KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST

ANNUAL REPORT 2024



MARA PREDATOR CONSERVATION PROGRAMME
KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST

DRIVEN BY SCIENCE, FOCUSED ON PEOPLE

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I AM VERY HAPPY WITH THE VISIT FROM THE KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST (KWT) STAFF, AS THEY CAME TO EDUCATE US. I AM A BENEFICIARY OF THE PREDATOR-PROOF BOMA. PREVIOUSLY, WE EXPERIENCED FREQUENT CASES OF LIVESTOCK DEPREDATION, BUT SINCE THE BOMA WAS CONSTRUCTED, I HAVE NOT LOST ANY LIVESTOCK TO PREDATORS, AND FOR THAT, I AM GRATEFUL.

HOWEVER, I REQUEST THAT THE REST OF THE COMMUNITY ALSO RECEIVE SUPPORT, AS WILDLIFE POSES A SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGE. OUR SETTLEMENT IS LOCATED ON THE PERIPHERY OF CONSERVATION AREAS, INCLUDING MAASAI MARA RESERVE, LEMEK, MARA NORTH, OLCHORO, AND OLOISUKUT. THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY FACES THE SAME STRUGGLE.

SAMSON OLE MSEKENYA, NTULELE, BENEFICIARY – RECYCLED PREDATOR PROOF BOMA INITIATIVE

SCAN ME

Scan to access our website and socials

Cover Photo: Felixie Kipngetich

Design & Layout: Felixie Kipng'etich

Lead Contributors: Kasaine Sankan, Gloria Kosgey, Niels Mogensen, Dominic Sakat, James Kasaine, Michael Kaelo & Felixie Kipng'etich.

Additional content: Naitiemu Nyanjom, Silantoi Saitoti, Billy Kaitet, Luke Toroitich & Calvin Naurori.

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www.kenyawildlifetrust.org
www.marapredatorconservation.org

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Letter from Chairperson



Dear all,

2024 was a year of purpose and progress for Kenya Wildlife Trust (KWT), demonstrating resilience and strategic focus across our core pillars: **Predators**, **People**, and **Partnerships**.

It is with pleasure that I write this letter as the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. I step into this role following the dedicated service of Michael Wamithi, whom I thank for his contributions. I also welcome Moses Kamau as the new Vice Chair. Together with the entire Board, we remain steadfastly committed to guiding the Trust towards its vision: ***a Kenya where healthy predator populations are the cornerstone of thriving ecosystems***.

KWT's Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) continues to lead in providing critical data for conservation action in the Mara region. The team's rigorous research, monitoring of lion and cheetah populations, and pioneering technology like **EarthRanger** are essential for understanding predator dynamics and mitigating conflict. While we celebrate successes like reduced livestock depredation through early warning systems and predator-proof bomas, we are also aware of emerging threats, such as the concerning decline in cheetah cub survival, which programme is proactively addressing.

KWT believes success is inextricably linked to the well-being of the communities that share landscapes with wildlife. Our '**Ufugaji Hifadhi**' livelihoods program improved livestock health through extensive vaccination campaigns across the Mara region and empowered farmers with skills in sustainable pasture management and financial literacy in 2024. The **Conservation Leadership Programme** is also an example of our investment in Kenya's future, nurturing 23 deserving individuals from Amboseli/Tsavo, Greater Mara, and Laikipia/Samburu Ecosystems to become the stewards of tomorrow. Seeing beneficiaries excel academically, lead '*Green Projects*,' and even win national recognition is truly inspiring.

KWT's impact is amplified through strategic partnerships. We are grateful for the continued trust and support of our institutional donors, and value our corporate partnerships with companies like **I & M**, **AirKenya Express** and **Kericho Gold**. Equally important are our working relationships with government bodies like **Kenya Wildlife Service**, and **Wildlife Research Training Institute**, **Narok County**, research institutions, and other stakeholders. These collaborations are essential for achieving landscape-level conservation goals, and we recognise the impact of our combined efforts in 2024.
The Board has full confidence in the KWT team, ably led by Acting Executive Director Gloria Achieng. Their efforts are evident in the results detailed throughout this report. We also recognise the importance of providing our team with the necessary resources, including the recent infrastructure upgrades at the Tony Lapham Predator Hub.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I extend my gratitude to all our donors, partners, and the KWT staff. As we navigate the complexities of the future, including changing weather patterns and evolving land-use pressures, KWT remains dedicated to its mission, adapting and innovating to ensure the long-term health of Kenya's predators.

Thank you for your support,
Arnolda Shiundu,
Chairperson.

Letter from Ag. Executive Director



Dear friends and partners,

Guided by our commitment to being '**Driven by Science** and **Focused on People**,' I am honored to share the 2024 efforts and achievements of Kenya Wildlife Trust (KWT).

Our flagship, the **Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP)** continued its scientific research, community outreach, and education in the Greater Mara. The research team covered over 14,000 km, conducting the 11th Annual Intensive Monitoring Session, resulting in 375 lion and 67 cheetah sightings.

The collaring of 10 lions and 2 cheetahs, combined with the integration of EarthRanger technology, has enabled us to track over 17,000 km of predator movement and effectively respond to 2,354 geofence alerts, significantly mitigating human-wildlife conflict and preventing potential livestock depredation.

