step counts!

Conservation fees:
Individuals - 1000
Group (10 People) - 10,000
Corporates (10 to 20 People) - 15,000
Corporates (20 to 30 People) - 20,000
Corporates (30 to 40 People) - 25,000

SCAN ME

SCAN TO REGISTER
<https://mqokh.com/event/walk-wild-event/>

ONE STEP
ONE TREE
ONE PEOPLE

FOR INQUIRIES CONTACT: TEL - +254 715 922 779 / ilmamusi.cfa@gmail.com

Infrastructure



LCA member community conservancies occasionally require LCA's assistance in developing infrastructure for effective conservancy management and operations. Through continuous government engagement at the National level, for the first time State Department of Wildlife allocated infrastructure budget to conservancies. The Principal Secretary for State Department of Wildlife hosted regional associations in a meeting to present priorities of projects (Water & Roads) in their landscape. The Association reached out to our community conservancy members to submit their list of priority projects which was subsequently compiled and submitted to the Ministry for consideration.

After budget consideration, LCA was among the five regional associations to secure funding for two roads at Lekuruki and Ilngwesi conservancies, at a tune of Ksh 60 millions.

The specific roads include:

- The **Il Ngwesi -San'ga Road** spanning 19 kilometers within the IL Ngwesi Community Conservancy.
- The **Tassia – Nadunguro Road** covering 15 kilometers within the Lekuruki Conservancy.



Furthermore, we are waiting approval for the construction of a dam at Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy, a project that holds great promise for the community's sustainable development.

Our commitment to collaborative efforts with the government remains unwavering, as we actively engage in the realization of projects proposed by various conservancies. We look forward to further strengthening these partnerships and contributing to the sustainable growth and well-being of the communities involved.

Infrastructure Projects Lobbied in 2023 in LCA Member Community Conservancies

Conservancy	Infrastructure Projects	Status
Ill Ngwesi Community Conservancy	19 KM Il Ngwesi - San'ga Road	Done
Lekuruki Community Conservancy	15 KM Tassia-Nadunguro Road	Done
Naibunga Upper Community Conservancy	Dam	Awaiting Approval

Community Conservancies Pre-AGM



The community member conservancies Pre-AGM was held at the Twala Cultural Centre, setting the stage for LCA'S Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The meeting served as a platform for open dialogue, information exchange, and deeper collaboration on the shared common objectives.

This annual meeting was an opportunity to share updates from individual conservancies, and explore ways to work together to address challenges within the landscape.

The deliberations also revolved around the areas of stakeholder engagement, while meaningful partnerships were recognized as successful component in our conservancies.



Community Conservancies Pre-AGM



The critical component of driving the required support for conservation from a County and national level is credible, reliable and up to date data. High-quality data serves as the foundation for strategic decision-making; by harmonizing landscape conservation data, we equip ourselves with insights that guide decision making.

CEO Peter Matunge provided visionary and strategic insight, underlining the necessity of a robust impact reporting mechanism. This tool enables us to present the remarkable outcomes of our conservation work. By quantifying our impact, we strengthen our voice and convey a compelling narrative of positive change.

Our discussions candidly addressed the challenges faced by community conservancies, particularly the absence of essential policies such as Human Resource Policies, Finance policies, and Management plans. This shared realization strengthens our resolve to support the community conservancies as well as across the membership.

We also tackled the issue of non-registration by Kenya Wildlife Services which is affecting some conservancies. KWS has committed to expedite this process and through LCA, we will work with KWS to ensure a realization of this commitment.



LCA Annual General Meeting



The 2023 annual general meeting was held Naibunga Lower Conservancy with a record attendance by Members. Members deliberated in recent developments in the landscape as well as conservation as a whole.

The discussions centered around carbon credits and carbon markets.

Steered by the esteemed leadership of Chairman Kip Ole Polos and CEO Peter Matunge, the AGM resonated with the theme of unity in action. The spotlight was cast upon the vital role of data sharing, strategic coordination, dynamic collaboration, and the perpetual nurturing of robust partnerships.

AGM Highlights

This remarkable event, marked a pivotal moment in our ongoing members engagement, collaboration among our members and promoting a landscape planning and management approach.

The AGM, a testament to the spirit of dedication and involvement within our community is a clear indication as we work toward achieving our core mandate, leaving an indelible mark on our mission. As the event unfolded, it became abundantly clear how the power of collaboration and the alignment of shared conservation goals can reverberate across the globe.

The AGM gave members an opportunity to approve the association audited account, review and amend the constitution and as well as receiving the association progress reports. Members contributed to the presentations and share their opinions to the presentation, emphasized on the role of data in influencing decisions and policies, urged members to share the requested data to the association.



Koiya Investor Relations



We facilitated an investor relations meeting for the Koiya Community Conservancy, who have engaged an investor who will upgrade the community lodge , Koiya Starbeds.

Together with Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association, we brought together the Koiya community,. a representative of the investor as well as the legal advisor to the community to discuss contracting. This meeting was critical as it was a platform for the parties to interrogate the contract clause by clause.



Similarly, the meeting explored the Free Prior Informed Consent FPIC , and other social safeguards that will be instrumental in this process.

As we work to support our Members, we look forward to a conducive business environment both for investors as well as our Members.



LCA's CEO Visit to Honey Guide, Tanzania

A Learning Tour On Community Conservation

The Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association organized a learning trip for regional Association's CEOs to HoneyGuide, a grass roots, non-profit, non-governmental organization based in Tanzania, dedicated to support communities and the conservation of wildlife and natural resources through long-term community partnerships.



The purpose of the trip was to further expose the regional conservancies to the community conservation model through HoneyGuide's multifaceted approach, which focuses on the following key areas:

- **Management and Governance:** Empowering communities means building their capacity to lead their conservation areas with wisdom, foresight, and efficacy.
- **Enterprise Development:** By fostering sustainable income streams, communities become economically empowered, reducing their dependence on harmful practices.
- **Communication:** Effective communication bridges gaps and ensures harmonious collaboration between communities, government bodies, and like-minded organizations.
- **Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention:** Ensuring coexistence between humans and wildlife is vital, and Honey Guide actively works to prevent conflicts, protecting both communities and precious wildlife.
- **Wildlife and Habitat Protection:** Honey Guide's efforts to safeguard habitats and conserve diverse wildlife serve as the foundation of their initiatives.





Data Protection Training

Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA) conducted an extensive Data Protection training at the LCA Hub, a significant initiative made possible through the coordinated efforts of the Agricultural Employers' Association and the Data Protection Commission. This training session sought to empower LCA staff with the necessary knowledge and practices in data protection, an essential aspect in today's data-driven operational landscape.

The training delved into various pivotal aspects of data protection, covering a wide range of topics. This encompassed comprehensive discussions and analysis of several crucial Data Protection regulations and principles, including the Data Protection General Regulations 2021, Complaints Handling Procedures, Enforcement Regulations 2021, Registration of Data Controllers and Data Processors Regulations 2021, and the specific context of Data Protection within the Employment domain.

Key focal points during the session were centred around fundamental data protection principles, aiming to instill a solid understanding among the participants. These principles, including Lawfulness, Fairness, Transparency, Purpose Limitation, Data Minimization, Accuracy, Accountability, Storage Limitation, and Integrity & Confidentiality, were explored in detail.

Occupational First Aid & Management Training



This year, our dedicated staff actively participated in a comprehensive Occupational First Aid and Fire Management Training program, reinforcing their capabilities in addressing medical and environmental emergencies, as well as honing their skills in managing fire incidents.

First Aid Training: The training delved deeply into the fundamental principles of first aid, emphasizing its core mission to preserve and save lives, prevent further injury, and contribute to the recovery process. Staff members were equipped with essential skills to navigate a spectrum of medical emergencies, ranging from respiratory challenges like choking and allergies to understanding the complexities of circulatory system disorders. The focus extended to exploring diverse techniques crucial for effectively managing these emergencies

Preparedness and Compliance: Recognizing the paramount importance of preparedness, the training emphasized understanding and responding effectively to emergencies. Special attention was given to ensuring routine checks on office First Aid kits, ensuring compliance with the legal requirements outlined in the Factory and other Places of Work Act of Kenya (Cap 514).

Fire Management Training: Staff members were also immersed in recognizing and responding to various types of fire incidents. This included essential knowledge for preventing and managing fire emergencies, detailed procedures for a safe and orderly evacuation during fire incidents, and hands-on training for the effective use of fire extinguishers.

Key Traits of First Aiders: Throughout the reporting period, essential qualities for effective First Aiders were highlighted, including resourcefulness, an observant nature, quick action, a cool-tempered demeanor, and a calm and controlled approach. Additionally, a kind and comforting attitude was underscored as crucial in providing support during emergency situations.

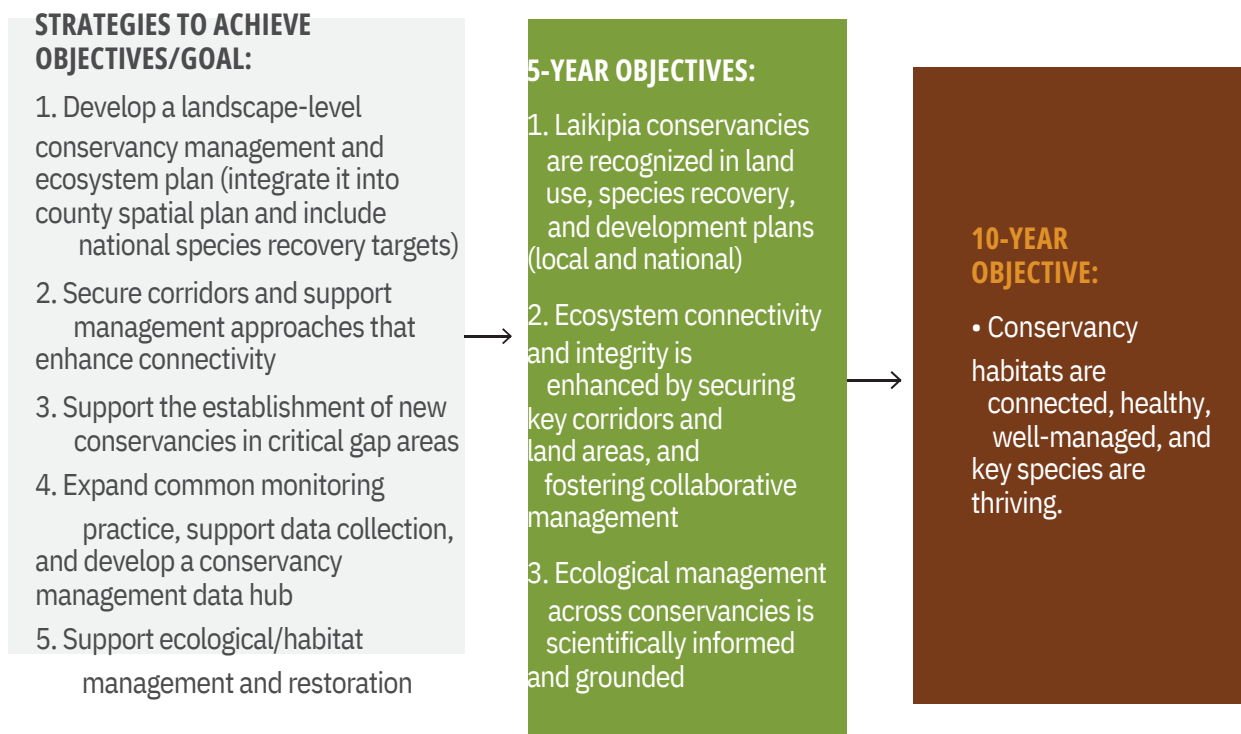
This immersive training program has not only enhanced the capabilities of our staff but has also instilled a culture of preparedness, ensuring a safer work environment for all. As we reflect on the past year, these newly acquired skills will contribute significantly to our commitment to the well-being and safety of our team and the community at large

