

Annual Report | 2021



Communities driving the conservation agenda



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Letter from Executive Director

Dear Friends of KWT,

We genuinely appreciate your continued support throughout 2021 as we sought to rise above the impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on our operations.

While the constraints and limitations eased up, the KWT team gradually resumed field activities while ensuring that the stakeholders and communities we work with communities were safe. Together with our partners, supporters, and other stakeholders, we are tracking progress in the projects we currently run. All of these are driven by the ongoing **UN Decade on Ecosystem Restoration** to prevent, halt and reverse the degradation of ecosystems worldwide.

KWT continues to align priorities within the three pillars of People, Predators, and Partnerships to achieve our organisational goals. Our work in the Greater Mara Ecosystem with the **Mara Predator Conservation Programme** is guided by robust scientific research, with a focus on people. Coexistence between people and predators and other wildlife in the ecosystem is strengthened by the evidence base our teams and provide to deliver sustainable solutions for conservation action. As we continue to work with the younger generation through conservation clubs, we are proud of the impact

our in-house publication series, '**Ole Peenko**,' has had on their ongoing.

Our new Livelihoods Programme, *Ufugaji Hifadhi*, is working with livestock owners to improve animal husbandry while promoting and providing protocols to restore and protect degraded land, biodiversity, and natural resources.

In 2021, we continued to strengthen our conservation partnerships across our core working areas. In partnership with Communities Health Africa Trust (CHAT) and Kitirua Conservancy, access to information, education, and services to communities in the Amboseli Ecosystem using the Population Health and Environment model was expanded. In the Mara, we collaborated with researchers and other stakeholders, under the One Mara Research Hub to support the development of the **Mara Ecosystem Management Plan and County Spatial Plan**.

In 2022, we look forward to having you on this journey in conserving key predator species, community outreach, conservation education, and ecosystem restoration while protecting our biodiversity.

Best wishes,
Irene Amoke, PhD
Executive Director

OUR FOCUS

PREDATORS

KWT's vision is a Kenya where healthy predator populations are the cornerstone of thriving ecosystems. To achieve this, we run the Mara Predator Conservation Programme in the Greater Mara Ecosystem



PEOPLE

Our predator conservation work is strongly anchored in collaborating with communities living alongside wildlife. KWT works with and empowers local communities and educates all stakeholders about conservation and environmental stewardship.



PARTNERSHIPS

KWT believes that a target driven and collective approach will lead to much more effective work in the country's core ecosystems. To achieve this, we form strategic partnerships with like-minded individuals and organisations working together for collective impact.



OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Mara Predator Conservation Programme

The Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) is KWT's flagship programme whose vision is to become a world-class conservation programme providing evidence-based, practical conservation management recommendations, solutions and ideas developed through robust research and monitoring practices complemented by genuine community engagement.

One Mara Research Hub

The Mission of the One Mara Research Hub (the Hub) is: to strengthen and enhance conservation efforts across the Greater Mara Ecosystem (GME) by creating opportunities, mechanisms, and systems for coordination and collaboration among conservation practitioners, research scientists, and other relevant stakeholders. The intent is to further and leverage the scale and pace of conservation and management interventions in this critical ecosystem by pooling and integrating data and information to influence donor funding decisions as well as advise policymakers at the conservancy, local government, and national government levels.

Conservation Leadership in Kenya

KWT's Conservation Leaders' Programme hopes to ensure that the unique knowledge of young people in Greater Mara, Samburu and Amboseli can be enhanced by a quality higher education degree. The conservation leadership programme offers full funding to study wildlife conservation at undergraduate level, at a group of hand-picked universities in Kenya. The programme will work with local schools and NGOs to select gifted students, with leadership potential, who would otherwise not have the chance to pursue a quality education.

Grassroots Grant Making

KWT's data-driven approach is complemented by grant making to strengthen grassroots organisations, many of whom know about the realities of these ecosystems than anyone. KWT places in the capacity of trusted local organisations to drive change.

Our grant making portfolio includes organisations focusing on protection of predators, as well as community health and education projects.