Through the MPCP's community team, we established 10 Human-Predator Conflict Mitigation Zonal Committees in 2024, empowering locals to participate directly in conflict resolution. We also constructed 5 predator-proof bomas using recycled plastic poles, protecting over 600 cattle, and trained 50 herders in ineffective practices.

MPCP's Conservation Education initiatives reached learners through wildlife clubs, engaging them via game drives, the Asilia Africa 'Twende Porini,' and creative outlets like the Art Bootcamp, facilitated by Naitiemu. The launch of the 4th edition of our in-house publication, "Naserian Loves the Lake," championed female leadership and environmental stewardship, distributing 500 copies across schools and community libraries.

In 2024, the Conservation Leadership Programme (CLP) supported 23 beneficiaries. We celebrated the graduation of Felix Kereto, welcomed 3 new scholars, and witnessed the success of the beneficiary-led 'Green Project,' which planted 10,000 tree seedlings. The election of four beneficiaries to the Wildlife Research and Training Institute Student Leadership Council and Christopher Saruni's national award for Indigenous knowledge conservation shows CLP's impact.

Our 'Ufugaji Hifadhi' Livelihoods program provided essential support, vaccinating over 170,000 livestock against CBBP and Bluetongue and delivering training on pasture management, animal health, and financial literacy to hundreds of farmers, enhancing resilience against climate change.

This report highlights the dedication of the KWT team, both in Nairobi and at the Tony Lapham Predator Hub. I want to acknowledge the contributions and work of our former Executive Director, Dr. Elizabeth Pantoren, whose efforts have shaped the progress we continue to build upon. I would also like to thank the Kenya and UK Board of Trustees for their guidance and strategic oversight throughout the year.

None of this would be possible without our partners. Collaborations with government institutions, conservancies, and other supporters are the foundation of what we achieve together. As we look to 2025, we will build on the success of this past year while we work with other stakeholders to continue to promote coexistence between the Greater Mara's people and its predators.

We invite you to visit our website and check out our social media for updates on our impact and various ways to get involved.

Best Wishes,
Gloria Achieng,
Ag. Executive Director.

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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.



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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 production and 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 programme targets to ensure women and youth are mainstreamed and benefit in the livestock economy and entrepreneurship through capacity building. Through this, the farmers become more resilient to the adverse effects of changing weather patterns and less likely to resort to harmful measures that jeopardize wildlife and the land's protection.

Conservation Leadership Programme

KWT's Conservation Leaders' Programme ensures that the unique knowledge of young people in Greater Mara, Laikipia/Samburu and Tsavo/ Amboseli Ecosystems is 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 works with local schools and non-profit organisations 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.

2024 KEY HIGHLIGHTS



Throughout the year, a total distance of **14,200 KM** was covered across the Greater Mara Ecosystem.



108,594 cattle **61,901** sheep vaccinated against **Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBBP)** and **Bluetongue** respectively.



We recorded a total of **375** lion sightings and **67** cheetah sightings.



23 scholarship recipients through our Conservation Leadership Programme.



10 lions and **2** cheetahs collared tracking movememts over **16, 484 KM** (lions) and **753 KM** (cheetahs)



EarthRanger Alerts & Geofence Monitoring

Enabled early warning responses, reducing livestock depredation and retaliatory killings.

AS WE GRAPPLE WITH CHALLENGES AFFECTING PREDATORS AND COMMUNITIES IN THE MARA, INTENDING TO CREATE COEXISTENCE, WE SINCERELY APPRECIATE SUPPORT FROM GOVERNORS' CAMP COLLECTION IN PROVISION OF LION DETERRENT LIGHTS TO TEN HOUSEHOLDS AND TOWARDS SOME OF OUR HERDER TRAINING, 'COLLARS FOR CONSERVATION,' LION AMBASSADORS AND WILDLIFE CLUBS INITIATIVES.

THIS SUPPORT GOES A LONG WAY IN BOOSTING THE IMPACT OF OUR PROJECTS IN THE MARA ECOSYSTEM AND GIVING HOPE TO THE FUTURE OF CONSERVATION EFFORTS AND SUSTAINABLE COEXISTENCE.

MICHAEL KAELO, MANAGER–MARA.



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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**.









SCIENCE-DRIVEN CONSERVATION OF PREDATORS

Kenya Wildlife Trust's flagship **Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP)** was formed when the Mara Lion and Mara Cheetah projects, both established in 2013, were merged in 2018.

Its vision is to be a world-class conservation programme that provides wildlife and conservation managers as well as policymakers with evidence-based, actionable management recommendations and solutions. MPCP's goal is to **ensure the long-term survival of the Mara's iconic predators while promoting coexistence through research and collaboration**.

MPCP achieved notable advancements in research, monitoring, and conservation in 2024. Our research team conducted the 11th Annual Intensive Monitoring Session (IMS), covering **9,200 KM** and collared ten lions and two cheetahs. We integrated Earth Ranger technology for data collection, monitoring, and conflict resolution. To mitigate threats to predators and improve community coexistence, we established ten conflict resolution committees, built five predator-proof bomas, and trained fifty herders on effective herding practices, among other activities detailed within the report. Additionally, our wildlife clubs participated in game drives and experienced nature firsthand at Twende Porini in partnership with Asilia Africa in the Mara.

The Ufugaji Hifadhi program supported farmers by vaccinating **170,495 livestock** and training them in pasture management and financial literacy to help enhance livelihoods within the Mara Ecosystem. We invite you to read and interrogate this report to get more insights into our impactful activities during this period.