Goal 3:

The Laikipia landscape is collaboratively planned and managed



In addition to supporting our individual conservancy members, the association is in the unique position of fostering dialogue and collaboration among the conservancies in order to address the large-scale landscape challenges that span conservancy boundaries. This includes things like maintaining connectivity for wildlife and ensuring strong conservancy coverage across the landscape. We will facilitate this landscape approach through developing an ecosystem plan and participating in other land use planning processes in Laikipia, securing corridors and improving connectivity between conservancies, establishing new conservancies in critical areas, promoting common monitoring approaches to improve conservation decision-making at the landscape level, and supporting habitat restoration. This will not only strengthen relationships and collaboration between conservancies, but will integrate individual conservancy goals and activities into a wider landscape vision and approach.



Laikipia Landscape Connectivity through opening of wildlife corridors and dispersal areas



The collaboration between the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and LCA under the WildLandscape initiative has been a significant step in the Wildlife Dispersal and Connectivity across the Laikipia landscape. This partnership aims to fortify elephant conservation efforts across both private and community conservancies in Laikipia County. Focused on strengthening coordination among conservancy associations, enhancing organizational capacity, and ensuring robust protection for elephants, the project also emphasizes biological monitoring and community engagement.

The strides made in enhancing wildlife corridors are notable: The OPC-Mutara-Laikipia Park-Segera corridor has seen progress in the procurement of infrared cameras for OPC-Mutara. Negotiations for constructing the ranger base are ongoing, aiming to secure a suitable contractor within budget.

Concurrently, community engagement sessions are in motion, sensitizing local communities about the critical need to prevent fence destruction, fostering more fluid wildlife movement along the southern corridor.

At Mugie-Laikipia Nature Conservancy, significant steps have been taken, including the completion of 4.5KM of the 4.7KM southern line fencing. Additionally, hand clearing of the 10KM northern line is underway. A collaborative effort between Mugie and LNC has resulted in the hiring of eight rangers, equally shared in the hiring process. A corridor committee has been formed and is actively engaging with communities, enhancing efforts to secure the Mugie-LNC-Baringo corridor.

In the Loisaba-Naibunga region, the USFWS grant support facilitated 172 flight hours, leading to the successful recovery of a considerable number of livestock during patrols. These initiatives have not only enhanced security patrols but have also fostered peace-building initiatives, promoting improved teamwork among community members.

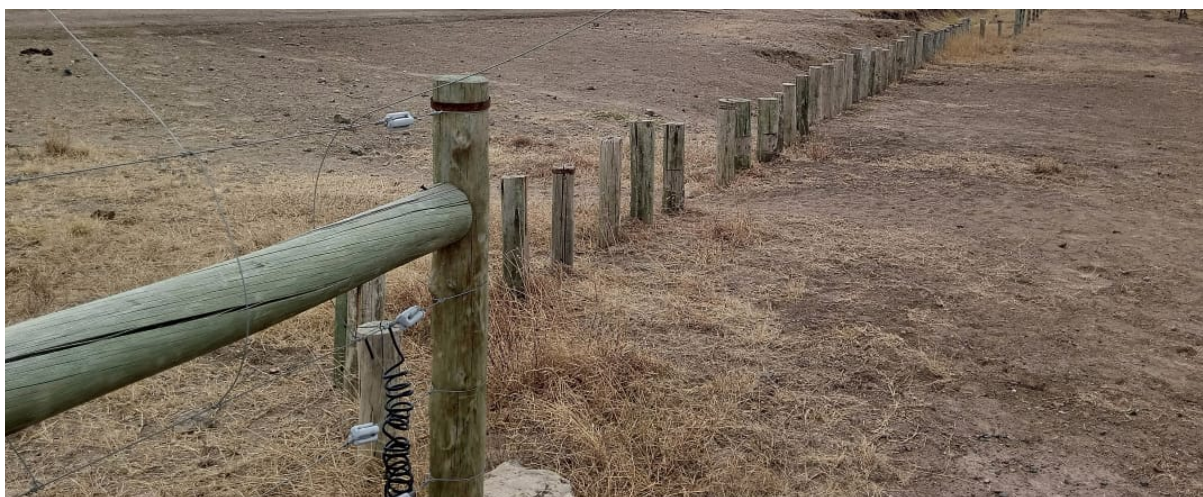
Strategic recommendations have been formulated to guide wildlife corridors' development:

- Developing, expanding, and implementing a proposed conservation connectivity framework.
- Identifying, prioritizing, and securing wildlife dispersal areas and migratory corridors.
- Implementing management strategies for conservation connectivity.
- Securing resources for conservation connectivity management.
- Managing catchment areas to ensure sustainable conservation efforts



The collective strides in opening up wildlife corridors and the proactive measures taken through the USFWS-LCA collaboration signify a significant leap toward promoting environmental conservation and safeguarding critical wildlife habitats in Laikipia County. The outlined recommendations pave a clear path for forthcoming phases, aiming for a more sustainable and harmonized approach to wildlife conservation.

LCA and Wildlandscapes are developing a long term engagement working framework for fundraising and partnership.



OPC-Mutara-Laikipia Park-Segera Corridor



The procurement of the infrared cameras and accessories (OPC-Mutara) is in process.

Southern corridor monitoring equipment;Segera-Laikipia park

Southern corridor monitoring equipment;Segera-Laikipia park

Fence corridor construction Segera-Laikipia park

- Fence corridor construction;Mutara-Laikipia park
- The construction of the ranger base is on the process of negotiations to get the best contractor.
- Community engagement meetings are in progress to sensitize the communities living around on the need to not have fence destructions.

These interventions have led to more enhanced and facilitated wildlife movement along the southern corridor.

Going into the next phase of the grant will help in expanding the corridor from: Mt. Kenya-Ngarendare-Borana- Mukogodo forest and community conservancies and also Naibunga-Impala-Segera-OPC-Solio-Aberdare forest.

Mugie-Laikipia Nature Conservancy (Mukutan) Corridor



Lonyek corridor fencing:The southern line 4.5KM completed out of 4.7KM. The Northern line 10KM hand clearing done. It is also yet to be fenced.

Mugie and LNC have partnered to hire eight rangers sharing the hiring process on half basis. Mugie hired 4 and LNC to hire 4.

Community engagement-A Corridor committee have been formed and fully engaged.

This corridor has led to the securing of key wildlife corridor (Mugie-LNC-Baringo).

Further interventions required to linking the corridor with Kirimon-Loisaba-Mugie-LNC

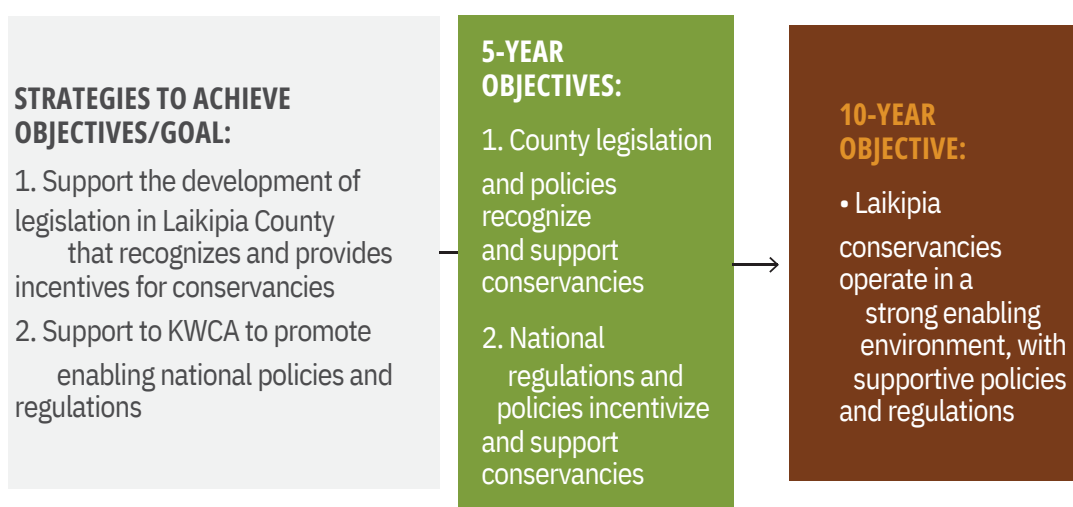


Goal 4:

Supportive policies and regulations enable and incentivise conservancies



While significant work has been achieved to create supportive policies and regulatory frameworks to enable and incentivise conservancies in Kenya, much of this is not being implemented in practice and the principle of devolved governance and management is not fully being realized. Furthermore, the lack of clarity between the roles and responsibilities of local and national government, and other stakeholders, creates confusing and sometimes contradictory set of policies, regulations, and disincentives such as taxes for conservancies and natural resource management more broadly. Given the important conservation and social development role of our member conservancies, LCA seek to create an environment that incentivizes and enables conservancies in Laikipia and across Kenya as a whole, and promotes better harmonization between the County and National Government.



