

ANNUAL REPORT | 2023

KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST

DRIVEN BY SCIENCE, FOCUSED ON PEOPLE

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THIS IS FOR THE YOUTH AND WOMEN IN AMBOSELI. YOU TOO CAN DO IT. THANK YOU SO MUCH KWT. YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO MY SUCCESS. I AM VERY HAPPY.

CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME GRADUATE: VERONICAH SIMALOI

Scan to visit the KWT website

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Letter from Former Executive Director



Dear Friends and Supporters,

I am pleased to present the Kenya Wildlife Trust's annual report for 2023, a year marked by significant achievements in our conservation efforts. In my final letter to you as Executive Director, I am proud to highlight some of our key milestones from the past year.

To celebrate a decade of protecting predators in the Greater Mara Ecosystem, the Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) hosted a series of symposia titled "What's Next for Mara's Predators?" These events brought together stakeholders to assess the MPCP's impact, identify challenges, and develop a strategic framework for the next ten years. The program's success is built on fostering harmonious coexistence between predators and people through research and community engagement.

We expanded our community initiatives to promote wildlife coexistence and improve sustainable livelihoods in local communities. Notably, we completed the proof of concept for the Ufugaji Hifadhi programme in partnership with KWCA. This initiative collaborates with livestock farmers to achieve sustainable income while protecting biodiversity and promoting shared responsibility for conservation. Our goal is to establish a social enterprise to increase incomes among specialised value chains and producer groups, aiming for lasting positive impacts in both economic and conservation efforts.

Under the Conservation Leadership Programme, we awarded 21 scholarships to students enrolling at the Wildlife Research Training Institute, marking a 68% increase over 2022. Additionally, four returning students graduated, and we held our first mentorship camp in collaboration with CHD Kenya to equip the scholars with job-ready skills.



KWT continues to advocate for a collaborative approach to conservation, focusing on target-driven work and fostering partnerships with grassroots organisations, government agencies, and other conservation authorities. We collaborated with the Sovereign Nature Initiative (SNI) and Nairobi Design Week on "Tracing the Wild," a data-driven art project showcasing lion interactions with people in the Greater Mara ecosystem. Using data from MPCP's collars and interactive AR installations, the project highlighted the urgent need for wildlife protection.

The team showcased our work on several national and global platforms, including International Congress on Conservation Biology (ICCB), Sharescreen Africa, Partnering for Impact podcast and ReFi Podcast.

KWT CONTINUES TO ADVOCATE FOR A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO CONSERVATION, FOCUSING ON TARGET-DRIVEN WORK AND FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS WITH GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS, GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, AND OTHER CONSERVATION AUTHORITIES.

In 2023, with your generous support, we embarked on constructing new staff accommodation at the Tony Lapham Predator Hub, which houses our Mara programmes. This project includes eight new rooms, an ablution block, and an outdoor washing area, all powered by solar energy. This new facility will enhance the well-being and productivity of our dedicated Mara programme staff.

After a decade of service, including six years as Executive Director, I transitioned to an advisory role in April 2024. I will continue to support the Trust in developing new partnerships and fundraising for our impactful programmes. On behalf of the entire KWT team and Board of Trustees, I extend a warm welcome to Dr. Elizabeth Pantoren, the new Executive Director. We are confident that her expertise and leadership will guide KWT toward continued success in conserving Kenya's wildlife heritage.

I am proud of our accomplishments at the Trust during my tenure and look forward to supporting the organisation in my new role and witnessing its continued impact under Dr. Pantoren's leadership.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to the Kenya Wildlife Trust.

Best wishes,
Irene Amoke, PhD
Executive Director (Former).

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Letter from Chairman Emeritus



Dear All,

I am writing my comments on KWT's 2023 Annual Report with more than a little nostalgia. As a Founding Director of the Kenya Wildlife Trust back in 2007 and in what seems to be a blink of an eye, I now find myself retiring from the Chairpersonship.

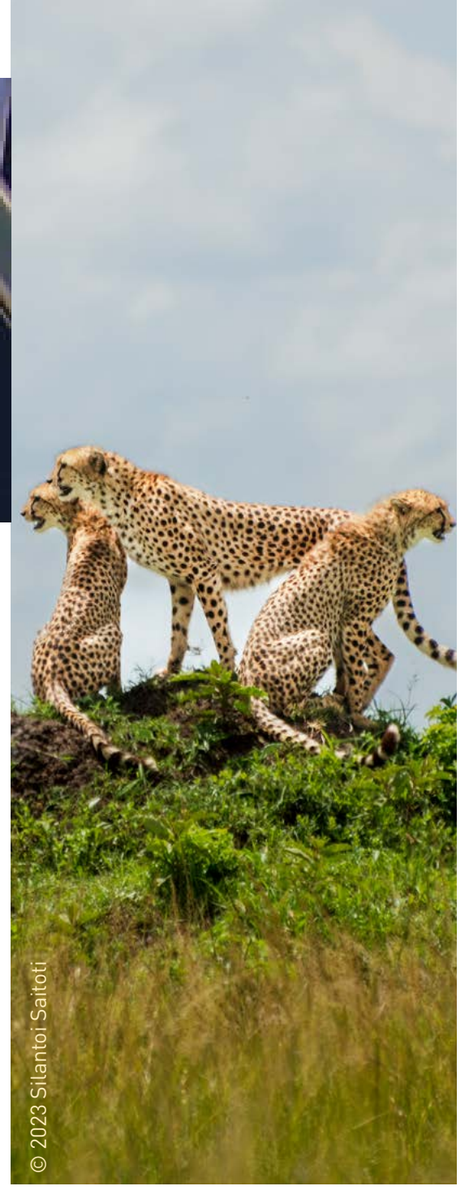
Fortunately, I am handing over to one Michael Wamithi, who is not only a very good friend, but also has over 35 years of experience in conservation, his admirable career includes leadership roles at Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), and the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), as well as Co-Founding his own Africa Conservancy Foundation. He even did a stint of 3 years as CEO of KWT during a critical stage in our early formation. KWT is truly fortunate to have such a well-respected and experienced conservationist to guide our strategic initiatives going forward.

My retirement also coincides with the transition of our current ED, Dr Irene Amoke, to an advisory role within KWT, after a decade of service, including 6 great years as Executive Director. I can't thank you enough, Irene, on behalf of the Board, for the dedicated and resourceful way you have built up KWT's portfolio of projects, totally restructured our fund-raising base, and elevated the profile of KWT in both government and non-government circles, and even more importantly, in the field.

Fortunately, Irene's successor, Dr. Elizabeth Pantoren, also brings a wealth of experience with her, notably in community-based conservation, and she has held several leadership positions in a number of organisations, most notably in the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and the Northern Rangelands Trust (NRT), where she was the Director of Programs and Governance. Like Michael Wamithi, under whom she once worked in KWS, Elizabeth is the co-founder of her own conservation organisation, Nature People As One (NaPO), working on conservation and restoration projects in northern Kenya.

As with Michael, I have known and worked with Elizabeth during the last two decades, and have built up a good deal of respect for her over the years. With Irene continuing in a paid Advisory role, I believe we have the makings of a very strong team.

> **2024 is going to be a very busy and fascinating year for KWT, and I would wish all our friends and supporters to stay the course with us.**
>
> **Allan E. Earnshaw**



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We have also been busy strengthening the main Kenya board, and after a series of interviews, in which I was fortunate to take part, we were exceptionally lucky to secure the services of 2 outstanding new Board members, Arnolda Shiundu and Winnie Wambugu.

In her daily life, Arnolda the Sustainability Lead Africa at Diageo, has been recognised as one of the Top 25 Influential Women in Marketing Impacting Business, and has spearheaded pioneering sustainability agendas, earning accolades on a national, regional, and global scale. Winnie Wambugu is a partner at Axum, with extensive experience in both the public and private sectors in youth empowerment projects and communication efforts. She also has a passion for mentoring African women leaders and, having begun her career in the hospitality industry, Winnie has an excellent understanding of the vital link between conservation and tourism. What more could you ask for?!

I am so energised by all these exciting new developments at KWT, that I have requested to be allowed to stay involved with the organisation I helped create in 2007, in the capacity of Chairman Emeritus. And I am delighted to say that my wish has been granted! So while Michael Wamithi will be writing the 2024 Chairman's Report, I'll still be hovering around in the background, *"organising the sandwiches for the company picnic"*, as another Chair Emeritus friend of mine used to say.