HWC Zonal Committees
10 human-predator conflict mitigation zonal Committees formed

Hyena Interactions
Future research planned on hyenas' **effects on lions** and **cheetahs**.

Livestock GPS Tagging
59 cattle tagged to study predator-livestock interactions across the Greater Mara region

Intensive Monitoring
Annual cheetah and lion **survey completed** across 16 Mara Conservancies, the Mara Triangle, and the National Reserve.

Tourism Pressure
Tourist camps **reduce lion density** and **distribution** (Mogensen et al., under review).

Livestock Encroachment
Variability in livestock densities across management units influences predator movement and conflicts.

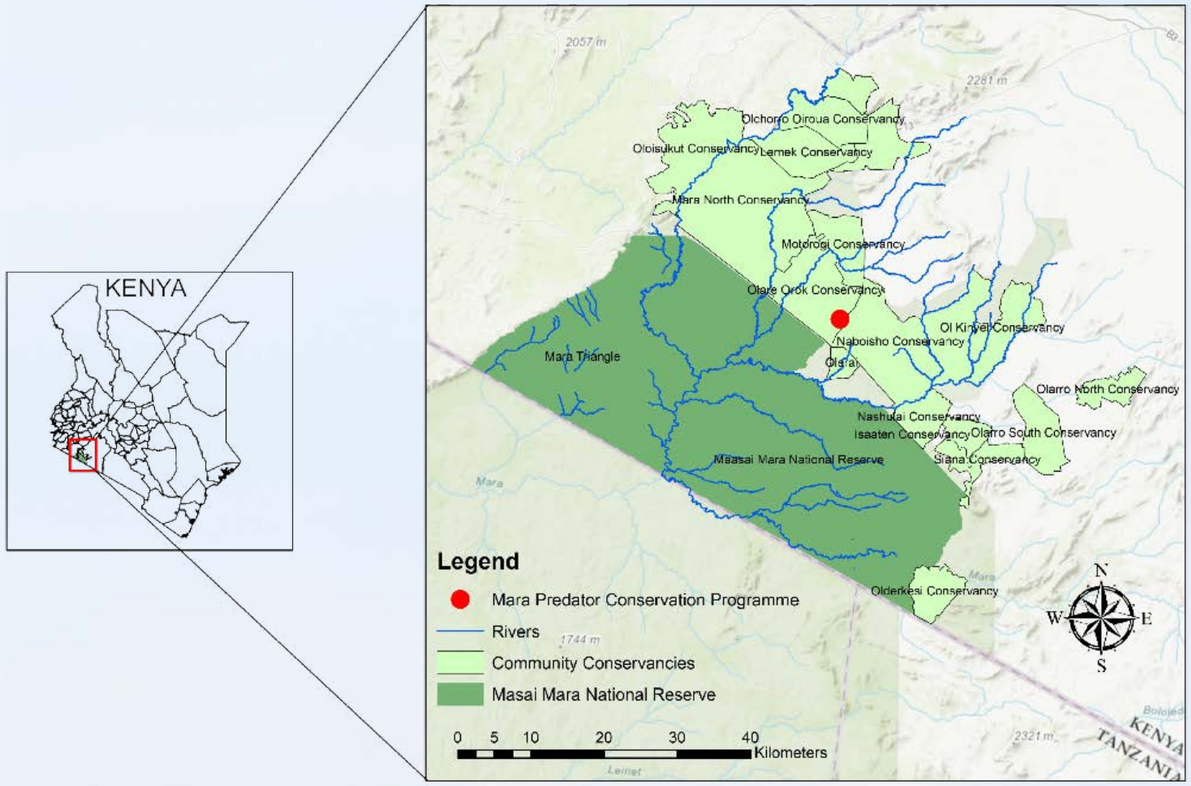
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WHERE MPCP WORKS

The **Mara Predator Conservation Programme** (MPCP) is based at the **Tony Lapham Predator Hub** in **Olare Motorogi Conservancy**. Positioned opposite Iseketa boma, our base is very near the border with Naboisho Conservancy. As such, we are perfectly located at the interface between wildlife and the surrounding communities.

Our study area covers the **Greater Mara Ecosystem *(~ 3000 km²)*** in the south-western corner of Kenya. We work in both the National Reserve and the surrounding conservancies. To the south, the Maasai Mara borders the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania, to the north and west it borders intensive agricultural land and east of the Maasai Mara is largely pastoralist settlement. The Programme's Community Team works with the communities around the Mara thereby almost doubling the area that the program covers.

STUDY AREA



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375 LION AND 67 CHEETAH SIGHTINGS

We are pleased to have conducted the annual monitoring in a multi-stakeholder approach alongside personnel from the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) who joined and participated in predator monitoring across the study area. The goal for WRTI's participation and analysis is to contribute to the **National Wildlife Census Report**, which is currently in progress across the country. WWF-Kenya team also joined the research team for a several days during the exercise.

Our **Collars for Conservation** initiative is important in enhancing both tracking and data collection, as well as strengthening protection measures for these key predators within the ecosystem.