Initiating Collaboration Between LCA and the County Government of Laikipia Through Working Groups



LCA held meetings with the Laikipia County Executive and the County Assembly. The County Executive meeting was led by Laikipia governor, and resulted in the formation of a joint County government -LCA working group, which meets monthly to discuss areas of potential partnership, policies and legislation and involvement of the association in county planning processes (CIDP, ADP, Spatial plans, CFSP, and budget making process.

The Working Group formed was envisioned to be the focal point of coordination and collaboration between the conservancies and the County.



The group formed during a joint meeting in January, is working to ensure that issues of common interest are addressed through partnership, towards the common goal of Conservation and achieving various Social-Economic Impacts. The Working Group has already developed a Terms Of Reference which will inform its operations. The Working Group will also play the coordination role in project implementation within Laikipia County which will be crucial in eliminating duplication of resources. The Working Group will be the point of contact in sharing updated data on various sectors of Laikipia County and in mobilizing funds for development projects. At the same time, the Working Group will play the critical role of identifying areas of collaboration on policy and community engagement. It has also been tasked with promoting Tourism, Wildlife, and Rangeland Management in Laikipia.

Similarly, Laikipia Conservancies Association which is in the process of developing a landscape-wide Carbon Credits program will work closely with the County and National Governments particularly as Kenya moves to enact legislation to govern the sector. The Group has had three meetings since its formation.



Strengthening Partnerships and Policies: Meeting with Laikipia County CECs



In an effort to enhance collaborative efforts and strengthen our existing partnership with the County Government of Laikipia, in the Month of October, we held a meeting with Laikipia County Executives; CECM for Water, Environment and Natural Resources Ms. Leah Njeri and CECM for Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries, Edwin Dennis Kasoo.

Ms. Leah Njeri, CECM (Water, Environment and Natural Resources), guided discussions focusing on the formulation of essential documents vital for the conservation efforts.

These included the development of the **Laikipia Wildlife Conservation Policy**, the **Laikipia Wildlife Conservation Bill**, and an **Ecosystem Plan**.

Consequently, an action plan has now been formulated, with LCA taking the lead in stakeholder mapping and providing a preliminary budget for the comprehensive project. The subsequent report will be submitted to the County Government for further discussions and alignment of shared objectives.

Similarly, the Association in collaboration with the CECM Agriculture, Livestock, and Fisheries Edwin have initiated discussions on the review and feedback process for the **Rangeland Policy Draft**. LCA will support the department by providing training on policies pertinent to conservation efforts.

Stakeholder Meeting with Laikipia County MCAs



One of LCA's critical role is to create awareness among all stakeholders on the critical work of conservation and conservancies. This is based on our belief that increased knowledge will be instrumental in ensuring that everyone plays their role in the conservation of our biodiversity.

In this light and with support from the USAID, Laikipia Conservancies Association held a sensitization workshop with Members of the Laikipia County Assembly to also seek areas of collaboration and partnership.

The County Assemblies play an important role in policy formulation and legislation, and good laws can only come from an informed assembly.

Laikipia Conservancies Association has set out to have more meetings with the Assembly going forward and collaborate further in making laws for the Conservation sector.

From a policy context so far, the County Government's role in wildlife conservation remains unclear despite the fact that most of the responsibility of wildlife conservation is borne by Counties.

There also remains challenges around Inadequate monetary allocation to the environment sector, with allocations in the 2022/23 national standing at Kshs 102.1b, representing a 3.0% of the total budget, while Wildlife received Ksh 7B, representing 0.21% of the national budget.

The sector is also grappling with weaker land rights for communities, group ranch and lack of adequate incentives to communities. LCA is keen on playing its part in addressing these challenges and ensuring that Conservation is recognized and supported as a form of land use.



Laikipia County Tourism Stakeholders Committee



Laikipia County formed a committee to guide discussions and development of the tourism sector in the County. The formation of the committee is part of the outcomes of a meeting convened by the Laikipia County Government, to discuss the positioning of Laikipia County as an ideal tourism destination.

The committee is mandated with leading the process of positioning tourism in Laikipia County to global standards through sustainable tourism. The committee will also ensure that the operating environment is conducive to both existing and new investors.

Laikipia County prides itself as a host of a diverse tourism offering, ranging from wildlife, travel, eco-tourism among others.

The meeting was therefore critical in aligning and consolidating ideas of all players to further shape the destination narrative. The meeting was officiated by the Governor Joshua Irungu, Deputy Governor Rueben Kamuri, CECM in charge of Trade, Tourism, Cooperatives and Enterprise development Stephen Biwott, Chief Officer Mahiga Njuki among other Tourism officers.

The following were the broad agendas;

1. Destination Laikipia Marketing
2. Laikipia Tourism Association & Laikipia Conservancies Association input on areas of collaboration
3. Areas of collaboration with the National government
4. Data collection

Main Highlights

- Laikipia County is still in the process of developing a tourism product. Currently, the County government has heavily relied on Thomson's Falls as its main tourist attraction, and has automated revenue collection, to minimize leakages.
- There is an increase in numbers of tourists as well as investors in the tourism sector. There has been over-reliance on wildlife-based tourism, and there is a need to design other products that target other products.
- Stakeholders are in agreement that it is time to sustain efforts towards sustainable tourism, development of a circuit for Laikipia County, Joint resource mobilization, Policy formulation, Incentivizing investors, Promotion of community-based tourism enterprises, Investment in infrastructure and marketing.
- Investment in infrastructure, conservation, and marketing.
- Data collection – To inform decision making



Fostering Conservation and Collaboration: LCA - County Government Leadership Meeting



In the month of August, LCA and the County Government of Laikipia (CGL) came together for the second meeting this year to further deliberate on challenges, opportunities and areas of collaboration and partnership between LCA and CGL.

Our primary objective for the meeting was sustained engagement around areas of mutual benefit in conservation; Conservancies are keen to see a supportive enabling policy environment to operate in, while the County Government is keen to ensure compliance with the County legislation around revenue collection as well as well planned and managed landscape for the benefit of the County.

The key issues discussed in the meeting included:

- 1. Proposed County Finance Bill:** Focusing on levies and fees payable to the County Government and commensurate service delivery expected of the County. The Bill is due for public participation. Emphasis was made to ensure that LCA and its members are given adequate time to contribute to the proposed fees and levies in the finance bill.
- 2. County Valuation Roll:** The valuation roll forms the basis for the levying of property rates. LCA sort to understand the process and findings of the process as well as rates the County Government intends to apply and encourage the CGL to have a consultative process with stakeholders to ensure fairness and equity in applying the valuation roll.
- 3. County Spatial Plan:** The meeting examined the County Spatial Plan, whose main role is to strategically manage land use towards a well planned ecosystem
- 4. Legislation & Policy Framework:** Detailed talks were held regarding the legislative and policy framework necessary to fortify conservation efforts in line with the presidential directives.
- 5. Security:** Security concerns and strategies were explored to safeguard both the landscape and the communities.



A significant outcome of the meeting was the continued deliberations and engagements of the LCA/CGL Working Group, dedicated to maintaining an dialogue on emerging issues. This group serves as the liaison team between the Laikipia Conservancies Association and the County Government of Laikipia, ensuring continuous communication on matters of mutual interest.

As we move forward, we are committed to nurturing these collaborations, driving impactful partnerships that drive positive change taking into account the interest of our members. By working together, we solidify our stance as champions of conservation, fostering a sustainable future for Laikipia and its inhabitants. Advocate for the right policies and legislation in Laikipia county.

Laikipia Conservancies Association LCA, welcomes Presidential Directives on Conservation.



Laikipia Conservancies Association LCA, welcomes a set of ground-breaking directives issued by the President H.E Dr William Ruto, that have a significant impact on conservation in key conservation areas namely Laikipia, Kajiado, Machakos (Athi Kapiti), Taita Taveta and Baringo.

These directives, emanated from a critical meeting between conservation sector players and the government where land management issues such as land ownership, adjudication and change of user were identified as some of the issues affecting sustainable wildlife conservation and management in the country.

Tasked with unraveling the intricate conservation agenda in the country, the working group was formed and immediately embarked on unpacking four thematic areas being, benefits sharing, titling and registration of conservation areas, carbon credits and carbon markets, and the critical restoration of degraded rangelands and ecosystems. Presentations were made on the viability of conservation as a form of land use by regional conservancy associations, the Conservation Alliance of Kenya, and The Nature Conservancy and other key players.

Economic Contribution of Conservancies to the National GDP

Matunge made a case for the contribution of conservation to Laikipia County as well as the National GDP - a total of Ksh 5,990,844,756 in taxes paid, employment of over 5,000 people as well as investments in security, infrastructure as well as livelihood projects in the County.

The President then issued the following directives; a halt in licenses and permits for projects in vital conservation areas, the implementation of wildlife corridors and dispersal areas taskforce report of 2016, and the elevation of conservation within national land use policies.

“The halting of issuances of licences and permits for various projects in key conservation areas is momentous, given the rampant encroachment on wildlife corridors and breeding areas, which has only exacerbated human-wildlife conflicts”.

Another directive halted further land subdivision and change of land use in identified conservation areas until a comprehensive conservation policy is finalized. Mr. Matunge applauded this decision, stressing that small land subdivisions have led to unproductive land use and the fragmentation of critical ecosystems.

Fast-tracking the implementation of the Community Land Act of 2016 is poised to empower local communities and enhance collaboration in conservation efforts. Matunge highlighted the benefits of community ownership, emphasizing that legal documentation now provides communities with the authority to engage with stakeholders, including establishing conservancies.

KWCA Consultation on New Carbon Market Regulations: LCA's Involvement and Prioritization Efforts.



The discussions and consultations held during the workshop deeply enriched the understanding of these evolving regulations, emphasizing their potential impact.

Governance and Institutional Framework.

During the workshop, crucial information regarding the governance and institutional framework associated with the regulations were discussed. This encompassed various roles and responsibilities outlined for different entities as per the regulatory guidelines. Notable roles included the Focal Point, Designated National Authority, Climate Change Directorate, Carbon Assessment Technical Committee, and numerous responsibilities outlined for these entities, spanning from policy guidance to project approval and monitoring. The comprehensive scope of responsibilities shed light on the complex nature of overseeing and managing carbon market activities. This knowledge is vital in aligning our operations with regulatory compliance and enhancing our participation in carbon markets.

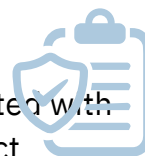
New Carbon Market Regulations for the Country

LCA had the privilege of participating in a crucial consultative meeting that bore the promise of shaping the future of carbon markets regulations in the Country. This consultative engagement was aptly organized by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry, in collaboration with the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA).