There's been a whole lot of terrific stuff actually happening in the field this past year, for which I'd like to thank all our field, and office staff, ably led by Irene, and well supported by what was already a good board before Arnolda and Winnie joined us (now even better!). I will leave it to Irene to expand on these achievements, but here are some of the highlights from 2023:

1. Improved Tony Lapham Predator Hub infrastructure – new staff housing and 2 new vehicles.
2. 10-Year Mara Predator Conservation Programme symposium held, and the vision for the next 10 years articulated.
3. "Ufugaji Hifadhi" – our Better Livelihoods through Better Livestock Management – begins implementation, after successful "proof of concept".
4. A new generation of Kenyan conservationists, through the Conservation Leadership Program, are receiving KWT's support and mentorship.

2024 is going to be a very busy and fascinating year for KWT, and I would wish all our friends and supporters to stay the course with us.

Together with a revitalised U.K. Board of Trustees, under the ablest of Chairs, Dr. Chris Tuite, we're going places.

Best wishes to you all, Allan
Allan E. Earnshaw,
Chairman Emeritus

Message from the New Executive Director



Fellow conservationists, friends, and supporters,

On behalf of the Kenya Wildlife Trust (KWT), I sincerely thank the Board of Trustees, the former Executive Director, Dr. Irene Amoke, and the entire KWT team for their outstanding work, reflected in the 2023 Annual Report.

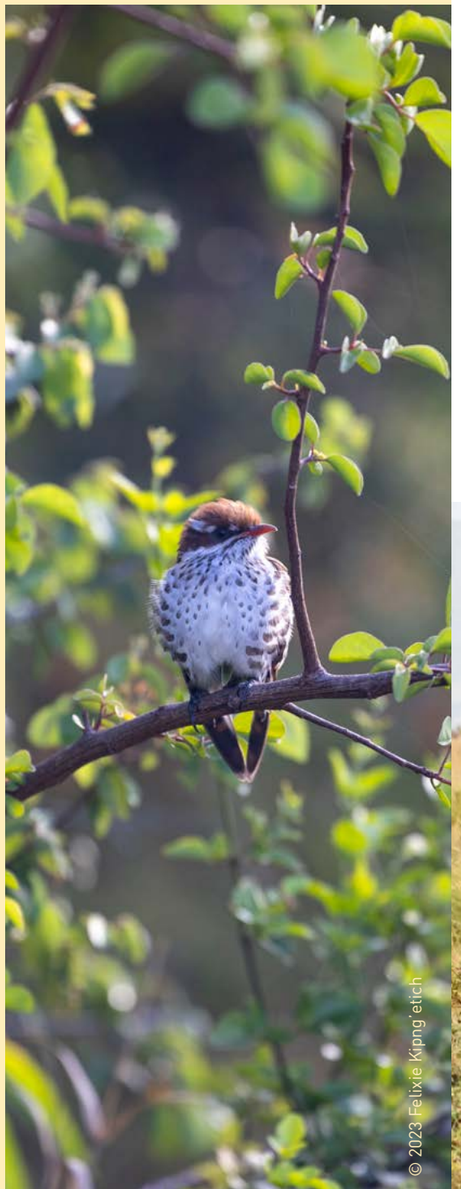
The report demonstrates the dedication and expertise of our team in achieving significant progress towards predator conservation. Their commitment to the KWT's core values of People, Predators, and Partnerships is evident throughout the documented accomplishments.

As I join KWT, I am excited to build on this strong foundation and guide the Trust towards an even brighter future. The coming years will see us refine our strategic vision, focusing on:

- Enhancing the impact of our Mara Programme with a focus on predator research and conservation activities, especially, conflict mitigation. We will strive for measurable outcomes in protecting lions, cheetahs, and wild dogs, in the Greater Mara ecosystem.
- Fostering stronger partnerships with local communities remains key to our success; we will work to expand and strengthen our 'Ufugaji Hifadhi' Livelihoods Programme to ensure that people living with wildlife, particularly predators, can receive tangible benefits from conservation.
- Identifying innovative fundraising strategies to secure long-term financial resources for our critical research and community conservation work.
- Embracing innovation by exploring new technologies and approaches to improve our efforts in predator monitoring and conservation protection. This will in turn allow us to make informed decisions that will enhance coexistence and improve livelihoods.

I am confident that, together, we can ensure a thriving future for Kenya's predators.

Sincerely,
Dr. Elizabeth Pantoren
Executive Director.



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Message from the New Chair



On behalf of the Kenya Wildlife Trust (KWT) Board of Trustees, I acknowledge the outstanding leadership of our outgoing Chair and founding trustee, Allan Earnshaw. Under His guidance, KWT has achieved remarkable milestones in predator conservation, beautifully captured in the successes documented within this report. Allan's dedication and strategic vision have been instrumental in propelling KWT forward, and we are grateful for his service.

Equally deserving of our appreciation is the leadership of KWT's former Executive Director, Dr. Irene Amoke. Her vision, and expertise in the past decade have driven the Trust's reach and impact.

We thank both Allan and Irene for their efforts and look forward to their support in their new roles as Chair Emeritus and Advisor to the Trust.

Finally, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the entire KWT team. The achievements highlighted in this report are a testament to their tireless efforts, and passion for protecting Kenya's wildlife.

Looking ahead, I am deeply inspired to build on this foundation. The Board remains committed to KWT's mission and will focus on ensuring that the new strategy (2024 - 2026) is successfully implemented.

With the continued commitment of our Kenya and UK Boards, staff, alongside our donors, and partners, KWT is well-positioned to make significant progress in conservation and community outreach. By protecting Kenya's predators, we safeguard their legacy for future generations.

Thank you,
Michael Wamithi
Chair, Board of Trustees



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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.



Photos © 2023 Billy Kaitet (top), Felixie Kipng'etich (middle), Gloria Achieng (bottom)

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.

'Ufugaji Hifadhi' Programme

The Livelihoods programme, 'Ufugaji Hifadhi,' seeks to provide farmers with equitable wages and a sustainable income by promoting the sale of healthy livestock and livestock products. It also encourages them to adopt sound pasture management practices and participate in restoring degraded landscapes within the Greater Mara Ecosystem.

The goal is to empower farmers with fair wages, enabling them to achieve financial independence. By doing so, they become more resilient to the adverse effects of climate change and less likely to resort to harmful measures that jeopardize wildlife and the land's protection.

Conservation Leadership Programme

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 diploma.

The conservation leadership programme offers full funding to study wildlife conservation at tertiary level, at Wildlife Training and Research Institute (WRTI) 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.



Throughout the annual intensive monitoring session, a total distance of **9,173 KM** was covered

Oloisukut, Nashulai, & Olerai conservancies newly incorporated, expanding the total study area to **2,713 KM².**



We recorded a total of **288** lion sightings and **47** cheetah sightings

2023 KEY HIGHLIGHTS



23 scholarship recipients through our Conservation Leadership Programme

10 Years ANNIVERSARY

Celebrated 10 years of dedicated predator research and community outreach in the Greater Mara Ecosystem



32 predator-proof bomas built

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT PREDATORS COULD BE STOPPED FROM GETTING INTO LIVESTOCK ENCLOSURES UNTIL KWT'S MPCP BUILT THE BOMA FOR ME, I LIVE IN A DENSE AREA, AND I HAVE BEEN EXPERIENCING ALMOST EVERY NIGHT ATTACKS FROM DIFFERENT PREDATORS. NOW I CAN SLEEP WELL WITHOUT ANY FEAR OF PREDATOR'S ATTACK, THANK YOU TO MPCP.

RECYCLED PLASTIC POLE BOMA BENEFICIARY: NOOLKIREU

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PREDATORS

KWT'S VISION IS A KENYA WHERE PREDATOR POPULATIONS ARE A CORNERSTONE TO THRIVING ECOSYSTEMS.

Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP)

Objective:

The overall goal of MPCP is to s**upport stable, healthy predator populations in the Greater Mara Ecosystem** by providing scientific evidence for conservation action. It does this through research and community engagements aimed at creating tolerance and coexistence. The programme is strongly guided by Kenya Wildlife Trust's value proposition of being **driven by science and focused on people**.







Sharing Stories
Screened "***Lion, The Rise and Fall of the Marsh Pride***" directed by Pamela Gordon.

MPCP 10th Anniversary
Celebrated a decade of dedicated predator research and community outreach.

Lion Densities
18.04 lions/100km² *(2022)* over the age of 1 year. = **459 lions** > 1 year.

Cheetah Densities
0.88 cheetahs/100km² *(2022)* given as independent resident individuals

Lion Ambassadors
20 local community members increasing Mara's Lion Conservation Footprint.

Community Barazas
72 barazas held so far with over **3,000** participants. From the discussions, people are developing positive attitudes towards predators

"WHAT'S NEXT FOR MARA'S PREDATORS?"