RESEARCH UPDATES

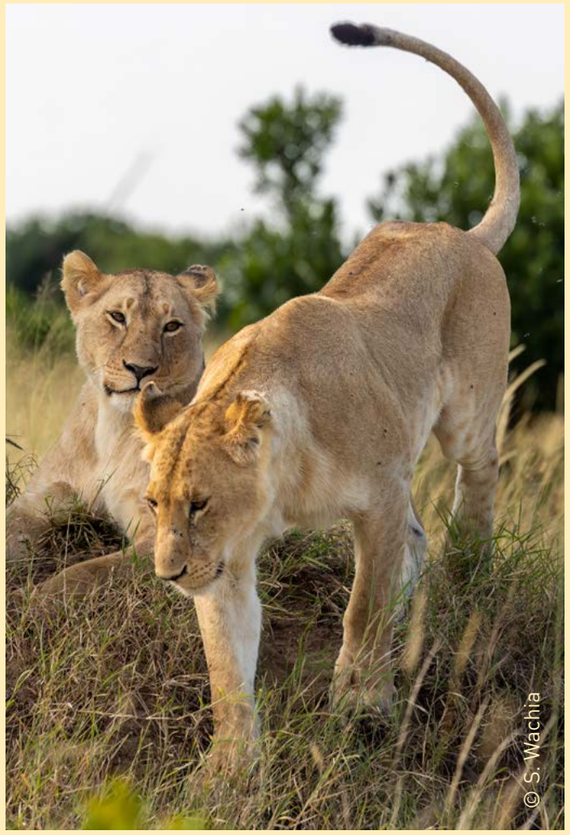
As one of the program's main objectives, we continue to monitor our ***~3000 km²*** study area, which includes ***sixteen*** key Mara Conservancies, the Mara Triangle, and the National Reserve. We also conducted our annual **three-month Intensive Monitoring Survey (IMS)** for the 11th year during August-October, and the unique number of lions and cheetahs identified can be seen in the tables on page 14.

We have worked on the data from this year's IMS which includes identification (IDing), validating, and running analysis, and the complete results of this year's monitoring are presented in our **Q1 2025 Technical Report**.



9,200 KM

Distance covered during the three-month Intensive Monitoring Session spanning area ~3,000 km²



WORKING WITH EARTHRANGER HAS TRANSFORMED HOW WE MONITOR AND UNDERSTAND PREDATORS-LIVESTOCK INTERACTIONS ACROSS THE MARA ECOSYSTEM.

THE REAL-TIME DATA AND SPATIAL INSIGHTS HAVE ALLOWED US TO DETECT CONFLICT PATTERNS EARLY, SUPPORT TIMELY INTERVENTIONS, AND STRENGTHEN OUR COLLABORATION WITH CONSERVANCIES AND COMMUNITIES.

LUKE TOROITICH, MPCP DATA ANALYST



Kenya Wildlife Trust has successfully implemented **Earth Ranger**, a cutting-edge wildlife monitoring and conservation management tool.

The platform provides a comprehensive capability to **collect**, **integrate**, and **visualize** data on **collared predators** and other project-related information such as human-wildlife conflicts. It allows for effective monitoring of the **movements** and **habitat use** of collared animals across the landscape. This facilitates the understanding of their **behavioural characteristics** over time and for making **future predictions**.

Lion and Cheetah Table

Search effort (km driven)	Lion sightings	Lion detections*	**Unique individuals** >1 year old	
9159 (9191)	245 (288)	586 (657)	Male	121 (123)
Lions			Female	205 (221)
			Total	**326 (344)**

Table 1: Summary of lion sightings and numbers during the Aug01-Oct31 2024 survey.

**Lion detections are the total count (including all duplicates) of all lions seen. Numbers from 2023 are in brackets.*

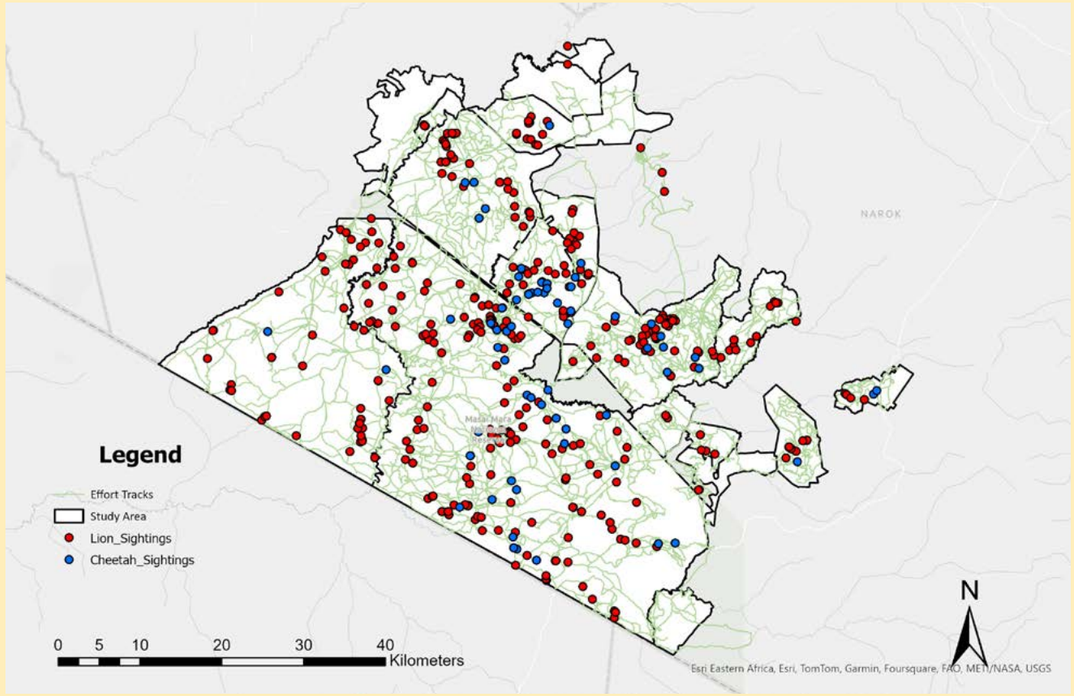
Search effort (km driven)	Cheetah sightings	Cheetah detections*	**Unique adult individuals**	
9159 (9191)	42 (48)	45 (58)	Male	9 (16)
Cheetahs			Female	4 (12)
			Total	**13 (28)**