The meeting drew together a diverse group of stakeholders, each with a vested interest in the evolving landscape of carbon markets in our nation. The primary objective of this consultative meeting was to deliberate on the newly proposed carbon regulations, dissecting their scope, and mapping out the areas that necessitate a more profound review.

As the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Forestry and KWCA played host to this gathering, the sense of collaboration was visible as the country move towards regularizing the Climate Amendment Act. At the core of this meeting's agenda was the determination of specific recommendations. These recommendations held the potential to guide KWCA and the broader conservancy network in prioritizing their efforts in the review of the regulations.

Procedures for Developing Carbon Market Projects



The outlined process details the sequential steps and timelines associated with initiating a carbon market project. It starts with the submission of project documents to the Carbon Assessment Technical Committee (CATC), which reviews and submits its report to the Cabinet Secretary (CS). The CS, upon receipt of the CATC report, grants an endorsement letter within 30 days.

The subsequent steps involve the payment of administrative fees, project commencement following endorsement, and the strict requirement of obtaining a license before starting any carbon market project. Additionally, applicants are directed to apply to the Designated National Authority (DNA) for approval, accompanied by an application fee. The DNA responds within 30 days, either approving or rejecting the proposal.

	NATIONAL PROJECTS	NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AS PROPONENT	COMMUNITY PROJECTS	PRIVATE PROJETS
CONTIGENCY FUND	At least 25% (sustainable development)			
CONSOLIDATED FUND		85% (sustainable development)	5%	25%
COUNTY GOVERNMENT			5% (sustainable development)	
COMMUNITY	5% (site specific)	15% (site specific)	At least 40% - Land based At least 25% - Non Land based	

If approved, the proponent is then mandated to prepare a concept note. Following this, the approved project proponent enters into a contractual agreement with the government through the focal point, which is the Principal Secretary (PS). This structured process ensures a meticulous and regulated approach to initiating a carbon market project, covering administrative, approval, and agreement stages under a defined timeline.



LCA Executive Committee signed and approved the Finance Policy, Internship Policy and Human Resource manual to be effected by the Association. This year, we also benefited from invaluable support provided by The Nature Conservancy (TNC), enabling the development and enhancement of crucial institutional policies, those already in place and development of new crucial policies. Through this collaboration, LCA achieved significant milestones in strengthening its organizational framework. The key institutional policies include:

1. Finance Policy Review:

- LCA, with support from TNC, conducted a comprehensive review of its Finance Policy, aligning it with industry best practices and ensuring robust financial management.

2. Human Resource Manual Review:

- TNC facilitated the development of an updated Human Resource Manual for LCA, focusing on aligning policies with current labor standards, fostering a positive workplace environment, and ensuring adherence to legal requirements.

3. Procurement Policy:

- LCA, in collaboration with TNC, established a new Procurement Policy to streamline and enhance procurement processes, promoting efficiency, transparency, and accountability.

4. Resource Mobilization Strategy:

- With TNC's support, LCA crafted a Resource Mobilization Strategy, outlining clear objectives and methodologies to diversify funding sources, ensuring sustained support for the association's conservation initiatives.

Validation Workshop in Naivasha:

LCA staff from relevant departments participated in a validation workshop held in Naivasha. During the workshop, they deliberated on the various documents developed and provided invaluable feedback and comments, contributing to the refinement of the policies.

Consultant Engagement:

A consultant, contracted by TNC, has received the documents and is currently reviewing the inputs from the validation workshop. The consultant's expertise ensures that the policies are in accordance with industry standards and meet the specific needs of LCA.

Approval Process:

The finalized documents will be subjected to the LCA Executive Committee for approval, marking a crucial step towards institutionalizing the policies and strategies developed with the support of TNC.

This collaborative effort between LCA and TNC has not only strengthened the organizational structure of LCA but has also positioned the association for continued success in its conservation efforts. The development and enhancement of these institutional policies

Africa Climate Summit: Nairobi Declaration



The inaugural Africa Climate Summit held in Nairobi brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, among them African leaders, global leaders, intergovernmental organizations, Regional Economic Communities, United Nations agencies, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and local communities. LCA participated in the summit, which had the following key declarations;

- 1. Urgent Action on Carbon Emissions:** African leaders emphasized the urgent need for developed countries to take immediate action to reduce carbon emissions. They highlighted the disproportionate burden and risks faced by African countries due to climate change-related events such as prolonged droughts, devastating floods, wildfires, and unpredictable weather patterns.
- 2. Call for a New Financing Mechanism:** In response to Africa's crippling debt and the need for climate funding, the leaders proposed a new financing mechanism. This mechanism aims to restructure Africa's debt and unlock climate funding to support the continent's transition to low carbon development.
- 3. Climate Change:** The summit concluded with the adoption of the "Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and Call to Action." This declaration calls for a comprehensive and systemic response to the debt crisis faced by developing countries. It seeks to create fiscal space to finance development and climate action.
- 4. Africa's Role in Global Decarbonization:** African leaders emphasized that Africa, despite its minimal contribution to global warming, is willing and capable of being a vital part of the global solution to climate change. They stressed the potential for Africa to contribute to global decarbonization.
- 5. Multilateral Finance Reform:** The declaration highlighted the need for multilateral finance reform to meet the Paris Agreement's goals. It also called for initiatives such as the Bridgetown Initiative, the Accra-Marrakech Agenda, the UN Secretary General's SDG Stimulus Proposal, and the Paris Summit for a New Global Financing Pact
- 6. Carbon Taxation and Financial Transaction Tax:** The leaders urged world leaders to support a global carbon taxation regime, including a carbon tax on fossil fuel trade, maritime transport, and aviation. They also proposed the possibility of a global financial transaction tax (FTT) to fund climate-positive investments.
- 7. New Financing Architecture:** The summit proposed the development of a new financing architecture responsive to Africa's needs, including debt restructuring and relief. It called for the creation of a Global Climate Finance Charter through the United Nations General Assembly and COP processes by 2025.

Other declarations included; Concrete Action and Speed which called for the reformation of the financial system to enhance resilience to climate shocks. The Nairobi Declaration will also serve as the basis for Africa's common position in the global climate change process, while the Africa Climate Summit now becomes a biennial event, convened by the African Union and hosted by AU Member States.



Sustainable, Collaborative Strategies Around Human-Wildlife Coexistence In Kenya.



Conflicts between the human and wildlife population currently rank among the main threats to conservation in Africa. This is because wildlife survival needs often overlap with those of human populations. With a significant proportion of wildlife occurring outside Protected Areas in Kenya, one of the most critical conservation challenges is how to enhance and sustain coexistence between human beings and wildlife. The solution to human-wildlife conflict lies in developing effective strategies for securing wildlife dispersal areas and migratory routes/corridors.

Laikipia Conservancies Association is working with its members and various stakeholders to develop strategies and solutions for promoting Human-Wildlife Coexistence in the Laikipia landscape and the country at large. On 9th February 2023, we had the honor of hosting the Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Peninah Malonza, and Principal Secretary Hon. Silvia Museiya in Borana Conservancy to discuss various collaborative solutions and approaches around Human-Wildlife Coexistence between our member conservancies and the Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife & Heritage. Also in attendance were Laikipia County Governor Honourable Joshua Irungu, Kenya Wildlife Service Director General, Dr. Erastus Kanga, the CEO of Kenya Wildlife and Training Institute's CEO, DR Patrick Omondi among other representatives from the respective bodies.

Laikipia Conservancies Association's CEO, Peter Matunge, took attendees through a presentation on Wildlife Management and Land Use where he highlighted policies around Wildlife Conservation and Protection, the six elements of Human-Wildlife Conflict Management, and provisions around preserving wildlife habitats and biodiversity as stated in The National Wildlife Strategy 2030.

After this, we then had an interactive session where stakeholders voiced their valid concerns on the increase in Human-Wildlife Conflict cases that have claimed both the human and wildlife population as victims and the need to streamline compensation plans, and the importance of benefit-sharing with surrounding communities. Conservancy managers reiterated the importance and the impacts of conserving wildlife in Kenya and the recognition of conservancies' roles in the socio-economic space, mitigating climate change and in improving the country's GDP through tourism and other activities. Hon. Silvia Museiya emphasized the plans to create a conservation model that also uplifts the livelihoods of the communities. It was agreed that there is an urgent need to ensure that we have a sustainable strategy around sustainable Human-Wildlife coexistence.

On 20th and 21st March 2023, Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association and The Nature Conservancy invited conservation networks to a Stakeholders' Validation Workshop where stakeholders came together to review and provide input on Kenya Human-Wildlife, Conflict Mitigation Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2032, developed by The Ministry of Tourism, Wildlife & Heritage. We request our members who may have not seen the document to download and send us feedback on the same.



National Landscape and Ecosystem Restoration Strategy Conference



The Association actively participated in the National Landscape Restoration Strategy Workshop. This week-long engagement brought together approximately 50 representatives encompassing government officials, non-state actors, and various organizations. The collective mission was to collaboratively design and develop a comprehensive National Landscape Restoration Strategy.

This diverse assembly of stakeholders hailed from different landscapes across the country, uniting with a common purpose, to restore various national landscapes. Similarly, the workshop was to structure the implementation of President William Ruto's directive to plant 15 billion trees nationwide by the year 2032, to increase forest cover to an impressive 30%.

The National Landscape Restoration Strategy aims to restore various degraded landscapes as per the restorative intervention required; In total, there are eleven intervention areas based on the International Union for Conservation of Nature, IUCN's criteria for Red List of Ecosystems;

1. Rehabilitation of degraded dryland landscapes.
2. Growing of Agroforestry trees on farmlands.
3. Establishment of commercial private forests.
4. Rehabilitation of degraded water towers, wetlands and riparian areas outside gazetted forests
5. Greening infrastructure(Roads, Railway lines, dams) and tree planting by corporates and MDAs
6. Rehabilitation of degraded natural forests in gazetted forests and water towers
7. Establishment of Bamboo
8. Rehabilitation of degraded mangrove ecosystems
9. Growing of fruit trees and woodlots in schools, colleges, universities and other institutions
10. Restocking of forest plantation in gazetted forests
11. Establishment of urban forests, arboretum, green spaces & road side plantings in wards and sub counties.

LCA's main agenda was to ensure that the discussion on ecosystem restoration is not only about growing trees, but incorporate other interventions in dry land areas, on rangeland management, gully healing, reseeded, construction of sand dams and the removal of invasive species.