In November 2023, our Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) marked a significant milestone – a decade of dedicated work towards predator conservation in the Greater Mara Ecosystem. This anniversary was celebrated with a symposium titled "What's Next for Mara's Predators?"

The event brought together various stakeholders, including KWT's board members, team members, partners, donors, beneficiaries, community members, and other stakeholders. This gathering reflected KWT's commitment to open communication and collaborative efforts.

The symposium provided a platform for collective assessment of the MPCP's influence on the region. We reviewed the programme's achievements, acknowledged ongoing challenges, and most importantly, gained invaluable insights for shaping a future-oriented strategic plan. These discussions were instrumental in drawing upon the wealth of experience accumulated over a decade in the Greater Mara.

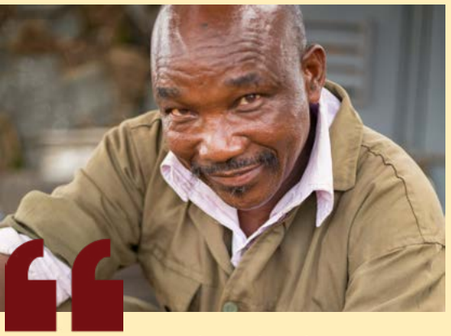
The objectives and activities of the Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) are achieved through the collaborative efforts of two teams: Research and Community. These teams work tirelessly to ensure the harmonious coexistence of predators and people within the ecosystem. In line with the Kenya Wildlife Trust's commitment to scientific integrity and a community-centric approach, they embody the core values that drive MPCP's mission forward .

Looking ahead, the MPCP team, with a decade of experience and strengthened partnerships, welcomes the next chapter with renewed optimism.

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A DECADE OF PROTECTING PREDATORS

Julius Makibior, Camp and Vehicle Maintenance



"My time here has been quite rewarding. One of the biggest takeaways for me has been the amount of experience I've gained in supervision, ultimately leading to my current role as a Camp and Vehicle Maintenance Operator.

MPCP has also played a significant role in shifting people's perspectives. Through various initiatives, they've cultivated a greater understanding of the importance and benefits of predator conservation. It's been inspiring to witness the organization's growth as well, expanding from the Lion and Cheetah projects to encompass the broader Mara Predator Conservation Programme."

Dominic Sakat, Community Liaison Officer



"Having been in Kenya Wildlife Trust since 2013 as a community liaison Officer to the Community Outreach Officer, I gained a lot of experience working with local



communities in mitigating Human–Predator Conflicts, engaging school children in conservation education, and awareness creation about predator conservation in the Mara.

The footprints of Kenya Wildlife Trust will always remain visible in the Mara landscape"

Michael Kaelo, Manager–Mara



"Throughout my tenure with the Mara Lions and Mara Cheetah Projects, initially as a Community Outreach Officer, I spearheaded initiatives to expand our presence and impact in the Mara region. Despite limited resources and personnel, I diligently collected crucial Human-Wildlife Conflict data and fostered community engagement in lion and cheetah conservation efforts.



Overcoming initial resistance, I facilitated the implementation of effective mitigation measures such as boma reinforcements and lion lights, leading to tangible benefits for local communities.

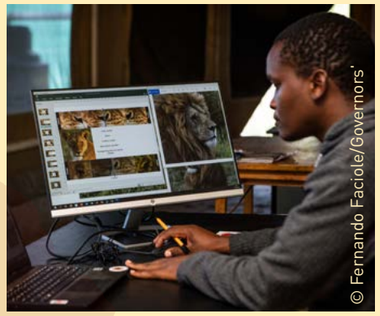
Through relentless dedication, I progressed within the organization, assuming roles of increasing responsibility, culminating in my appointment as the Mara Predator Conservation Programme Manager. Under my leadership, our community-centric approach flourished, marked by the employment of 20 lion ambassadors and 20 conservation agents, alongside various livelihood enhancement initiatives. Over the past decade, our collaborative endeavors have catalyzed a positive shift in predator perception, fostering greater appreciation within the landscape.

Niels Mogensen, Senior Programme Scientist



"During my long-term engagement with the Mara Predator Conservation Program, I have gained a tremendous amount of experience, allowing me to enhance my skills and progress significantly as both a scientist and a team leader."

Billy Kaitet, Monitoring Assistant



"I've been working on this project since 2016, and it's been an incredible experience. This project has definitely helped my career grow. Before joining the team, I always dreamed of becoming a conservationist. Initially, I started as the chef and camp caretaker. After two years, I was highly motivated by the young researchers on the team.

So, before my term ended, I applied for a scholarship through KWT and was fortunate enough to receive it. That scholarship truly ignited my passion for conservation.

It all started with fieldwork - collecting data and gaining firsthand experience with predator behavior, camping, and living safely in the wild. Through my work, I've become very familiar with the diverse terrain of the Mara while driving the project vehicle."

Kasaine Sankan, Senior Programme Researcher

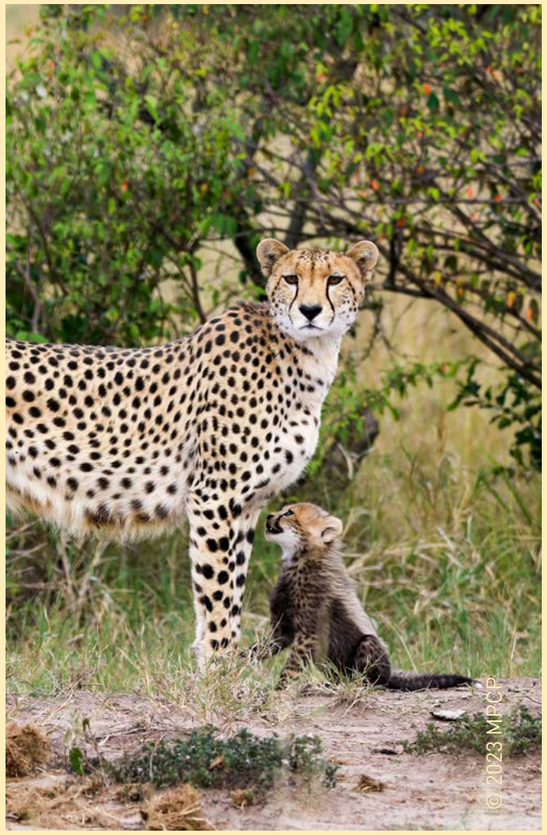


"Over the past decade, I have been honoured by the opportunities afforded me through my position, which have significantly challenged and broadened my research and conservation knowledge. I have completed a degree and I'm currently pursuing a master's program, utilizing the data the programme has collected over the years, which has created a strong link between fieldwork and academia. These experiences have fostered both personal



and professional growth, regionally and nationally.

I look forward to further growth in science, technology, community ownership, benefit and appreciation for carnivores through the organization".



RESEARCH UPDATES

The Greater Mara is renowned for its rigorously surveyed lion and cheetah populations, with precise and regular density figures. In its 10th year of Intensive Monitoring, the MPCP team documented 288 lions and 48 cheetahs, enhancing our grasp of predator dynamics in the area. MPCP's upcoming first quarterly report of 2024 will provide an update on lion and cheetah populations within the Mara.

As of 2022, the estimated density was 18.04 lions per 100 KM^2 for individuals over one year old, translating to a population of approximately 459 lions. The data indicated a density of 0.88 cheetahs per 100 KM^2, representing

DOCUMENTED 288 LIONS AND 48 CHEETAHS

independent resident individuals.