Table 2: Summary of cheetah sightings and numbers during the Aug01-Oct31 2024 survey.

**Cheetah detections are the total count (including all duplicates) of all cheetahs seen. Numbers from 2023 are in brackets.*

Completed the annual cheetah and lion survey.

Lion and Cheetah Sightings and Effort (Tracks) Driven



Collars for Conservation

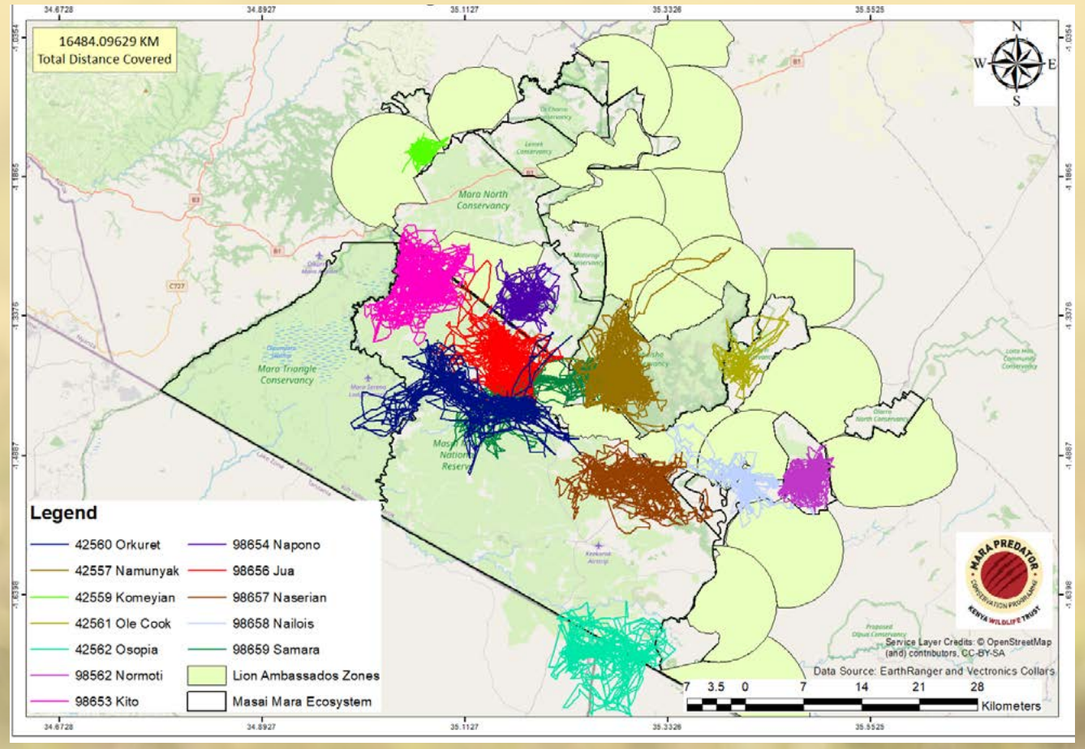
Collaring cheetahs and lions within the Mara ecosystem is crucial for understanding their **behavioral characteristics**, **movement patterns**, and **interactions** with both livestock and local communities within the region. Tracking these apex predators allows for continuous monitoring of their movements, offering detailed insights into habitat use, space use, geofence breaches from protected areas, and their encounters and relationships with livestock.

This data is key in developing **targeted strategies** to mitigate human-wildlife conflicts and support critical decision-making to ensure the long-term conservation of these apex predators. Overall, collaring has proven highly effective in reducing livestock depredation and retaliatory predator killings, **promoting sustainable coexistence** between humans and wildlife within the Greater Mara Ecosystem.