The Strategy envisages that although trees are important, no ecosystem should be left behind, and will also align with other relevant restoration frameworks in Kenya and regionally, key among the African Forest Landscape Restoration Initiative AFR 100 of the AU, Kenya Vision 2030, National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, NBSAP 2012 - 2030.

The process will also be guided by lessons from other restoration initiatives key among them the Kenya National Landscape Restoration Scaling Conferences 2012 & 2022, as well as the Forest and Landscape Restoration Implementation Plan (FOLAREP) 2022-2027.

The draft strategy will be subjected to a stakeholder validation workshop, before it is adopted and launched. The Association aims to layout an internal framework to guide the strategy's implementation in partnership with the County Government of Laikipia as well as other stakeholders in the landscape.

MOU Update: County Government of Laikipia and LCA



The County Government of Laikipia and Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA) have initiated discussions towards the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Currently, the draft MOU has been circulated among the involved parties for comments and feedback before the final signing.

The primary purpose of this MOU is to establish a comprehensive framework for collaboration, outlining the areas of cooperation between the County Government and LCA. The relationship outlined in the MOU is based on constitutional values, specifically those encapsulated in Article 10. This includes a commitment to equity, equality, and mutual respect. Both parties pledge to work together and maintain a continuous working relationship to achieve common objectives.

Areas of Cooperation:

The parties aim to foster cooperation in various critical areas, including:

- Development and implementation of policies and legislation related to conservation and climate change
- Implementation of the County Integrated Development Plan (CIDP) to prevent duplication
- Active participation in the development of the County Annual Development Plan and the budget process.
- Communication and collaboration initiatives between the two parties
- Water sources development and rehabilitation, covering activities such as bore drilling, water reticulation, water pans construction, rock catchment, sand dam construction, and other water-related developments.
- Rangeland management, rehabilitation, control of invasive species, forest conservation, and other soil conservation efforts
- Wildlife conservation, wildlife protection, and resolution of human-wildlife conflicts
- Protection, conservation, and development of water springs and wells
- Tree planting and tree growing initiatives in the Laikipia landscape
- Climate change mitigation and adaptation interventions
- Capacity building for officers working in both organizations, covering water, environment, natural resources, and climate change. Other departments may also be engaged, expanding the scope to thematic issues like conservation, climate change action, climate-smart agriculture, policy, and legislative support, among others.

This MOU signifies a strong commitment from both the County Government of Laikipia and the Laikipia Conservancies Association to collaborate strategically for the betterment of the environment and communities within the region.

Wyss Academy for Nature Partnership with LCA



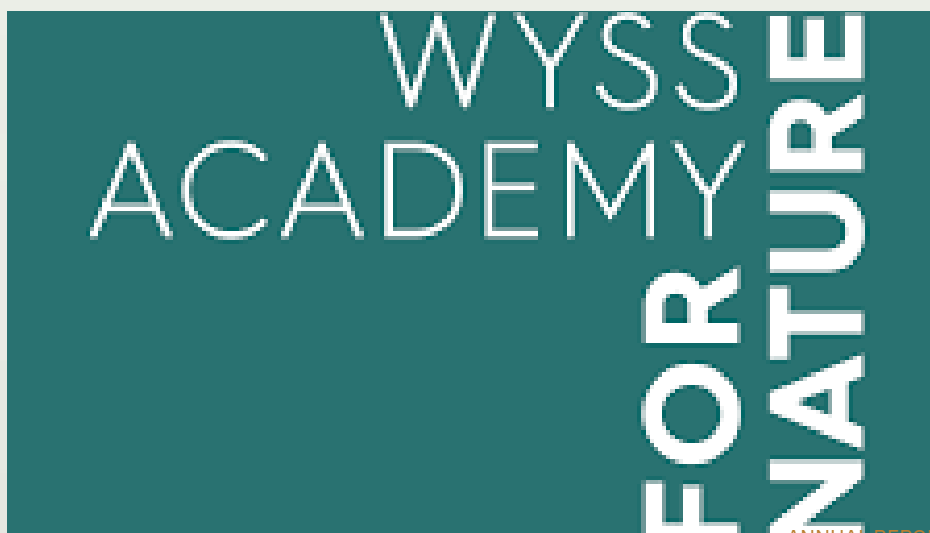
Harnessing potential partnerships and collaboration

During the year in the month of August, we had a collaboration and partnership meeting with the Wyss Academy for Nature. The purpose of the meeting was to explore avenues of partnership and collaboration between the two organizations, seeking to synergize efforts for the benefit of nature and local communities. The meeting considered shared interests and establish a robust framework for working together effectively.

Some of the key areas of collaboration identified include;

- Peace initiatives across Laikipia, Isiolo, and Samburu counties
- Rangeland restoration and grazing plans
- Wildlife Corridor to restore connectivity in the Landscape
- Policy formulation on conservation in the county level
- Harmonizing landscape plans- Conservation policy and ecosystem plan
- Knowledge-sharing hub
- Resource mobilization to support conservation work
- Conservation strategy development for Laikipia
- Carbon and biodiversity credits
- Empowering youth and women through nature-based initiatives
- Building conservancy capacities- governance and financial sustainability

Both LCA and the Wyss Academy for Nature affirmed their commitment to forging a collaborative work agreement. This agreement will delineate the specific domains of partnership, the roles each entity will play, and the intended outcomes of joint endeavors. By harnessing their respective strengths, these organizations aspire to tackle conservation challenges and uplift both communities and nature in the Laikipia region. Both LCA and Wyss Academy signed an MOU together, solidifying the partnership going into the future.



Natural State MOU with LCA



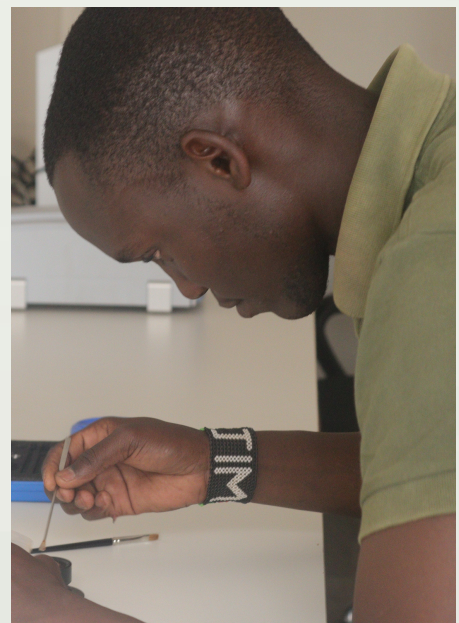
A joint meeting was held between LCA and Natural State at the NS offices in Lewa, with the goal of discussing a partnership in the development of Laikipia carbon project, leveraging on NS's technology, monitoring and biodiversity credit lens. The subsequent engagement with LCA and Natural State led to a collaborative signing of an MOU to guide the two organizations on their engagement...

Technological Advancements for Biodiversity Monitoring:

Natural State has been planning to develop a pilot carbon project in Makurian, and Borana - Lewa landscape and Loldaiga Conservancy, who are members of LCA.

In line with LCA's goal of a landscape carbon project, rolling out a pilot carbon project may fragment the landscape effort, and therefore the discussion focused on partnership and collaboration to avoid the possible fragmentation.

LCA continues to seek out strategic partnerships that are critical to the achievement of our vision for a well managed Laikipia landscape.



AB-Entheos MOU with LCA



The MOU establishes a collaborative framework between AB Entheos, an independent market driver in financial services, and LCA. The collaboration aims to implement a pilot for the National Human-Wildlife Conflict scheme in Laikipia County.

LCA, dedicated to building resilience among communities hosting wildlife in Laikipia County, collaborates with AB Entheos for the implementation of the Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) compensation scheme pilot. This initiative seeks to compensate local communities for financial losses caused by wildlife activities, offering an improved alternative to the current compensation scheme.

Joint Project Activities Related to AB Entheos:

- Introduction of project objectives and initiation of the working relationship with LCA.
- Development of necessary materials for each project stage.
- Interviewing, training, and managing community verification officers in Laikipia County.
- Project management and administration throughout the project's duration, with AB Entheos as the originators and overseers of all activities.
- Reporting on project progress to relevant parties.

Activities Related to LCA:

- Acting as the liaison between AB Entheos and the affected community.
- Introducing AB Entheos to key stakeholders for scheme success.
- Providing advice on recruitment criteria and supporting candidate sourcing for Community Verification Officer roles.
- Collaborating with AB Entheos on sensitization, education, and awareness campaigns for the HWC Compensation scheme.
- Encouraging and sharing risk reduction initiatives, including mitigation measures, with communities.

The MOU signifies a commitment to mutual collaboration, with each party playing specific roles to ensure the successful implementation of the HWC compensation scheme pilot in Laikipia County.



AB Entheos



In a noteworthy collaborative effort led by the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA), spearheaded by Director General Mamo Boru Mamo, and the Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA), a joint delegation including representatives from the County government of Laikipia embarked on a pivotal visit to Mayianat Community Conservancy. The delegation, comprising NEMA Chairman, LCA officials, and esteemed representatives from the County government, including Deputy Governor H.E Rueben Kamuri, CEC for Water, Environment, and Natural Resources Ms. Leah Njeri, and CEC for Public Administration, convened for a tree planting initiative at Mayianat Demo Farm on Friday.

Tree Planting Initiative at Mayianat Demo Farm:

A significant highlight of our collaborative efforts was a visit to Mayianat Community Conservancy, where a tree planting initiative took place at Mayianat Demo Farm. Led by Deputy Governor H.E Rueben Kamuri, CEC for Water, Environment, and Natural Resources Ms. Leah Njeri, and CEC for Public Administration, the initiative focused on planting 100 indigenous trees, contributing to environmental sustainability. The emphasis on semi-circular bunds and swells for rangeland restoration showcased a thoughtful approach to community-driven environmental conservation.

Comprehensive Environmental Strategies:

The outlined plans extend to encompass:

- Reseeding of grass
- Combating desertification
- Restoring catchment areas
- Fostering afforestation
- Executing strategies for gully healing



Ecosystem Restoration and Waste Management Initiatives: A subsequent meeting facilitated at the Laikipia County NEMA office explored joint initiatives for ecosystem restoration, waste management, and climate change mitigation. Planned activities for this partnership include:

- Development of an ecosystem plan
- Implementation of relevant policy interventions
- Management of invasive species
- Drafting grazing plans
- Holistic rangeland management practices

Formalizing the Collaboration: A significant resolution emerged from the meeting—the commitment of the NEMA Laikipia County office to draft a formal document. This document will clearly outline the areas of agreement and collaboration between LCA and NEMA. The written communication aims to solidify the strategies and action plans agreed upon during the meeting.