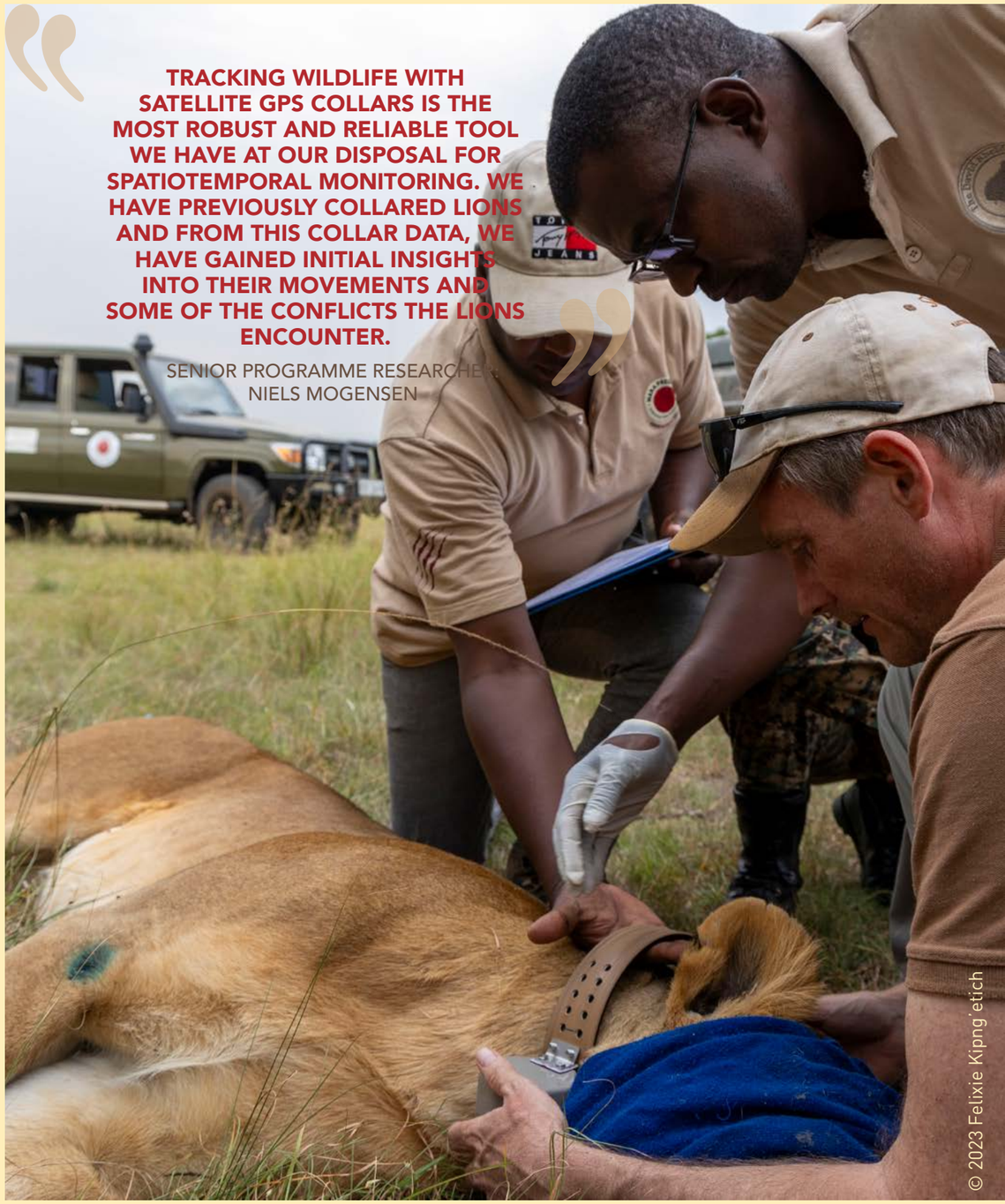
To address rising conflicts involving the Topi Pride and local livestock, and at the request of the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), a GPS collar was fitted to an adult lioness within the National Reserve. Ongoing tracking of three lions collared in 2023 is enriching our knowledge of predator interactions within the ecosystem.

Meticulous research of cheetah demographics, including first-year survival rates and overall population trends, continues to be updated. An in-depth analysis of the challenges Mara cheetahs face is instrumental for conservation efforts.

9,173 KM

Distance covered during the three-month Intensive Monitoring Session spanning area of ***2,713 km²***





Lions and other predators are facing decline due to habitat fragmentation and conflict with humans. Understanding these conflicts from both sides is key. Satellite collars provide the most accurate data on predator movement, which is essential for effective conservation strategies in the short and long term.



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COMMUNITY UPDATES

Throughout the year, MPCP has engaged with communities to meet key goals: mitigating human-wildlife conflict, community outreach, and educational initiatives. Efforts include constructing 32 bomas from recycled plastic poles, training 200 herders in animal husbandry, conducting 8 community feedback sessions, and providing poison response training to 157 locals. Moreover, 20 schools joined the wildlife club program, enrolling 833 students, and an open-day event attracted 1,100 attendees.

200
Local herders trained in animal husbandry

8
Community feedback sessions conducted

157
Locals received poison response training

1,100
Attendees engaged in the annual wildlife clubs' open day

Wildlife Clubs

Our Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) remained dedicated to nurturing the next generation of conservation champions for 2023. Wildlife clubs, a cornerstone of MPCP's education outreach, saw significant expansion with five new schools joining, bringing the total to 20 schools and over 800 enrolled members. These new schools, include both primary and secondary levels strategically located along the border of the Oloisukut Conservancy, maximizing MPCP's impact across the Mara ecosystem.

Patrons' training sessions in February 2023 equipped 30 educators with the skills necessary to manage and guide wildlife clubs effectively. These sessions, led by Dr. George of Wildlife Clubs of Kenya, covered topics such as environmental project development, curriculum integration, and proposal writing. Following the training, patrons went on a game drive, allowing them to observe the wildlife they would use to educate the children about conserving.

833
Wildlife club members enrolled from 20 schools



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The annual art competition provided a platform for over 200 wildlife club members to express their understanding and appreciation for predators through creative drawings. Similarly, the "Ole Peenko" book series, distributed to school libraries across the Mara region, offers age-appropriate information on human-wildlife coexistence, climate change adaptation, and



conflict resolution. Over 500 copies of the 3rd Edition of 'Ole Peenko' were distributed to schools in 2023.

MPCP's Wildlife Club Open Day attracted over 500 club members, 600 community members, and local leaders, and provided a platform for students to share their conservation knowledge through songs, poems, and dramas.

By combining education, community engagement, and practical experience, MPCP's Wildlife Clubs is nurturing a generation of informed and passionate conservation advocates within the ecosystem.

500
Copies of 'Ole Peenko' distributed



150
Attendees of six poison training sessions in handling incidents with 76 having witnessed such events.

200
Herders trained on predator identification, proper herding practices, and strategies across the Greater Mara region.

Poison Response Training

Wildlife poisoning poses a serious threat to carnivores and birds in the Maasai Mara, mirroring a challenge faced in many protected areas. Our Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) tackles this issue through community education and response training. In 2023, six training sessions were held in areas across the Mara, reaching over 150 participants. These sessions addressed the prevalence of poisoning incidents, as evidenced by the fact that 76 participants had personally witnessed such events.

MPCP equips communities with the knowledge and skills needed to effectively respond, including decontamination procedures, sample collection for analysis, and detailed record-keeping. Lion Ambassadors were also provided with comprehensive poison response kits, enabling safe intervention and minimizing secondary losses.

Collaborative Approach to Daytime Human-Wildlife Conflict in the Mara

Acknowledging the importance of addressing both daytime and nighttime human-wildlife conflicts, our Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) conducted training sessions for over 200 herders in critical wildlife corridors. These sessions, held in a combined effort with conservancy rangers, focused on predator identification, proper herding practices, and strategies to minimize livestock predation losses.

Village elders played a crucial role in sharing traditional knowledge on vigilance, herd management, and coexisting with wildlife. Additional tips like rain season awareness, predator deterrence techniques, and collaborative reporting practices were also covered. This effort facilitates a more cooperative relationship between herders and rangers, promoting a shared responsibility for conflict mitigation and peaceful coexistence within the Mara ecosystem.

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Protecting Livestock

To mitigate livestock losses from nighttime predator attacks, our MPCP offers an eco-friendly solution - reinforced enclosures made from recycled plastic poles and triple-twisted chains. In 2023, 32 such enclosures were constructed across the Mara, significantly reducing livestock losses and cultivating a more positive community attitude towards predators.

MPCP also works side-by-side with local communities to implement solutions identified by residents themselves. An example is David Pesi, a Governors' Camp Collection scholarship recipient, who worked with the team to install predator deterrent lights in vulnerable bomas within his village. This effort, securing over 300 cattle, demonstrates the success of community-led approaches in mitigating human-wildlife conflict.



32
Eco-friendly livestock enclosures constructed to deter predators this reduces conflict due to livestock losses.



© Fernando Taciole/Governor's

Beyond the Myths



OVER 200
Representatives from fifteen Lion Ambassador zones attended barazas held in eight locations across the Mara.



Our Mara Predator Conservation Programme prioritizes open communication and community involvement through its cost-effective "Community Engagement Barazas." Held in eight locations across the Mara ecosystem in 2023, these Barazas brought together over 200 representatives from all 15 Lion Ambassador zones. The Barazas serve as a platform for discussing predator conservation challenges and solutions, fostering a two-way dialogue for information sharing and feedback.

Community members readily participated in discussions, presentations, and interactive sessions. Notably, these events addressed negative perceptions surrounding wild dogs, a species experiencing a resurgence in the Mara. Through increased awareness of wild dog behavior, ecology, and threats, participants gained a deeper understanding of their importance and how communities can contribute to their conservation.