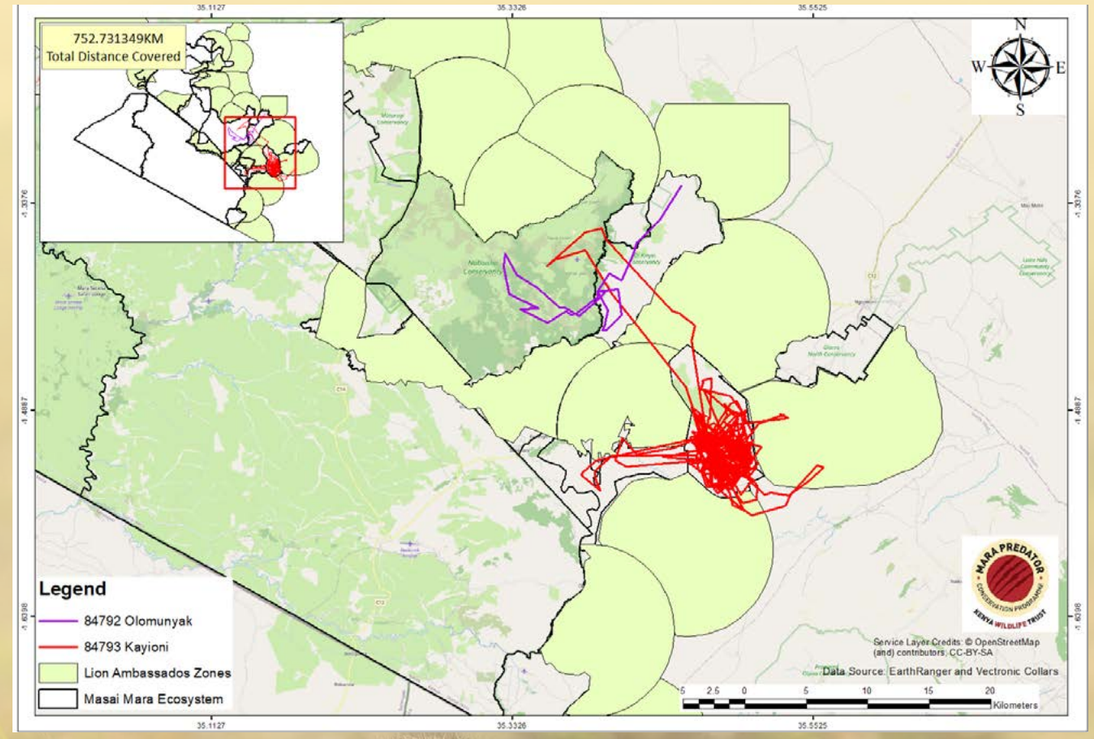


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Tracking Movements of Collared Lions



Tracking Movements of Collared Cheetahs



The movements for both collared cheetahs and lions are linked to KWT's Lion Ambassadors via our Earth Ranger platform

16,484KM

of collared lion movement recorded

753KM

of collared cheetah movement recorded

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Pride and coalition maps

We have updated MPCP's male lion coalition and lion pride maps.

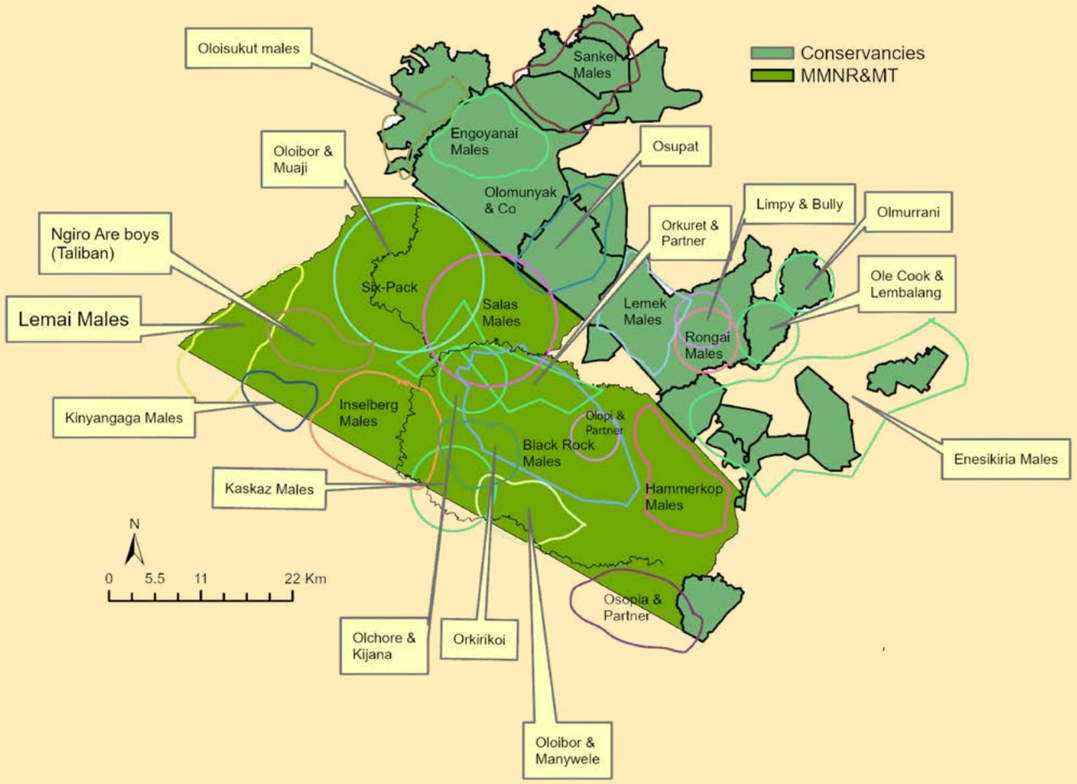
Understanding the spatial distribution of lion prides and male coalitions helps us to improve our conservation and management efforts. Mapping these groups provides insights into their **territory use**, **movement patterns**, and **interactions** with each other, prey, and human activities.

This information helps identify key habitats, potential conflict zones with livestock and communities, and areas of conservation priority. Tracking pride and coalition dynamics over time allows us to monitor population stability, reproductive success, and the effects of external pressures such as livestock and tourism.