Milestone Collaboration: The alliance between LCA and the NEMA County office signifies a momentous step in addressing crucial environmental concerns within the Laikipia region. The agreed initiatives hold substantial promise in their potential to address ecosystem preservation, climate change mitigation, and effective waste management practices. This collaborative effort exemplifies the power of partnerships in advancing sustainable environmental practices in our region

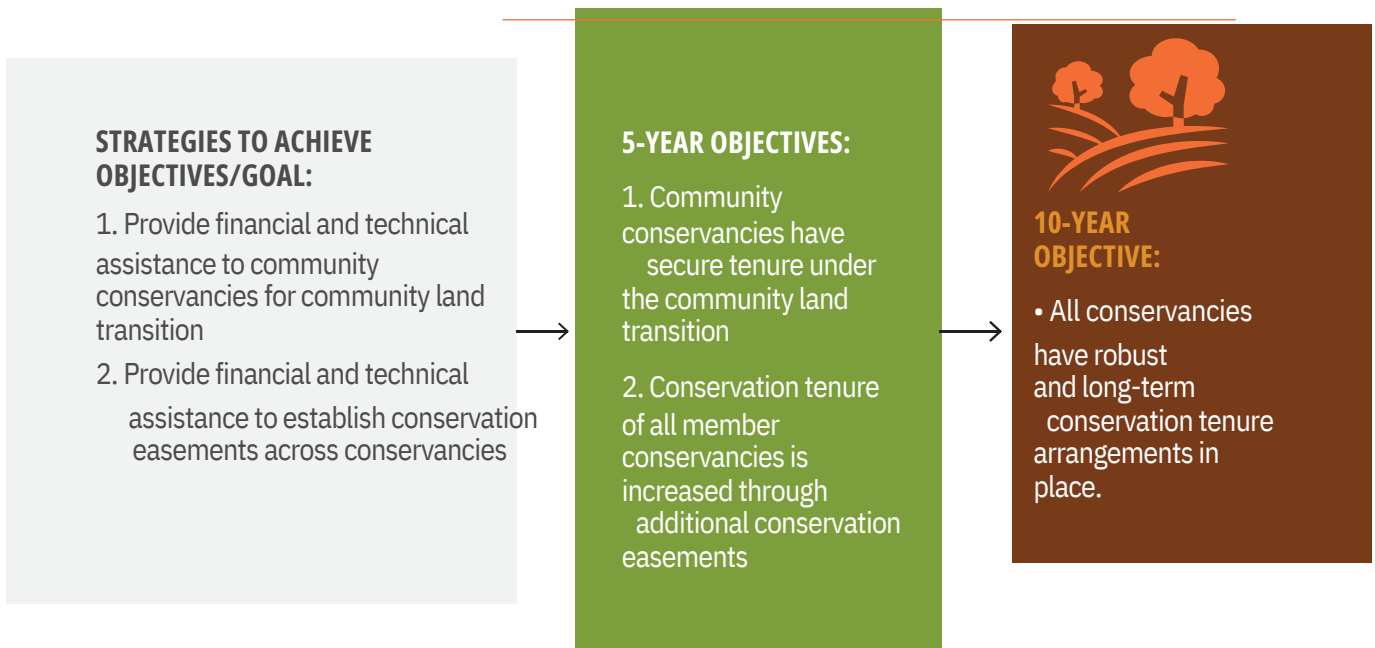


Goal 5:

Conservancies are secure through long-term conservation tenure



Secure land tenure is an important foundation for the success of conservancies, and without strong tenure it is difficult for conservancies to plan and manage habitat and wildlife over the long-term. Lack of tenure also makes it harder for conservancies to resist competing land uses and pressures that threaten wildlife and habitat, and it can also be a source of conflict. Given the diversity of conservancies in Laikipia, LCA sought to support community conservancy members to transition and obtain community land titles, and seek to strengthen the conservation tenure of our members more broadly through conservation easements.



Green Skills For Sustainable Development



LCA participated in the International Youth Week held in Nairobi. This year's theme of 'Green Skills for Youth, towards a sustainable world' is at the heart of LCA's main agenda, as we aim to ensure that we onboard the youth in conservation as the future custodians of the biodiversity.

Through the leadership of the Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association, we actively engaged in the validation process of the Youth Engagement Wildlife Conservancies Strategy, a significant stride towards ensuring a promising future for young conservation enthusiasts.

The strategy has four key guiding principles as follows;

- 1 Inclusivity:** The strategy recognizes the value of involving all relevant stakeholders in conservation efforts including the youth.
- 2 Empowerment:** The strategy strives to ensure that conservation translates into direct and positive benefits to livelihoods of men, women and youth in the local communities.
- 3 Sustainability:** Promoting sustainable conservation measures in all its operations, through sound ecological, environmental, social and economic factors.
- 4 Transparent and professional governance:** The strategy is hinged on being responsive to community needs and interests, fair allocation of benefits and accountability for the benefit of the conservation agenda.

International Youth Week

CEO Peter Matunge also gave a keynote address at a similar but separate event hosted by the Nanyuki Youth Hub

Matunge delved into the evidences and causes of climate change, while also touching on the strategies of adaptation and mitigation to counter its effects.

He spotlighted the pivotal role that the youth can play in combating the impacts of climate change as well as the following key areas;

1. Green Skill Development
2. Advocacy and Activism
3. Education and Awareness
4. Community Engagement
5. Environmental Education

This engagement underscores LCA's dedication to empowering youth for climate action. This is a sign of our commitment to nurturing the next generation of environmental leaders, who will safeguard our planet's future.

Collectively, we are paving a path towards a sustainable world where the youth stand as pillars of change, safeguarding our precious natural heritage.

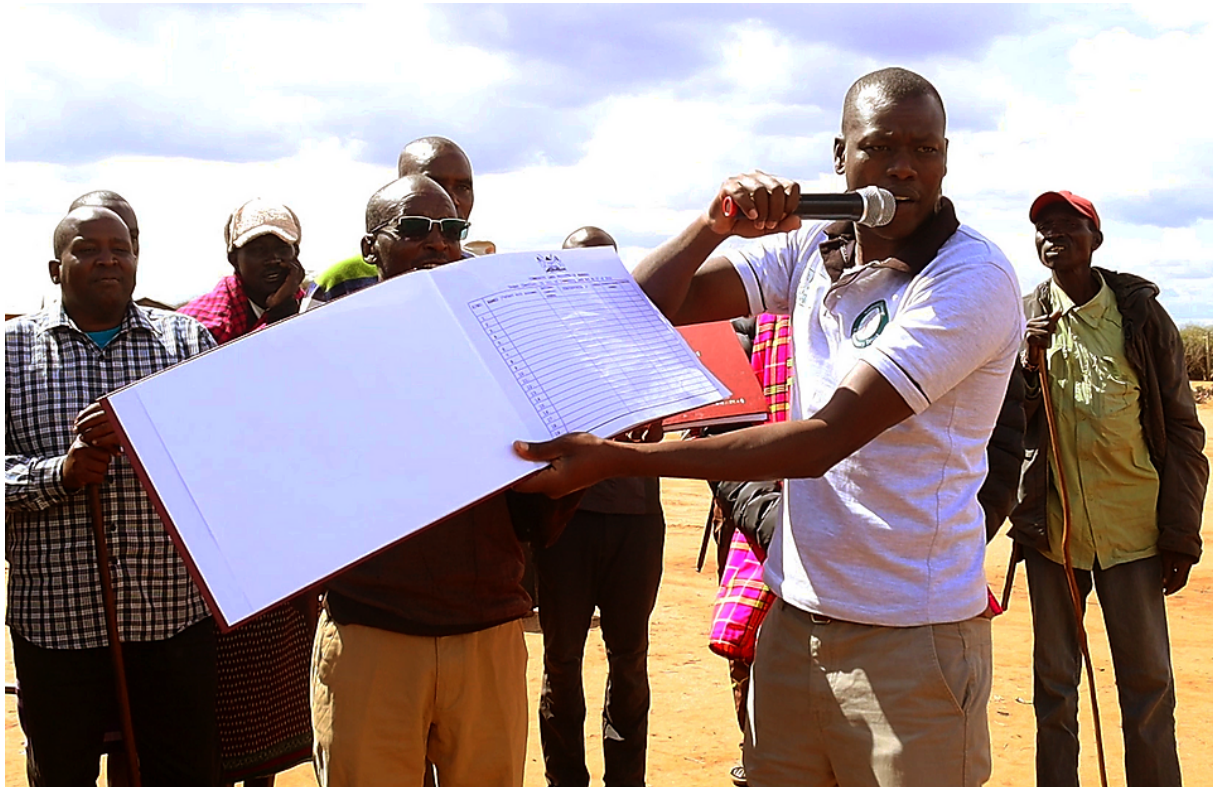




LCA through the support of USAID Facilitate A Complete Transition Of Five Group Ranches In Laikipia Into Community Lands

Before 2021, only eight out of thirteen Group Ranches in Laikipia County had complied with The Community Land Act 2016 and transitioned to Community Lands with Il Ngwesi being the first Group Ranch in the entire country to fully transition. In 2021, Laikipia Conservancies Association, facilitated by USAID, embarked on a project to transition the five remaining Group Ranches namely; Koiya, Lekuruki, Shulmai, Morupusi, and Munishoi into Community Lands.

LCA has successfully managed to transition all five Community Lands, in compliance with The Community Land Act 2016. The Community lands are now able to enjoy secured land tenure and can take advantage of all benefits that this would attract.



The Transition Process



The transition was a transparent and inclusive process that involved:

1. Public Participation Meetings to inform, educate and create awareness on the importance of converting from Group Ranches to Community Lands.

2. Convening meetings on by-laws drafting. These meetings were attended by management committees or an elected task force.

3. Taking by-laws to the Group Ranch members for review. The collected feedback was taken into account in formulating a full constitution.

4. The Committee/task force convened again to fine-tune the draft by-laws into a final constitution.

5. A meeting was arranged with the members of each group ranch to elect an official Community Land Management Committee.

6. Lobbying the Laikipia County Government to issue an inventory of all registered lands and their status.

7. We then collaborated with the newly elected **Community Land Management Committee** on the registration processes which involved; updating the member register, providing all minutes for conversion and election meetings, presenting old title papers, presenting incorporation certificates, and paying requisite registration fees.

8. Handing in **title documents** to each converted Community Land.

9. Once the registration process was completed, the **Community Land Management Committee** is inducted on the administration and management of each of their assigned community land (**CLMC Training**)

Community Land Management Committee Training (CLMC Training).