PREDATORS

Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP)

In 2021, Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) worked towards adapting and adjusting past the COVID-19 pandemic. While the restrictions and limitations eased up, MPCP has noted a positive trajectory within their overall activities.

MPCP's overarching objective is to support stable, healthy predator populations in the Greater Mara Ecosystem by providing scientific evidence for conservation action. The programme embodies Kenya Wildlife Trust's value proposition of being **Driven by Science and Focused on People.**

MPCP's objectives and activities are realised through two teams: Research and Community who work ensure that predators and people co-exist peacefully.



Research Updates

For the eighth consecutive year, the MPCP research team completed the three months intensive monitoring session in 2021. The Masai Mara has Kenya's most closely monitored lion and cheetah populations, in terms of robust and consistent density estimates.

MPCP recorded **299 lion** and **61 cheetah** sightings during the monitoring session. The updated lion density figures is (17.12/100 km² >1 year) and cheetahs (1.24 independent residents) which is published in the [MPCP Technical report of 2022](#).

The research team monitored five collared lions, successfully releasing and retrieving one collar from a male in November, giving them valuable insight into their space-use and how anthropogenic factors like livestock disturbance can affect it.

All cheetah demographic parameters were recorded and kept up to date, including 24 cheetah individuals who survived their first year.

The team discovered another active wild dog den in December, but it seems the Pardamat-Lemek pack has split up, and they have stopped having sightings of the Enonkishu pack. One wild dog from the Pardamat-Lemek pack's 2019 litter died from unknown causes.

Community Updates

The Mara Predator Conservation Programme's community outreach team implemented various activities aimed at sensitising communities on conflict mitigation measures in order to improve people's perceptions of predators.

Mara Livestock Herders' Training

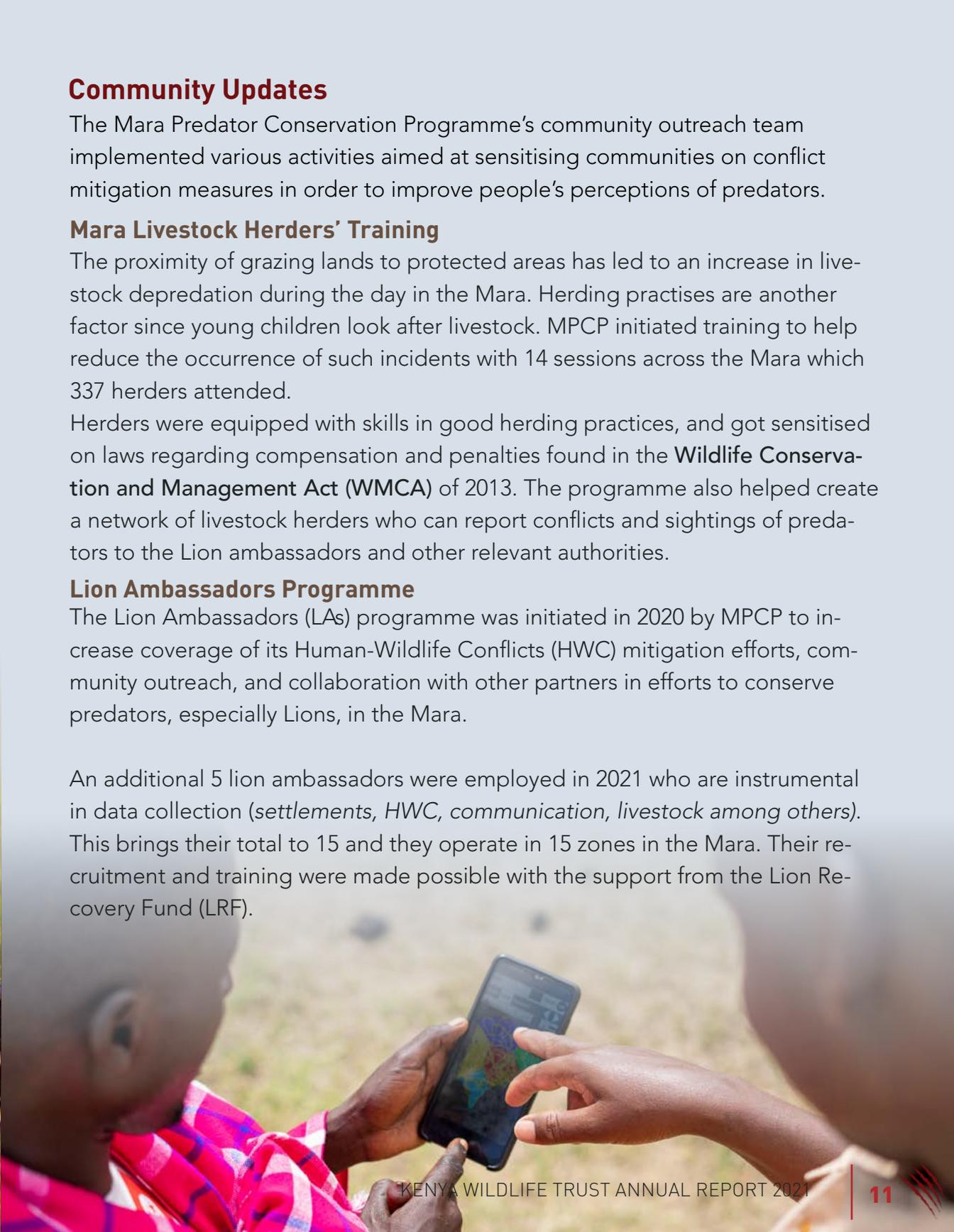
The proximity of grazing lands to protected areas has led to an increase in livestock depredation during the day in the Mara. Herding practises are another factor since young children look after livestock. MPCP initiated training to help reduce the occurrence of such incidents with 14 sessions across the Mara which 337 herders attended.