Mara's male coalitions



- **The territory sizes are based on our data, either our sightings data or our collar data for the second half of 2024. Some of the territories shift frequently.**
- **Some of the coalition areas are temporary.**
- **We have simplified the territories, so they don't overlap to avoid a messy map and confusion. In reality, some of these coalitions overlap tremendously. Some overlap is unavoidable, however, for example, Oloibor and Muaji's territory is within the territory of the remaining Six Pack coalition.**
- **We have only included coalitions that are controlling at least one pride or have recently had a mating session with pride females.**



Lion prides



- **The data is based on our sightings and collar data.**
- **We have not included the many small breakaway groups and the border prides that mostly use the Serengeti side.**
- **The prides overlap extensively, and some have huge-ranging areas. The map is, therefore, highly simplified.**





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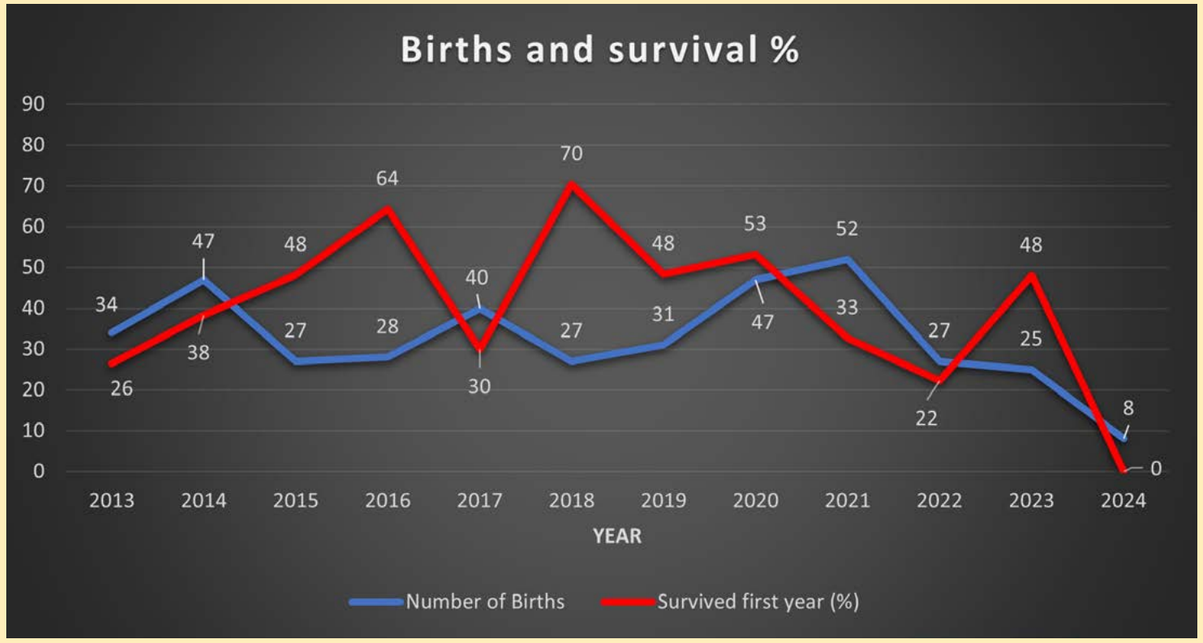
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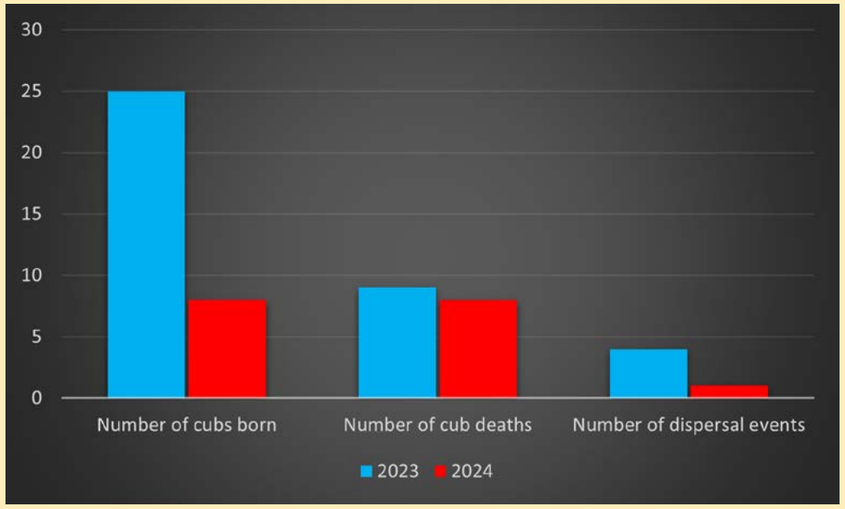
Cheetahs