Sharing Stories Through Film

Leveraging the power of film, our Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) launched a series of film screenings for communities bordering the Maasai Mara Game Reserve in 2023. These screenings featured the BBC documentary "***Lion: The Rise and Fall of the Marsh Pride***" directed by Pamela Gordon. The film holds particular significance for the Olare-Orok community, where a lion poisoning incident involving the Marsh Pride occurred eight years ago.

It offers a glimpse into the lives of the Marsh Pride and serves as a powerful tool for engaging local communities and raising awareness about the importance of predator conservation. By witnessing the film, community members gain a deeper understanding of the devastating impact of wildlife poisoning on the ecosystem and the associated risks. This knowledge directly contributes to our efforts in reducing poisoning incidents and nurturing stronger community partnerships.

The compelling story of the Marsh Pride brought to life through these screenings across the region, ignited important conversations about human-wildlife coexistence and the intricate balance we share with nature. One community member, reflecting on the film's impact, expressed remorse to MPCP staff, stating, "***I never knew the damage was this much, we regret the act."***





Olare Orok Villagers Attend Screening of BBC's film directed by Pamela Gordon

These open discussions encouraged self-reflection, prompting participants to explore solutions to minimize livestock loss and retaliatory killings. Community awareness, improved herder vigilance, and husbandry practices emerged as the most promising solutions identified by attendees.

The film screenings proved to be an ideal learning experience for MPCP. Importantly, they revealed the community's deep concern for the state of their environment. We continue to incorporate these insights and the discussions that arose from the screenings into our ongoing community engagement activities. By ensuring that local voices are heard and included in our conservation plans and actions, we can build a more sustainable future for both people and wildlife.

375
People attended 7 screenings in Olare–Orok, Igila and Pardamat villages.

Collaboration Through Artistic Expression

The '***Netii Apa Storytellers Project***,' an artist residency program held at the Nashulai Conservancy, offered a unique opportunity for our team to participate. This program, hosted by **Studio Verde Air**, brought together nine artists from Kenya and around the world to explore the rich traditions and conservation practices of the Maa community.

Through storytelling and cultural exhibitions, the artists examined how their artistic skills could reinterpret and celebrate these traditions. They had the opportunity to learn firsthand about the community's rituals, indigenous connection to nature, and everyday practices.

KWT's Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) continuously collaborates with communities in the Greater Mara region to promote human-wildlife coexistence. MPCP representatives shared their experiences at the residency, highlighting the collaborative approach that integrates community perspectives into conservation strategies. Barazas, traditional meetings facilitated by our Lion Ambassadors, are paramount in gathering these perspectives and ensuring indigenous knowledge informs our work.

We extend our sincere gratitude to Maisie and Maxine of Studio Verde Air, the Nashulai Conservancy, and all the participating artists. Their openness and dedication allowed us a glimpse into their creative process and the impact of this residency. KWT recognizes the Maa culture and traditions as central to our conservation efforts in the Greater Mara. We are proud that our research and community outreach teams in Nashulai continue to monitor and facilitate these important collaborations.





Kasaine Sankan at a briefing with the artists (top) Nashulai community elder during a field workshop (bottom)



Through the Netii Apa residency, I experienced the transformative power of creativity that is anchored in indigenous wisdom from the community. A fusion of nature, culture, and art.

– Naitiemu Nyanjom
Netii Apa Art Residency participant

Photos © 2023 Felixie Kipng'etich



"We at Governor's Camp Collection are immensely proud of our 2023 partnership with the Kenya Wildlife Trust, through their flagship project The Mara Predator Conservation Programme. Supporting the Mara Rianda Primary School's annual Wildlife Club, providing free flights for KWT staff in our aircraft, sponsoring the collaring of lioness Jua from the Topi Pride, and investing in the Livestock Herder Training Sessions and their Lion Ambassadors are all vital components of our commitment to conservation and community. Together, we are making a tangible difference in the lives of both people and wildlife in the Mara ecosystem."

Alisa Karstad, Impact Manager, Governor's Camp Collection.

PEOPLE

EDUCATION

KWT recognises that it is imperative to the protection of Kenya's wildlife that more Kenyans are given the opportunity to attain good wildlife or conservation-based education.



68%

Growth from 2022 with 19 new beneficiaries.

Conservation Leadership Programme

A year in review of KWT's scholarship programme.

In 2023, 21 beneficiaries were enrolled in the Wildlife Research Training Institute through the support of donors: I&M Bank Foundation, Great Plains Foundation, and 2 private donors.

This was a 68% growth from 2022 with 19 new recipients. 4 returning students reported back to school in their pursuit to gain quality education where 2 ladies graduated with bachelor's degrees. We also held the first mentorship camp to empower and equip the beneficiaries with skills.

Bachelor's degree scholarships

2 returning recipients completed their 4-year degree courses and graduated in July and September.

Empowering women and girls in science education

At the Conservation Leadership Program, equality is a priority. Promotion of this dynamic and equal gender representation saw 2 ladies from marginalized communities graduate with science degrees. They now have a chance to contribute their voices to scientific innovations, earn a better living, and mentor other girls in their respective fields.

Through funding, we continue to amplify their efforts and nurture dreams.



Veronicah Simaloi–Amboseli
BSc Wildlife Management and Conservation–University of Nairobi

She recently started a CBO and is working to help women undertake conservation with a mission to empower Masai women through environmental stewardship and access to financial services to promote ecological preservation.

"THIS IS FOR THE YOUTH AND WOMEN IN AMBOSELI. YOU TOO CAN DO IT. THANK YOU SO MUCH KWT. YOU HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO MY SUCCESS. I AM VERY HAPPY."



Evaline Sintoya–Amboseli
BSc Environment and natural resource management–Africa Nazarene University

Employed by Asilia at Naboisho camp as one of its seasoned and now well-learned female guide.

"THANK YOU SO MUCH KWT. YOUR GENEROSITY HAS CHANGED MY LIFE"



Diploma scholarships

Wildlife Research Training Institute, Naivasha, saw the largest number of beneficiaries admitted. 21 trainees were served in this location and began their 2-year diploma education journey to study either Environmental management or Wildlife management.

These courses are designed to equip trainees with knowledge, skills, and attitudes applicable to conservation and management. It is aimed at producing a graduate who can enter the job market successfully. They will be equipped to solve threats from the combined effects of climate change and the essential agricultural/ economic needs of the communities living in rangeland ecosystems

At the end of this period, KWT looks forward to having contributed to the production of competent conservationists holding positions as Wildlife Research Assistants, Community Wildlife Assistants, and/or Wildlife Management Assistants, Environmental Education Assistants, and/or Environmental Health and Safety Assistants.







Jemimah at Mt. Longonot taken through survival techniques (Left) Christopher participating in a cleanup activity with other students. (Right)

Mentorship

To look at youth involvement in conservation through empowerment with a long-term impact, we must continually equip these young men and women with wise counsel and skills on how to identify and harness growth opportunities. The first mentorship and training camp helped the beneficiaries:

- Transition to college seamlessly. Having come from a pastoralist way of life with a rich culture, it was prudent to guide the youth in ways of adapting to a multicultural society.
- Gain insight on management; emphasizing the importance of planning, implementation, and evaluation of self, school work, and green projects.

100% of the attendees considered the event successful; with 60% gaining useful soft and hard skills from it and 35% reported having gained a positive self-image and confidence to tackle the new environment and life they have embarked on. More than half of the attendees noted that they were now in a better position to pivot themselves to higher launching pads; with 33% knowing how to harness their potential and 29% knowing how to use effective communication skills to articulate themselves.





Collins Busuru from CHD Conservation Kenya during a mentorship training with beneficiaries at Wildlife Research and Training Institute (Left), students keenly participating in the mentorship training (Right)

Our dedication to empowering the youth in conservation and nurturing a sustainable future for wildlife and the environment remains unwavering. More investment in youth is needed if we hope to see a future bursting with possibility.



21
Students at the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) in Naivasha

Photos © 2023 Felixie Kipng'etich

Impact in Numbers

12 female scholarship recipients in 2023

11 male scholarship recipients in 2023

7 beneficiaries from the Amboseli/Tsavo Ecosystem

8 beneficiaries from the Greater Mara Ecosystem

8 beneficiaries from the Laikipia/ Samburu Ecosystem

Over USD 5,500 spent on tuition, data collection support, accommodation, and graduation fees

5 partnerships with CHD Conservation Kenya, Grevys zebra, Ewaso lions, The safari collection and Gamewatchers Safaris

6 students pursuing Diploma in Environmental management

15 students pursuing Diploma in Wildlife management

1 student graduated in 2023 with a BSc Wildlife management & conservation

1 student graduated in 2023 with a BSc Environmental Natural Resource Management

3 Institutions in Kenya– Wildlife Research Training Institute, University of Nairobi, and Africa Nazarene University.

1 mentorship workshop at WRTI in Naivasha

Sustainable Development Goals

1 NO POVERTY

4 QUALITY EDUCATION

5 GENDER EQUALITY

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES

13 CLIMATE ACTION

15 LIFE ON LAND

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS

PEOPLE

HEALTH

Healthy ecosystems are integral to successful conservation efforts.