Herders were equipped with skills in good herding practices, and got sensitised on laws regarding compensation and penalties found in the **Wildlife Conservation and Management Act (WMCA)** of 2013. The programme also helped create a network of livestock herders who can report conflicts and sightings of predators to the Lion ambassadors and other relevant authorities.

Lion Ambassadors Programme

The Lion Ambassadors (LAs) programme was initiated in 2020 by MPCP to increase coverage of its Human-Wildlife Conflicts (HWC) mitigation efforts, community outreach, and collaboration with other partners in efforts to conserve predators, especially Lions, in the Mara.

An additional 5 lion ambassadors were employed in 2021 who are instrumental in data collection (*settlements, HWC, communication, livestock among others*). This brings their total to 15 and they operate in 15 zones in the Mara. Their recruitment and training were made possible with the support from the Lion Recovery Fund (LRF).



Community Outreach

MPCP's community outreach focuses on building the capacity of community members who live closer to conservation areas through community meetings, workshops, and targeted campaigns. The communities are then able to coexist with predators and resolve any challenges associated with coexistence.

The team trained 78 community members in five villages (Olaro orok, Lemek, Kishermoruak, Irbaan, and Kijirijirr) on ways to respond to poisoning incidents in their respective areas.

Due to restrictions on gathering due to COVID-19, MPCP's community team found an alternative way to run anti-poison campaigns. They invited all 14 buffalo dancers and recorded the anti-poison songs and drama performed in markets without gathering people.

Recycled Plastic Boma and Lion Deterrent Lights

Recycled plastic pole bomas have proved to be effective in preventing nighttime attacks by predators, a move that fosters positive attitudes towards predators by communities that live closer to conservation areas. MPCP through its Lion Ambassadors Programme identified six bomas that were largely affected by conflicts in three new zones. The team will be working closely with the boma owners to construct predator-proof enclosures using recycled plastic poles, chain-link, and metal corners.

Three hundred predator-deterrent lights were also installed in two conflict hotspot areas around the Mara and this will help reduce livestock attacks inside bomas at night.

Wildlife clubs

Following the resumption of learning in January 2021 after a long break due to the COVID-19 outbreak, MPCP managed to catch up on planned activities within the nine wildlife club schools.

The team carried out:

- Tree planting exercises,
- An annual art competition,
- Designing, printing, and distribution of the **Wildlife clubs' Bulletin**, and the 1st & 2nd editions of **Ole Peenko's** book series.