After the complete transition of the five Community Lands, LCA embarked on training the

Management Committees from all 13 Community Lands in Laikipia Landscape irrespective of registration dates. They were trained in matters of governance, finance, management, and human rights. The training focused on the new arrangement and requirements of the new Act and roles of the CLMC under the community land Act 2016.

Laikipia Conservancies Association continues to support the Community Lands through additional capacity building.

Community Land Management Committee (CLMCs) Chairpersons' Meeting



Strengthening Unity and Security: CLMCs Chairpersons' Meeting at Twala Cultural Centre

The meeting held at the Twala Cultural Centre showcased the power of collaboration and a shared vision. Chairpersons from various Community Land Management Committees (CLMCs) came together to deliberate on ways to strengthen unity, security, and governance within the landscape.

The focal point of the discussion was security, with the chairpersons openly deliberating on strategies to bolster security amidst emerging challenges.

The discourse also covered governance structures within CLMCs, focusing on transparency, accountability, and community engagement.

The meeting resolved to meet quarterly, to further discussions on these areas that are critical to sustainable conservation that preserves nature and improves people's lives.

LCA is keen to continue this progressive engagements, as a forum to address common challenges that inhibit development within the landscape.



Securing of Mukogodo Forest



A participatory forest management plan (PFMP) for the Mukogodo Forest was completed and approved by KFS, in April 2023.

The PFMP was officially launched at a two day event on the 16th May, 2023. This process and the Forest Management Agreement were delayed by KFS and the Kenyan election of 2022.

Il Mamusi is a potential conflict hotspot as it is often used as an area for people and groups to hide out. Supporting a coalition of our community conservancy members to renegotiate expired collective management rights to the Mukogodo forest and in doing so, help to strengthen management of the forest could help to address this.

LCA is supporting rangers through USFWS, in IlMamusi.





Peace and Security

LCA has been instrumental this in ensuring that there is a thriving peace and security in the Landscape. This has been actualized through the following:

1.Operational Support

2.Stakeholder engagement on Peace and security.

Operational Support:

This year, we have been instrumental in providing operational support to Loisaba Air surveillance, Naibunga conservancies fuel support, salaries for Security Coordinator in Ilmamusi.

Operational Support to ILMAMUSI CFA

During the month of January 2023 ILMAMUSI begun the year well with various activities related to Joint landscape security patrols, Rangers training on earth ranger and a few cases related to livestock banditry. Fair amount of rainfall was received during the month of December 2022 in Mukogodo forest Landscape, and this therefore forced pastoral groups from as far as Maralal, Kirimon, Wamba, Isiolo county and some parts of Sosian to encroach the forest as a result of regeneration that happened immediately after the rains.

Insecurity and Encroachment

During the beginning of the year, Mukogodo forest landscape attracted large numbers of livestock from neighboring counties; Isiolo and Samburu, who encroached the forest in search of fresh water and pastures as a result of severe drought affecting their counties. Lekurruki and Il Ngwesi conservancies remain as the latest conservation areas to anticipate encroachment in the landscape.

Livestock banditry cases have also been reported with few recoveries and arrests being made by the joint security patrol teams.

Illegal incidences:Charcoal burning

Several cases of Charcoal burning at Mayianat and Shulumai blocks have been reported by the rangers on their daily monitoring parts. Few individuals have been arrested by the rangers with several kilns being destroyed. A numbers of sacks containing charcoal have also been confiscated at ranger's quarters.



CFA Rangers destroying a kiln and several other sacks of charcoal being confiscated to the CFA



Joint Security patrols

A joint security patrol on Mukogodo landscape was initiated through a financial support from Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA) to help curb the insecurity incidences and other illegal forest activities like, Charcoal burning, illegal logging, poaching and illegal sand harvesting. The involved teams on the eastern part of Mukogodo forest are as follows:

- ILMAMUSI CFA
- Lekurruki Conservancy
- Il Ngwesi Conservancy
- Borana Conservancy

Another team from Oldaiga Conservancy through the support from ANI conducted their patrols on the western parts of Mukogodo forest, featuring Mayianat and Shulumai blocks.

The Joint security landscape patrols came to an end on 7th of January 2023 after a spree of patrols within the forest and the surrounding community lands for a period of two months.

Illegal Logging

Few cases involving *Procera juniperus* (red cedar) have been reported with four suspects having been arrested by the CFA rangers. Several logs and posts have also been confiscated at ILMAMUSI CFA headquarters.



Recovery of posts and logs by the CFA Rangers and confiscating them at the CFA headquarters and suspects being arrested

Wildlife Carcasses

Two elephant carcasses have been reported by the CFA rangers during their daily patrols. The first case was reported at Sheito area in Shulumai block while the other case was reported at Murua village Il Ngwesi block. The deaths of both animals were not known while their tusks were found intact.



Fresh Carcasses of elephants with tusks intact at Murua, Sheito and Loiborare areas within Mukogodo forest, the deaths remain unknown

Livestock Banditry

During the month of March, several banditry cases of livestock theft have been reported at Shulumai and Lekurruki community lands. Seven cases of stolen cows, camels and one case of stolen goats were reported. A total of 43 cows, 15 camels and 67 goats have so far been stolen within Mukogodo landscape. 35 cows, 10 camels and 67 goats have been recovered by the ILMAMUSI CFA rangers, Lekurruki conservancy team, Il Ngwesi conservancy team and community members.

After heavy rains received in the landscape, an aerial survey was conducted within mukogodo forest and some parts of the ILMAMUSI neighboring community lands through the support of Borana conservancy. During the aerial patrol several Samburu homesteads have been observed having encroached all blocks within the forest. Natural regeneration of the forest and plenty of water in the main streams within the forest and community lands was also observed.

Illegal Settlements





Operational Support to Loisaba Air Surveillance

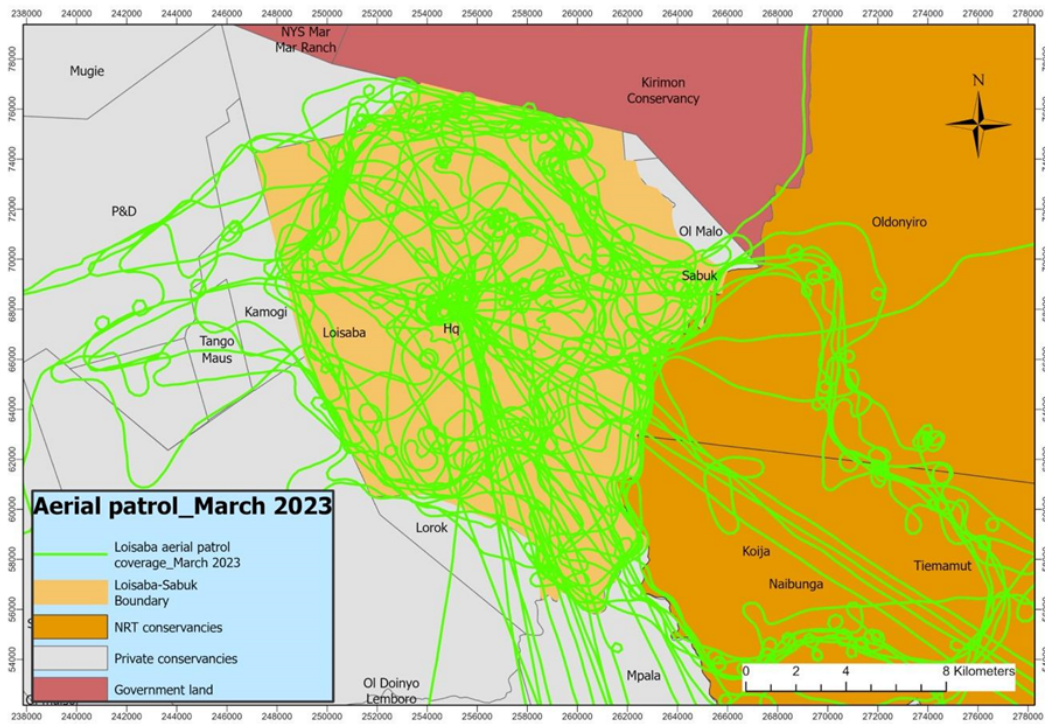
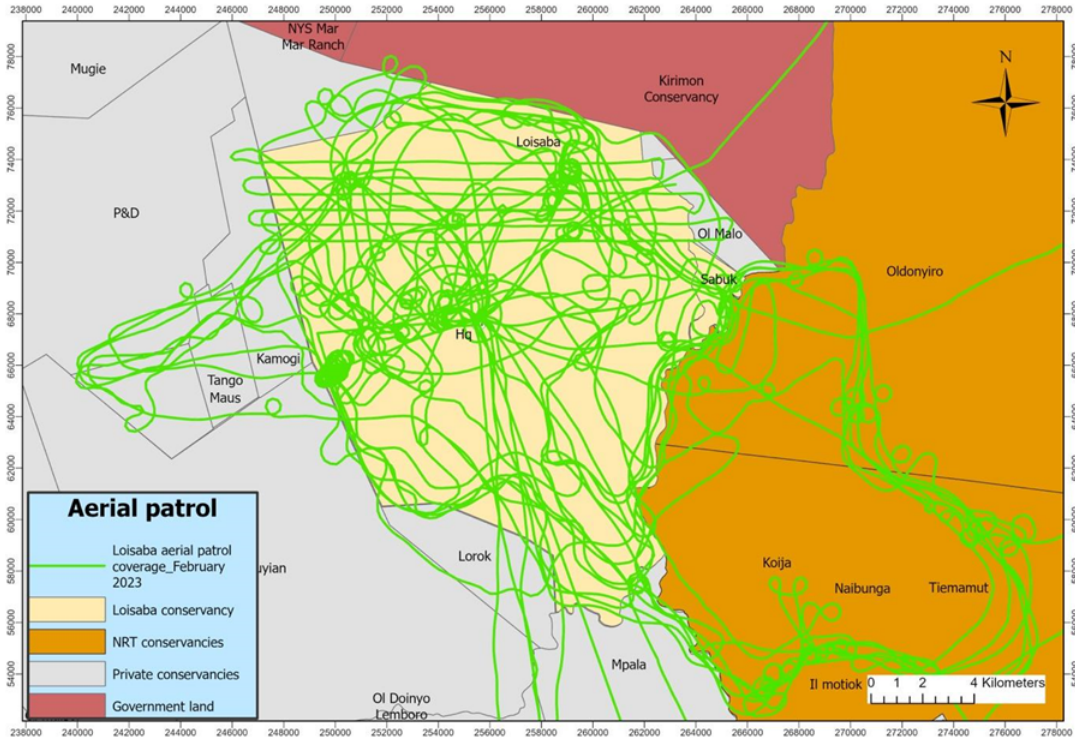
The objective of this support was to Increase collaboration among Loisaba and Naibunga through operational support to monitor and secure migratory routes between Laikipia and Samburu.