We believe that people are central in ensuring the conservation of Kenya's predators and the ecosystems they occupy.

KWT continues to invest in communities and ecosystems in Amboseli.

Communities Health Africa Trust (CHAT)

In 2023, KWT's grantee CHAT made significant strides in providing mutual benefit to men and women through family planning and ecosystem conservation. Among the key areas of focus were reinvigorating climate action and addressing the social issues hindering the region's number of individuals reached with Behavior Change Communication information using CHATs Population Health & Environment (PHE) approach recovery.

20 communities were reached by the Community Own Resource Persons employed under the KWT grant to CHAT in the Amboseli Ecosystem. (Enkiito, Emurua Loibor, Naunoppir, Oloshaiki, Lenkisim, Emparinkoi, Oltome, Esiteti, Enkong-Narok, Inchura, Kankere, Olasiti, Otinyani, Eiti, Olgulului, Naunoppir, Oloshaiki, Olkungu, Emurua Loibor & Normayianat)

It was expected that the more women can control the number and timing of their children, the better they can take advantage of educational and economic opportunities, improving their future and that of their families. By increasing this access to voluntary family planning services population growth rates are slowing down and addressing environmental degradation that strains the natural resources in the region is becoming easier.

INDICATOR

Number of individuals reached with Behavioral Change Communication (BCC) using CHATs Population Health & Environment (PHE) approach .

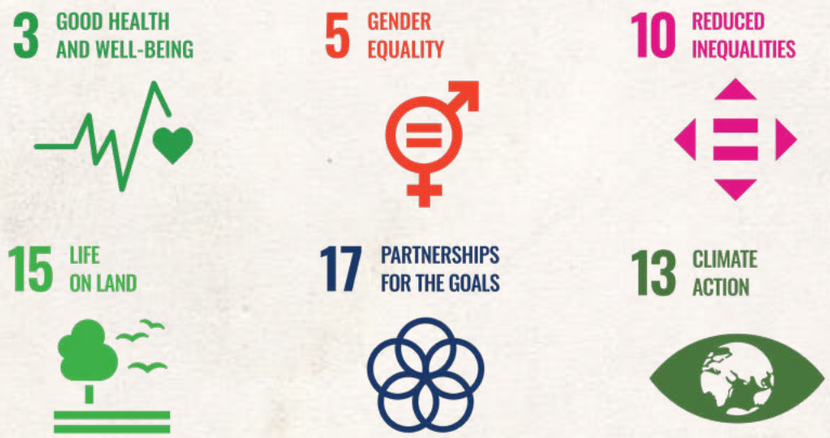
Cumulative data (January to September) 2023

2201



The performance is attributed to the CORP's aggressiveness, zeal, and passion that they have in fostering change. The door-to-door strategy, where men and women are reached with information and services, continues to enable individuals and communities to understand the relationship between the population and the quality of both health and the environment on which they depend.

Sustainable Development Goals



PARTNERSHIPS

KWT believes in having a target-driven and collective approach that will lead to more effective work in Kenya's core ecosystems that is better coordinated and serves the values and economic interests of a wide array of stakeholders, as well as the nation itself.

To achieve this, we strive to develop and strengthen partnerships with grassroots organisations that develop and implement conservation initiatives, government agencies that develop policies, and other conservation authorities who offer varied support.

From Data to Art: Tracing the Wild

Sovereign Nature Initiative (SNI)

Building on a successful 2022 hackathon, we continued exploring ways to integrate technology with our scientific research in partnership with the Sovereign Nature Initiative (SNI). This collaboration led to the creation of ***"Tracing the Wild,"*** a data-driven art project shared with various audiences during Nairobi Design Week.

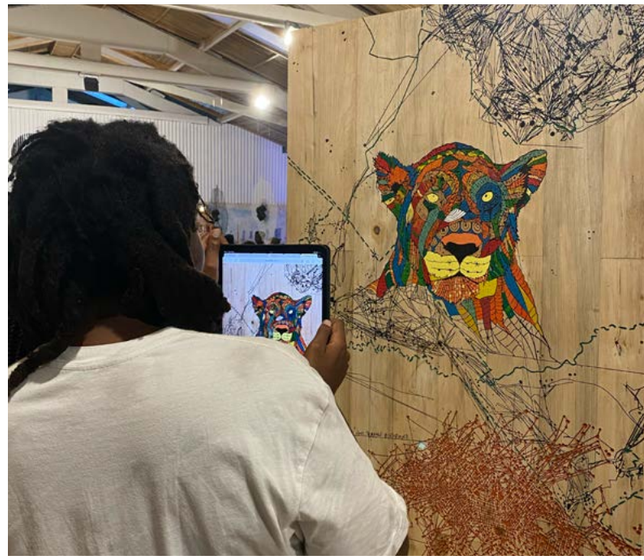
This co-created effort, led by Nairobi artist Chuma Anagbado and involving Nairobi Design, data architect Daria Smakhtina, and Seth Boke (Director of Creative Engagement at Sovereign Nature Initiative), utilized artwork to depict the interactions between lions and humans within Kenya's Greater Mara region. Inspired by three adult female lions – Sintamei, Mama Kali, and Naramat – Anagbado brought their portraits to life by weaving data points from our Mara Predator Conservation Programme's collars into the artwork.



Beyond traditional data presentations, the exhibition showcased static portraits and interactive augmented reality (AR) installations by Lyosi Mwedekeli. These installations brought the experiences of these predators and the real-time health of the Mara ecosystem to life for audiences. **"Tracing the Wild"** served as a powerful testament to the deep connection between people and wildlife, highlighting the urgent need for its protection.



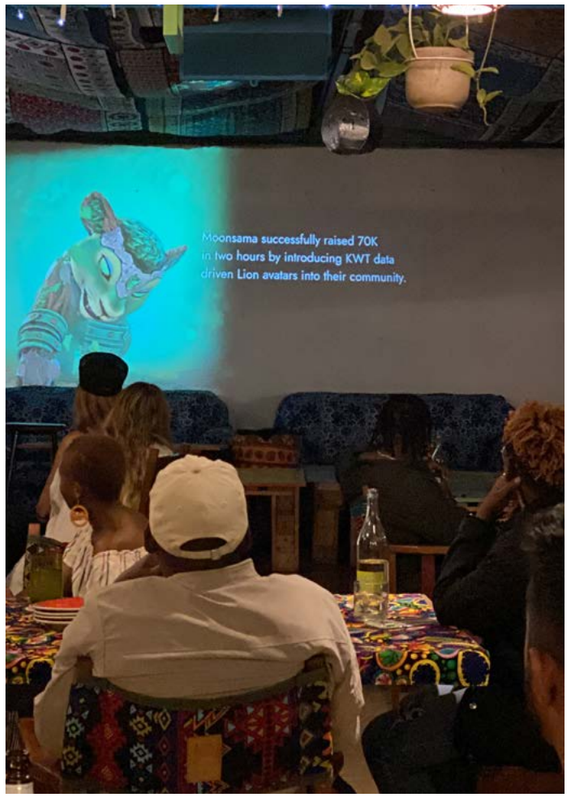






TRACING THE WILD IN PICTURES





Photos © 2023 Felixie Kipng'etich







Innovation in human-wildlife conflict mitigation

KWT is proud to highlight the progress of the BLCK IoT project, an initiative born from the SNI-organized Web3 Hackathon in 2022. Emerging as the winning solution for Human-Wildlife Conflict (HWC) Mitigation, the BLCK IoT project utilizes a Helium-LoRaWAN-based alert system that notifies herders when they are approaching areas known for frequent HWC incidents.

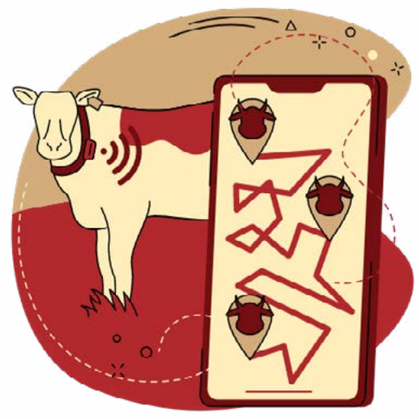
This team has spent the past year developing their project. Following their initial presentation to our Mara Predator Conservation Programme's (MPCP) community team, BLCK IoT undertook a feasibility assessment. This ensured their solution remained grounded in the realities of the field and could effectively address HWC challenges faced by local communities.