Ole Peenko book review

Relevance to COVID-19:

COVID-19 provided opportunities to trial diverse ways of working with wildlife club members amid the strict social restrictions. The modification of the face-to-face club engagement series to a book series involving quality reading, engaging games, and reflection questions provided members access to correct information on wildlife conservation and was an oasis from mental fatigue during the pandemic.

In 2021, the publishing of the Ole Peenko and other stories will continue to be guided by the MPCP's wildlife club. The book series continues to be assessed, showing the legacy of this one-year project as successful with the planned data collection where 12 members were interviewed. 100% of wildlife club members interviewed reported sighting at least one issue facing their communities with reference to wildlife and wildlands and offering suggestions on how they can be tackled. Their recommendations were fed into the book ideation and development. This is a direct fulfillment of MPCP's wildlife club goals of increasing the youngsters' knowledge about conservation challenges and encouraging them to think about ways to solve these challenges in their schools and communities.



"I want to create a healthy inclusive world where all of God's creation live peacefully together." **Gideon Simiren**, class 8 at Ng'osuani Primary School

"Trees are beautiful and save lives. They should not be cut. We can be a planting nation" **Diana Sananka**, Class 8 at Logiero Primary School

"My parents work in the tourist camps. Tourists come because of the wildlife. I would hate to see my parents lose their jobs because wildlife is killed." **Sinko Silantoi**, class 8 Molibany Primary School

"I want to see an educated community where they preserve the natural resources for future generations." **Musukut Sortanae**, class 8 Irbaan Primary School

Collaborations

Asilia Africa and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Kenya supported the printing and writing of 500 books. This generous giving helped KWT achieve its goal of building growth and development in children.

In August 2021, the **Maarifa foundation's** Maarifa club at Kishermoruak primary school and the MPCP's community team held a read together of the first edition of the book series.



PEOPLE

Communities Health Africa Trust (CHAT)

Within 1 year since KWT approached CHAT to implement a family planning project in the Amboseli ecosystem, there continues to be an increase in support of underserved individuals and communities to access family planning information and services.

Using CHAT's backpack strategy, the community's own resource person (CORPs) is engaged to go door-to-door in their own and surrounding communities to provide information and behavior change information, sensitization, and access to family planning.



This exceptional approach to population, health, and environment has seen that 707 men in 2021 accompanied their women to clinics for family planning while 831 women actively choose different contraception methods. This is an increase from 2020 with a 10% and 29% increase, respectively.

“What a joy it is! Every time I wake up, I think about steering change in our community. Enlightening men on family planning is important if we want to manage our human population in this side of Kenya. Only then will we be capable to have access to quality health for our women and ensure environmental resources are sufficient to sustain our livelihoods and the future generations as well,” says **Supuk** - one of CHAT’s CORP.

Milestones



707 men in 2021 accompanied their women to clinics for family planning.



831 women of reproductive age actively chose different contraception methods.

PEOPLE

Conservation Leadership Programme

The Conservation Leadership Program focuses on targeting and equipping youth with quality wildlife conservation education to help promote livelihood opportunities for those living in fragile ecosystems.

KWT recognizes that working with youth is an important strategy to achieve the UN sustainable development goals for equity and inclusion.

In 2021, 3 beneficiaries (2 female & 1 man) in 3 universities pursuing various bachelor’s degrees benefited from the program.



Ksh. 575,270 total used in support of the program in 2021.



Highlights of the year

- Evaline Sintoya speaking on her experiential learning during her attachment

"Seeing the change in perceptions of the local communities on wildlife protection using conservancies is really satisfying. Not only are they willingly giving out their land for leasing, but they are benefiting from tourism which is attracted by the increasing numbers of wildlife thanks to the conservancies in Masai Mara.

These moments of learning and development from my attachment are preparing me for relatable classroom reading and giving me a method of helping my community better conserve the environment and its wildlife using better conservation models. I am very thankful to Kenya Wildlife Trust for supporting my dreams."



- **Agnes Parmeres** completed her fourth year, the first semester with a presentation of her proposal study on 'An assessment of the human-elephant conflict in Kimana, Kajiado County'
- In August 2021, **Senchura Kaleku** went on a school field trip to Amboseli National Park & Tsavo West National Park as part of the conservation biology module to see how the communities are benefiting from the natural resources.