This is through providing Support to Loisaba in surveillance and monitoring of elephant routes to ensure security: provide fuel for the Loisaba airplane to expand its aerial surveillance for elephant and security monitoring along the key migratory route into Isiolo/Samburu, and provide fuel for the rapid response ranger team to support neighboring community conservancies. to strengthen financial management.

Hours flown in aerial patrols supporting the security situation:

Month	Hours Flown	Month	Hours Flown	Month	Hours Flown	Month	Hours Flown
		August 2022	22.2	Dec 2022	7.3	June 2023	28
May 2022	12.1	September 2022	10.6	Jan 2023	27.7	July 2023	37
June 2022	8.2	October 2022	14.3	Feb 2023	10.5	August 2023	42
July 2022	14.6	November 2022	13.9	March 2023	15.4	September 2023	37
				April 2023	20.3	October 2023	34
				May 2023	36		
Total Hours		390.6 Hours					

Aerial Patrol Coverage Map





Naibunga Conservancies Fuel Support

The main of this was to Increase the operational and coordination capacity of the Naibunga conservancies to strengthen their ability to manage elephants as a key corridor area: support the three Naibunga conservancy ranger teams with fuel for their vehicles in order to patrol and monitor elephants in their conservancies.

164 litres of fuel was issued to two Naibung'a vehicles during this reporting period.

The reporting period has been relatively peaceful in terms of community security. Loisaba has contributed to community security incidences during the reporting period as per below:

February: Stock Theft – the Loisaba Security department assisted with a stock theft whereby food, clothes, cash and other items were stolen from a camel boma. The K9 unit tracked the suspects to a boma, where the suspects mother issued a statement that the suspect has been a reoccurring problem. The matter was handed over to Mpala security.

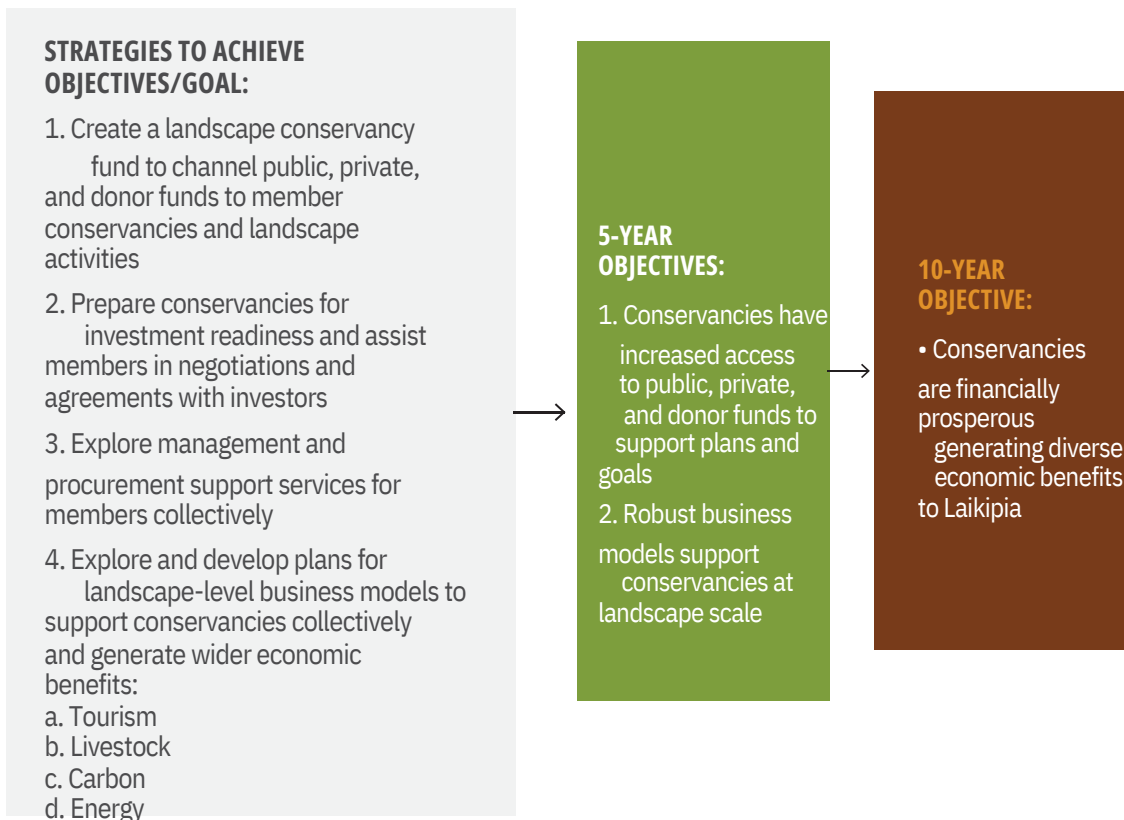


Goal 6:

Conservancies are financially prosperous and economic contributors to Laikipia



Financial sustainability is a significant challenge that can hinder the conservation and social impact potential of conservancies. Diverse financial options are important to avoid over-reliance on certain sectors (such as tourism), and to buffer conservancies in times of stress. Working collaboratively across the membership, we will explore and develop financing mechanisms to support our members collectively. Developing opportunities and models at the landscape scale has the potential to attract investment and business planning that may be beyond the reach of individual conservancies. By strengthening the financial resilience of our member conservancies, we also strengthen their ability to be economic contributors and catalysts for Laikipia.



LCA Landscape Restoration Carbon Project

In 2023 the LCA Landscape Restoration Carbon project achieved the following:

Signed an MOU with The Nature Conservancy (TNC's) that secures funding for the project development, provided it continues to be considered viable.

Signed an MOU with Natural State which sets out key area's of collaboration including the feasibility study that integrates carbon, social impact and biodiversity, developing a theory of change, data collection, monitoring techniques and capacity development.

Funding from TNC: secured further funding from TNC's Africa Forest Carbon Catalyst fund and technical support from their Global Carbon Markets team. The technical support will help to guide and support the LCA during the feasibility study and specifically focus on: project oversight and compliance, GIS and remote sensing, carbon accounting, financial modeling, and stakeholder engagement.

Completed Concept Note: With input from the LCA carbon sub-committee the LCA completed a first draft of the LCA Landscape Restoration Carbon project concept note. This concept note includes the potential project area, the problem analysis, potential intervention, the theory of change, the stakeholders, the governance structure and the pathway forward. This concept will be updated as the feasibility study progresses to ensure it reflects and includes the input from the LCA stakeholders and the context of the LCA landscape.

In November 2023 the LCA started work on the feasibility study together with our technical advisors The Landscape and Livelihoods Group (TLLG) and TNC's Global Carbon Markets team. TLLG's team is being facilitated through an 18 month contract between TLLG and TNC. The contract is split into 3 phases of 6 months. In this first phase the feasibility study will focus on five key areas:

- Stakeholder Engagement and developing Free Prior Informed Consent (FPIC) protocols
- Situational analysis and socio-economic assessment
- Developing a Theory of Change
- Environmental and Social assessment and risk management
- Understanding existing equitable benefit sharing and community agreements that could inform a carbon revenue share agreement later on.

Initiating the Darwin Grant



In collaboration with Fauna & Flora (FF), the commencement of the implementation of a grant from the Darwin Initiative kickstarted towards the tail end of the year. This grant has proven instrumental in kickstarting a comprehensive scoping study that aims to propel our conservation, rangeland management, and livelihood initiatives within Laikipia to new heights.

The primary objective of the grant is to conduct a scoping study across Laikipia, aligning past successful conservation, rangeland management, and livelihood initiatives with the overarching Laikipia Conservancies Association (LCA) strategy. The study lays the foundation for future scaling of impactful programs.

The assignment covers LCA member conservancies within Laikipia County, with close consultation with the LCA ensuring a collaborative and community-centered approach.

As a crucial starting point, the grant has enabled the process of procurement of a consultant who will spearhead the scoping study. This expert will play a pivotal role in guiding the study's implementation and ensuring the achievement of its objectives.

The scoping study includes:

1. **Assessment of Previous Initiatives:**

- Identification and evaluation of the quality and long-term impact of past conservancy-level initiatives centered around conservation and social issues. Alignment with the overarching LCA strategy is a key consideration.

2. **Documentation of Successful Initiatives:**

- Comprehensive documentation of methods and impact associated with previously successful initiatives. This process aims to discern patterns that indicate potential for long-term sustainable impact and scalability.

3. **Program Development:**

- Development of programs aligned with the strategic goals of LCA, designed to be funded and implemented at a landscape level. This ensures a holistic and integrated approach to conservation and sustainable livelihoods.

4. **Fundraising "Case for Support":**

- Creation of a compelling fundraising "case for support" to serve as a strategic tool for the LCA in raising the necessary financial resources. This document articulates the impact, scalability, and sustainability of the proposed initiatives.

The scoping study, facilitated by the Darwin Initiative grant, will provide valuable insights into past successes and identified pathways for future impact. Moving forward, the findings will guide our strategic planning and programmatic efforts, ensuring significant strides in conservation, rangeland management, and livelihood enhancement within the Laikipia region.

This initiative exemplifies our commitment to leveraging partnerships and strategic grants, setting the stage for impactful and sustainable development in Laikipia Conservancies.

Looking Ahead

Despite the challenges encountered during the year, our member conservancies continued to make progress, overcoming significant barriers in their efforts to be self-sustaining.

Moving forward, we will continue to support them in increasing their resilience against climate change and its effects and in propelling their growth, ensuring they remain the gold standard for achieving economic development through community-led conservation.

We will also establish the structures required to facilitate an increase in LCA membership, opening up the LCA community conservancy model and its benefits to more indigenous communities.



ASANTENI SANA!

The Laikipia Conservancies Association would like to thank the following donors and partners, a for their invaluable support.

County Government & National Government



Donors



Partners





LAIKIPIA
CONSERVANCIES
ASSOCIATION



P.O. Box 287 – 10400 Nanyuki
+254 716 977073



@Conservancies



@LCAKenya



www.laikipiaconservancies.org