To encourage open dialogue and gather different perspectives, BLCK IoT presented its project at Strathmore University on November 18, 2022. This engagement continued on February 24, 2023, with a presentation to Maasai Mara University students and administration where they were joined by Kasaine Sankan, MPCP's Senior Programme Researcher. They elicited substantial interest and highlighted the project's potential to create a more harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife.

BLCK IoT has prioritized feedback throughout the development process. They have engaged with researchers, cattle farmers, and agricultural associations.

Moving forward, BLCK IoT is focused on identifying optimal locations within the Mara landscape for network establishment. They are also securing cattle trackers and working to establish partnerships with local stakeholders, ensuring the project's sustainable implementation and long-term success.

This innovative technique has the potential to significantly reduce conflict, promoting a more secure environment for both livestock and wildlife within the Mara.





Hackathon participants meet with SNI and KWT's MPCP research assistants to discusss the implementation of their Web3 ideas in predator research and conflict mitigation.

OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH KWT HAS DEMONSTRATED THE POTENTIAL OF COLLABORATIVE TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY-LED CONSERVATION EFFORTS.

CATHERINE BISCHOFF, CEO OF SOVEREIGN NATURE INITIATIVE (SNI).



885KM

Distance covered during the 2023 IMS by the new vehicle acquired through SNI–Moonsama's '**Wildsama**' funding

© 2023 Billy Kaitet

The Power of Gaming for Predator Conservation

Wildsama

The Moonsama community, a hub of gamers and non-fungible token (NFT) enthusiasts, together with the Sovereign Nature Initiative created Wildsama – a collection of 400 lion NFTs.

Wildsama avatars are more than just digital collectibles; they are infused with reality. Each NFT mirrors a real lion roaming the Greater Mara, with its characteristics and even movements shaped by publicly available eco-data gathered through our research. Wildsama captures the diversity of these predators, from males and females to cubs.

We are grateful to the Moonsama community for their support, which resulted in USD 70,000 being raised for our Mara

$70,000
RAISED

Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) in under four hours! SNI played a crucial role in facilitating this impact, enabling us to purchase a much-needed research vehicle and tackle operational costs.

Since its arrival in September 2023, this new addition to our fleet has already clocked **885** kilometers, significantly strengthening our monitoring efforts. Together with the existing fleet, which logged **9,283** kilometers during the intensive 2023 monitoring session, we're covering more ground than ever before, safeguarding lions across an expanded study area.

Ufugaji Hifadhi



Sokoine

Livestock farmer, Emarti

I used to vaccinate my cows whenever I suspected they were sick or during a disease outbreak. Nowadays I keenly follow the vaccination schedules handed to me by the conservation agents.

My cows look more healthy I can tell the difference between ***East Coast Fever*** *and* ***Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP).*** *I also know the nutrient requirements of my livestock.*

Bringing vital services to the doorstep of grassroots livestock farmers in Transmara

Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA)

Sitting along the Loita Hills mountain range, within Emarti location in west Transmara, is the small quiet village of Emburkutia. Wildlife sightings are a common occurrence in virtual proximity to conservation areas. Emburkutia is surrounded by four vibrant conservancies: **Enonkishu, Enchoro, Lemek, and Mara North Conservancy**. Emburkutia, a village with notable livestock farmers, is slowly bulging back with life.

Sokoine is a small-scale livestock farmer owning 34 cows and two-dozen goats. He owns a 50-acre piece of land, part of which he has segmented as grazing paddocks. The paddocks ensure his cows have pasture through the year as well as reduce tick infestation.

The journey of keeping cattle in Emburkutia has been a tough one which Sokoine knows too well. Drought and diseases have ravaged the area for years, often leading to the loss of livestock and degradation of land.

"Sometimes I was not sure whether the medicine I was giving my cows was the right treatment," says Sokoine. For a long time, Sokoine depended on assumptions, indigenous knowledge, and private vet officers for the diagnosis and treatment of his livestock; that is when he had the monetary resources. Most of the time, he would treat the most common diseases such as East Coast Fever (ECF) and Nagana (sleeping sickness).

The **'Ufugaji Hifadhi'** project, initiated by Kenya Wildlife Trust to mitigate livestock diseases, promote herding health, and buffer environmental degradation, has proved effective in the Emarti area. The project supports farmers getting quality livestock by training **Conservation Agents** on animal husbandry and livestock management best practices.



Community Livelihoods

Upon completion of the training, the agents are sent to communities to train livestock farmers like Sokoine.

"I used to vaccinate my cows whenever I suspected they were sick or during a disease outbreak. Nowadays I keenly follow the vaccination schedules handed to me by the conservation agents. My cows look more healthy," Sokoine says with a smile on his face.

"I can tell the difference between East Coast Fever and Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBPP). I also know the nutrient requirements of my livestock," Sokoine adds.

Livestock losses resulting from diseases and lack of pasture have significantly reduced in Emarti, partly due to the Ufugaji Hifadhi project. Despite the shortage of vets in the area, farmers are more aware of livestock diseases, vaccination calendars, and land restoration models such as the grazing paddocks.

The next stage of the project is the creation of a mobile APP that will connect the farmers directly to the market. This will increase the revenue stream of dedicated farmers like Sokoine.





Dr. Ezra takes lead in the identification of various livestock diseases and control measures, (Left) community members attending a leaders' baraza. (Right) © 2023 MPCP

ADOPTING AI FOR CONSERVATION

Microsoft

Kenya Wildlife Trust (KWT) is among the founding members of the newly established Africa AI Innovation Council, a multi-stakeholder partnership launched by Microsoft's **AI for Good Lab**. This council brings together leading figures from government, private sector, and non-profit organizations across Africa to explore the transformative potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in building a more sustainable future for the continent.



© 2023 Microsoft



© 2023 Microsoft

AI for Biodiversity Conservation

KWT's primary focus within the council lies in exploring the application of AI for biodiversity conservation, particularly in the face of climate change. A fundamental area of collaboration involves utilizing AI for boma and structure mapping within the Maasai Mara ecosystem.

Through this, KWT and Microsoft have successfully utilized AI to map over 25,000 structures in the Mara, including 5,000 empty bomas (livestock enclosures), 160 currently populated bomas, and 20,000 other structures. This data holds immense potential in aiding KWT's ongoing conservation efforts through its flagship, the Mara Predator Conservation Programme:

- **Prioritizing Predator-Proof Bomas**: By analyzing the distribution of bomas, KWT can strategically target areas where predator-proof bomas constructed from recycled plastic poles are most needed. This will minimize livestock predation and promote improved human-wildlife coexistence.
- **Improved Anti-Poison Campaigns**: AI-powered data analysis can reveal patterns in wildlife poisoning incidents, enabling KWT to tailor anti-poison campaigns and educational initiatives for maximum impact.
- **Supporting Livelihood Programs**: The data can inform the planning and implementation of programs like "Ufugaji Hifadhi," a KWT initiative that connects farmers and advances working together within communities.

KWT is working closely with Microsoft to ensure the accuracy and usability of AI-generated data for conservation efforts. Further, KWT supports open data initiatives, recognizing the importance of enabling collaboration and accelerating research advancements in conservation.

From Kenyan Tea Fields to Wildlife Protection

Kericho Gold

The Kericho Gold 'Conservation Range,' available in black, decaf, and green tea varieties, features ethically sourced leaves from farms committed to sustainable and organic practices. This ensures a delicious and environmentally friendly cup, perfect for everyone. But the benefits go beyond taste–A portion of sales from the Conservation Range directly supports KWT's crucial conservation efforts. These efforts include protecting endangered and threatened species, empowering local communities, and cultivating environmental stewardship.

Following the successful launch of the Kericho Gold Conservation Range in 2022, we're glad to report this partnership continues to offer a delightful cup of tea while making a positive impact on Kenyan wildlife.

The 'Conservation Range' teas are now available online, in Chandarana Foodplus and Quickmart branches across Kenya, and can also be found at convenience stores within JKIA Airport for travelers seeking a taste of Kenyan conservation. Additionally, the range has expanded its reach to various stores across Africa and Europe, offering international tea lovers a chance to support predator conservation with every sip.





Conservation Range teas on display at a supermarket in Kilifi (Left), Green, black and decaf tea varieties (Right)

Investing in the Future

I&M Bank, and Great Plains Foundation, CHD Conservation

The Conservation Leadership Program champions career opportunities for the youth through partnerships that promote education and skills development. 2023 saw:

- The I&M Bank Foundation and Great Plains Foundation donations support KWT's initiative through the provision of inclusive and equitable quality education accessibility &
- CHD Conservation Kenya partnership in skills development through the second edition of the camp sponsored by Leslie. This 2-day camp initiative aims to raise up Kenya's next conservationists through mentorship and leadership training.