These young people continue to demonstrate awareness and understanding of wildlife conservation, including how this will impact them and future generations.



Partnerships

Kenya Wildlife Conservation Association (KWCA)

Healthy Ocean for a better life

2021 saw increased collaboration with Kenya Wildlife Conservation Association's Wild about life campaign- Coast edition resulting in experiential learning of the youth in matters of environmental conservation.

This unique platform explored the e-learning opportunities through the creation of fun and educative social media content by selected



youth influencers with a large following.

These online interactions and engagements have not only created a direct impact on changing youth behavior and attitudes, but many of them have also influenced their peers and families to act for the environment.

In 8 days, a total of 2 counties, 2 national parks, 1 wildlife sanctuary, and 3 conservancies were covered in the celebration of world environmental day and world ocean day with the 5 youth influencers.

On June 5, 2021, for World

Environmental Day the 5 youth influencers used their digital voices to highlight community success stories on the restoration of degraded ecosystems in Kiunga and Pate Island.

On June 8, 2021, for World Ocean Day the team's aim was to remove ocean plastic through both underwater and beach clean-up. Covering over 5sq km at the KWS Marine Park in Malindi, over 39kgs of plastic was collected.

Notably, plastic pollution needs to be highlighted as much as possible for people to realize we are at a turning point in the survival of oceanic wildlife.

PARTNESHIPS

Improved Livelihoods

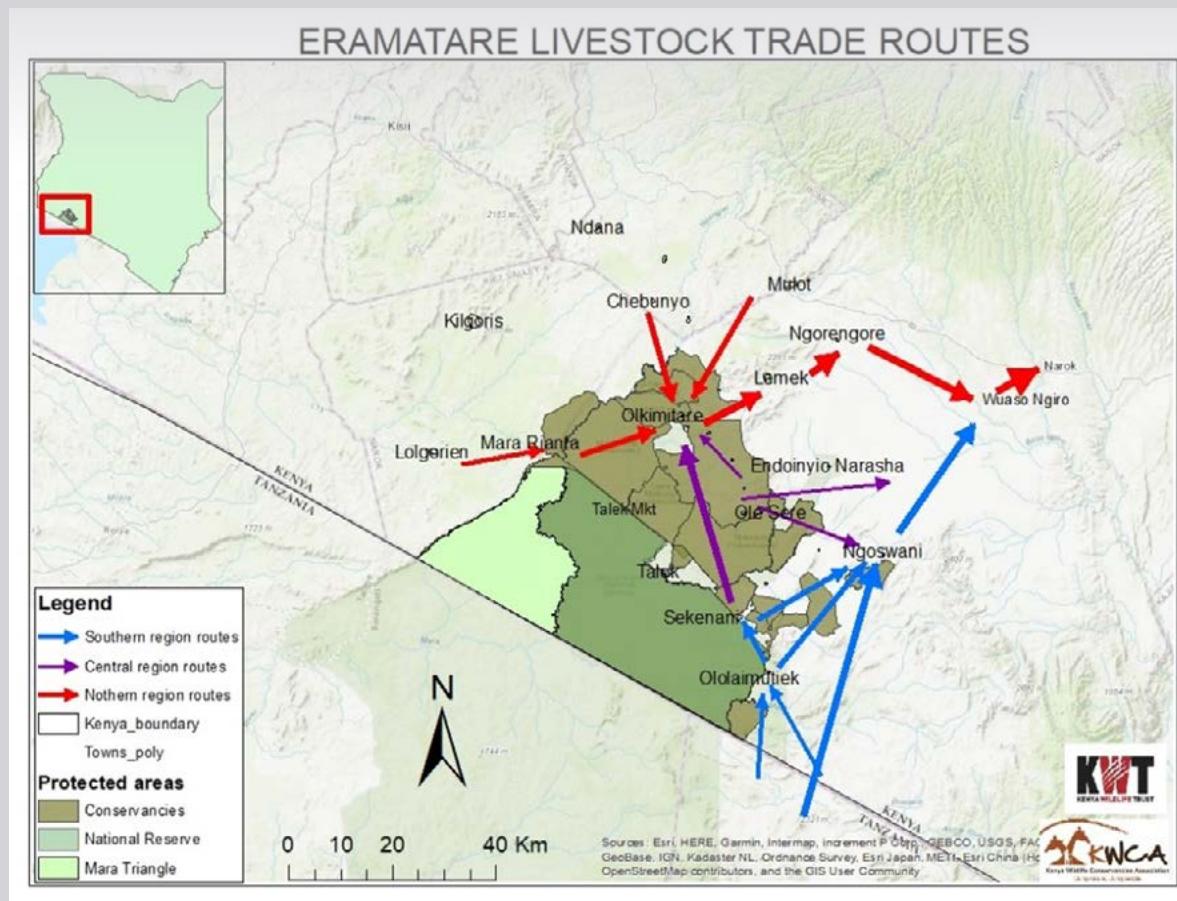
KWT began the implementation of a new livelihoods program called *Ufugaji Hifadhi*. It is currently undertaken in Aitong and its market threshold. The local Maasai name is **Eramatare** (*Meaning the practice of livestock production*) which relates to Maasai pastoralists' culture.

The program is based on a smartphone digital platform that connects farmers to each other, to promote better livestock production and husbandry, and value chains. It aims at giving farmers a fair wage and a sustainable income from the sale of healthy livestock and livestock products. Further, the program engages farmers in sound pasture management practices and restoring degraded landscapes in the Greater Mara Ecosystem.



This project kicked off with inception and livestock a route mapping workshop held on 8th November 2021, at G&G in Talek. Talek was selected due to its centrality in the Maasai Mara landscape hence ease of access by all the participants.

A total of twenty participants drawn from the different conservancies in the greater Mara ecosystem were selected and participated in the workshop. The participants included youth, women, livestock traders, and livestock drovers. All the participants engaged in the livestock trade or understand better livestock market routes and dynamics.



Partnerships

One Mara Research Hub

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The intent is to further and leverage the scale and pace of conservation and management interventions in this critical ecosystem by pooling and integrating data and information to influence donor funding decisions as well as advise policymakers at the conservancy, local government, and national government levels.

Engagement with Policy Makers

A key component of the OMRH's activities is linked to influencing policy decisions that directly affect the health and integrity of the Mara Ecosystem as a wildlife dense area with mixed land uses. In line with this, the Hub was actively involved in the drafting process of the Narok County Spatial Plan.

The Physical and Land Use Planning Act 2019 and County Government Act 2012 require that each of the 47 county governments prepare a 10-year land-use plan whose objectives include:

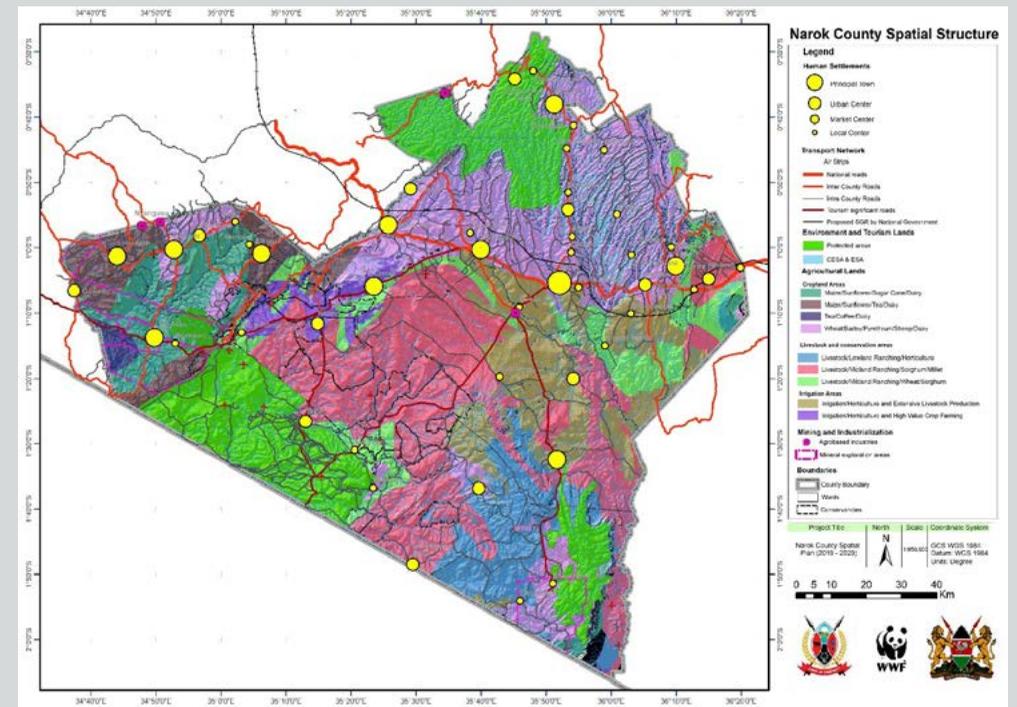
- Guiding the use and management of natural resources
- Enhancing environmental protection and conservation
- Identifying the proper zonations for industrial, commercial, residential and social developments.