These partnerships continue to enhance education outcomes that ensure self-reliance and gainful livelihoods for Kenyan youth. An in-depth overview of the programme is found in the education section of this report.



© 2023 Felixie Kipng'etich



Sharing Our Work on Global Platforms

AWARENESS

Our work in Kenya's ecosystems gained global exposure through a variety of platform features. This broadened our reach, allowing team members to connect with a wider audience and share the positive impact of our efforts.

Share Screen Africa

Kasaine Sankan and Dominic Sakat presented on the Share Screen Africa platform, discussing the Mara Predator Conservation Programme's (MPCP) role in predator monitoring and community conservation within the Greater Mara Ecosystem. Make sure to catch it on the platform's Youtube channel if you missed it.

Lion Day 2023

On 10th August 2023, Michael Kaelo gave a talk on Lion Day with the **Wildlife Conservation Network's (WCN) Lion Recovery Fund (LRF)**, sharing insights into the 'Lion Ambassador' program.

Beyond Technology

New Ventures' podcast 'Partnering for Impact,' hosted by Sanjoy Sanyal, explored the significance of an integrated approach in resolving human-wildlife conflict. The discussion highlighted that technological interventions alone don't always yield the intended outcomes.

Bridging Conservation and Gaming Communities

In an episode of the **ReFi Podcast**, John Ellison welcomed Alessandro Mazzi, Head of Partnerships and Field Research at the Sovereign Nature Initiative (SNI). The discussion features Kenya Wildlife Trust's (KWT) partnership with SNI. Alessandro talks about how our collaborative project can be integrated with gaming communities and organizations worldwide, particularly focusing on Moonsama and the "Tracing the Wild" art project.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Wildlife Scientific Conference 2023

Recognizing the importance of sharing scientific knowledge for conservation, Kenya Wildlife Trust (KWT) participated in the inaugural Wildlife Scientific Conference hosted by the Wildlife Research & Training Institute (WRTI) in Naivasha, Kenya.

Held under the theme ***"Use of Wildlife Science for Enhanced Biodiversity Conservation and Improved Livelihoods,"*** the conference aimed to leverage scientific research for advancements in biodiversity conservation and improved livelihoods for communities.

This event provided a platform for showcasing the achievements of wildlife scientists, boosting international cooperation, and translating field research findings into actionable insights for informed decision-making.

The foundation of KWT's approach is conservation through data-driven biodiversity knowledge. The resulting data serves as a platform for influencing national policy-making, ensuring that conservation efforts are guided by the most current scientific knowledge.

Playing a major role throughout the conference planning process, Kasaine Sankan, from our Mara Predator Conservation Programme, also presented the program's ongoing Lion and Cheetah monitoring work alongside community activities within the Masai Mara landscape. This presentation, moderated by Dr. Joseph Mukeka, fell under the sub-theme of ***"Wildlife Population Trends and Dynamics."***



Cheetah distribution is influenced by high human-disturbance (settlements, livestock and fencing) especially in areas where there is little or no vegetative cover.







KWT's Lion Lights Research Presented at ICCB

KWT's commitment to innovative solutions for human-wildlife conflict reached an international audience. Brian Kaelo, a former MPCP research assistant, Conservation Leadership Program (CLP) beneficiary, and current BSc Environmental Studies student at Catawba College, presented his research using KWT's data on the efficacy of lion lights at the prestigious International Congress on Conservation Biology (ICCB).

ICCB is a major international gathering for conservation professionals, researchers, educators, policymakers, and wildlife enthusiasts. Sharing the research at this event provided him with a platform to connect with experts worldwide, potentially sparking collective actions and furthering knowledge exchange on human-wildlife conflict mitigation strategies.

During this reporting period, MPCP installed predator deterrent lights in these bomas

(traditional livestock enclosures), securing over 300 cattle and alleviating the fear of lion attacks for the community. Brian's research on the effectiveness of these lights at ICCB could showcase the potential of lion lights as a tool for other conservation efforts facing similar challenges.

His participation at ICCB demonstrates how KWT's work not only tackles local challenges but also contributes valuable insights to the global conversation on wildlife conservation.



Empowering Indigenous Voices

Pridelands Wildlife Film Festival (PWFF) provides a platform for indigenous filmmakers to share their stories about the natural world through film, enabling co-creation with researchers, conservationists, and experienced wildlife filmmakers globally.

The 2nd Edition of the festival at Temple Point Resort offered a truly inspiring experience for our team members. Executive Director (Former), Dr. Irene Amoke, participated as a panelist in the discussion ***"International Productions and Charting the Path Forward: Reflecting on Past Practices and Shaping New Narratives."*** Our work in the Greater Mara, led by the Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP), has been featured in renowned productions such as BBC Two's ***"Lion: The Rise and Fall of the Marsh Pride,"*** BBC's ***"The Hunt,"*** and Netflix's ***"Tales by Light: Sacred Nature Part 1 & 2."***

This discussion explored best practices for local filmmakers and conservation organizations, highlighting the potential for mutually beneficial partnerships with international productions. Key speakers included Senior Warden Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) Collins Ochieng, Community Conservation Advocate Resson Kantai Duff, Environmental Education Expert Jonathan Odongo, and Wildlife and Conservation Filmmaker/National Geographic Explorer Hans Cosmas Ngoteya.

Another festival highlight was the ***"Agent of Change"*** Special Jury Award presented to a film collaboratively produced by KWT Communications Officer Felixie Kipng'etich, Kennedy Ole Kariuki, and Marete Selvin. This production was made possible with the support of the Africa Wildlife Foundation (AWF) and Jackson Wild



2023 IN PICTURES













KWT TEAM

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Allan Earnshaw, Chairman Emeritus
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Gloria Achieng, Finance and Administration Manager
Felixie Kipng'etich, Communications Officer
Gloria Kosgey, Project Assistant

MPCP TEAM

Michael Kaelo, Programme Manager-Mara
Niels Mogensen, Senior Programme Scientist
Dr. Craig Packer, Research Advisor
Kasaine Sankan, Senior Programme Researcher
Betty Cherotich, Operations & Administration Officer
Saitoti Timan, Research Assistant
James Kasaine, Community Liaison Officer
Julius Makibior, Camp & vehicle maintenance Operator
Dominic Sakat, Community Outreach Officer
Billy Kaitet, Monitoring Assistant
Calvin Naurori, Research Assistant
Joshua Soit, Chef & Hub Caretaker

*Thanks to **Dr. Irene Amoke** for her work as the Executive Director of KWT, and to **Allan Earnshaw** for his leadership as the Chairperson of the board. As they both assume their new positions, Dr. Irene as Advisor and Allan as Chairman Emeritus, we look forward to their continued guidance and expertise.*

*At the start of April 2024, it was our pleasure to announce the appointment of **Dr. Elizabeth Pantoren** as the Executive Director, and the addition of **Michael Wamithi (Chair)**, **Winnie Wambugu (Member)**, and **Arnolda Shiundu (Member)** to our Board of Trustees.*

HOW TO SUPPORT KWT

Online donations

You can make an secure online donation on our website https://www.kenyawildlifetrust.org/donate/

In the UK

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, drawn on a UK bank account, can be sent to Kenya Wildlife Trust UK and sent to Mr. Robin Cullen, Inglewood, 6A Reeves Lane, Wing, Rutland LE15 8SD.

In the US

Donations from the US are processed by Empowers Africa. Empowers Africa is approved as a U.S. public charity, contributions to which are tax-deductible for U.S. federal income tax purposes under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.

Wire transfer where the originating bank is located within or outside of the United States transmitting funds in U.S. Dollars directly to The Northern Trust Company:

Beneficiary Bank: The Nothern Trust Company
Beneficiary Bank ABA: 071000152
Beneficiary Account Number: 1171118511
Beneficiary Account Name: Empowers Africa, Inc

Wire transfer where the originating bank is a foreign financial institution transmitting funds in a Foreign Currency to The Northern Trust Company:

Bank Name: The Northern Trust
Company Address: 50 South La Salle, Chicago, Illinois
Swift #: CNORUS44
Account Name: Empowers Africa, Inc.
Account Number: 1171118511

*Kindly note in the memo section of the check that funds are for Kenya Wildlife Trust indicate a specific programme to support if applicable.

In Kenya

Donations can also be made by cheque to Kenya Wildlife Trust,

P.O. Box 86-00502, Nairobi, Kenya.

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