In the 2nd quarter of 2021, the Hub secretariat convened a 10-day workshop which included representatives of the Hub's Advisory Council (AC) as well as the core

planning team responsible for drafting the land-use plan as per guidelines provided by the Council of Governors. An initial draft of the Narok County Spatial Plan (NCSP) was reviewed by a technical team from the Hub's AC and based on written submissions, comments, and presentations from various stakeholders in Narok County, the land-use zonation map was revised to include compatible mixed land-use models such as livestock production and conservation. Specifically, the current county structure includes two zonations that support the conservation agenda namely: Environment and Tourism lands as well as Livestock and conservation areas (Figure 1). While the plan is yet to be signed into law, there is general consensus and agreement between sectors and players who were traditionally viewed as competitors in relation to conservation.

Other policy engagement activities

include a technical workshop convened by the State Department of Tourism where AC members presented research with a focus on the decline of wildlife densities and habitat degradation within the Mara Ecosystem. A committee of key tourism stakeholders chaired by the Tourism Secretary from the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife was convened in early September to lead a national consultation effort in response to a growing concern that Kenya's main wildlife tourism product, the Mara, is threatened. The Ministry had earlier shared a **"Matrix of Key Concerns and Proposed Actions in The Maasai Mara National Reserve"** summary document which had guided the emergency committee's discussions prior to the involvement of the Hub. A key output of this meeting was the recognition of conservation efforts as a critical element necessary to safeguard the tourism sector.



Other key highlights

In 2021, the OMRH was part of key collaborative efforts within the ecosystem. This includes the review and harmonization of the Greater Maasai Mara Ecosystem Management Plan, an initiative led by the Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA) in a bid to ensure the conservation of the Mara. The Hub secretariat as well as AC members took part in a county-wide visioning exercise that saw over 2,000 community members actively develop a ward-specific vision of what they envision for their wards.

Acknowledgments

The One Mara Research Hub thanks all its financial donors and research teams who support the day-to-day activities undertaken by the Hub secretariat. Specifically, the OMRH acknowledges the financial contributions of MMWCA, USAID, Base Camp Explorer Foundation (BCEF) as well as scientific contributions from Antonio Uzal, Brian Kearney-Grieve, Cindy Obath, Daniel Sophia, Didi McEllby, Ellen O'Connell, Eric Reson, Han Olff, Holly Dublin, Irene Amoke, Jake Wall, Jared Stabach, Joseph Ogutu, Jully Senteu, Mohammed Said, Munir Virani, Munira Anyonge, Neil Anthony, Nina Bholá, Robert Buitenwerf, Robin Reid, Stephen Mioko & Stewart Thompson.





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Donations can be made to our affiliated charity, Kenya Wildlife Trust UK, a registered charity in England & Wales NO. 1162781

Via PayPal Giving – <https://www.paypal.com/uk/fundraiser/charity/3228635>.

Cheques can also be made out to Kenya Wildlife Trust UK and sent to c/o Mr Robin Cullen, Inglewood, 6A Reeves Lane, Wing, Rutland LE15 8SD.

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