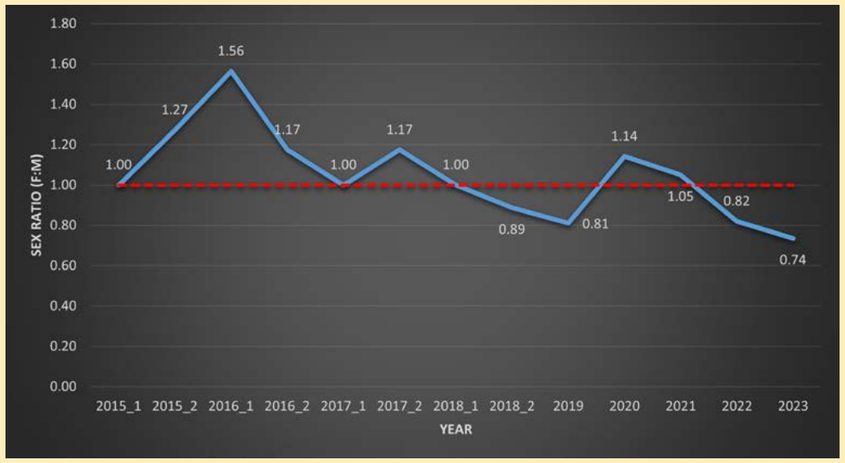
In 2024, the number of cheetah cubs emerging from dens in the Mara **hit an all-time low**, with a **100% mortality rate**. This alarming decline highlights an urgent conservation crisis. A key factor is the skewed sex ratio- there are now significantly fewer adult females than males. With fewer females to give birth, the total number of cubs born is critically low, reducing the likelihood that any survive under such harsh conditions. This trend severely threatens the long-term viability of the cheetah population in the Mara. In response, the Mara Predator Conservation Programme has already taken proactive steps to address these challenges.

Through our **real-time** conservation initiative, we have begun collaring cheetahs to enhance protection (see details in the Earth Ranger section). Additionally, we are finalising research proposals to investigate the root causes of these declines and develop targeted conservation strategies. Strengthening our collaboration with key management units, including Narok County, is essential to implementing effective measures that prevent further losses. We are committed to transparency and decisive action.

Our upcoming reports will outline concrete steps to reverse these alarming trends. By combining **science-driven conservation** with strong partnerships, we aim to **safeguard the future of cheetahs in the Masai Mara Ecosystem**.







8 cheetah cubs born from two mothers.

6 new male cheetahs were recorded in the Mara.

1 dispersal event

No cheetah cubs **survived.**

EarthRanger: Geofence breaks and Early Warning Alerts

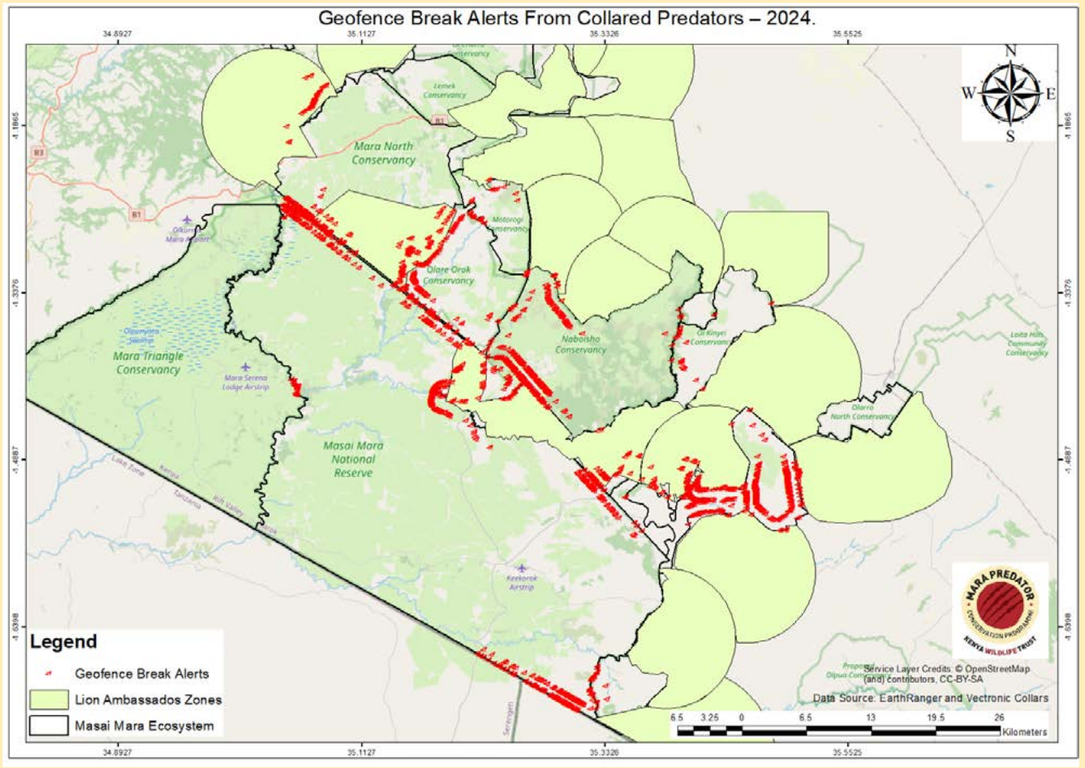
The map below shows the spatial distribution of geofence breaches, which are triggered when collared lions or cheetahs **cross the protected area boundary**. **Most of these breaches occur** as the animals move towards **community areas**. This **activates an early warning system**, enabling the **Lion Ambassador** to **respond promptly and prevent potential conflicts**.

2354
Total Geofence Breaks resolved.

1291
Less Critical Geofence Breaks.

1063
More Critical Warning Geofence Breaks

No geofence breach remained **unresolved**



These efforts have significantly reduced instances of **livestock depredation and predator killings** within the Mara Ecosystem.

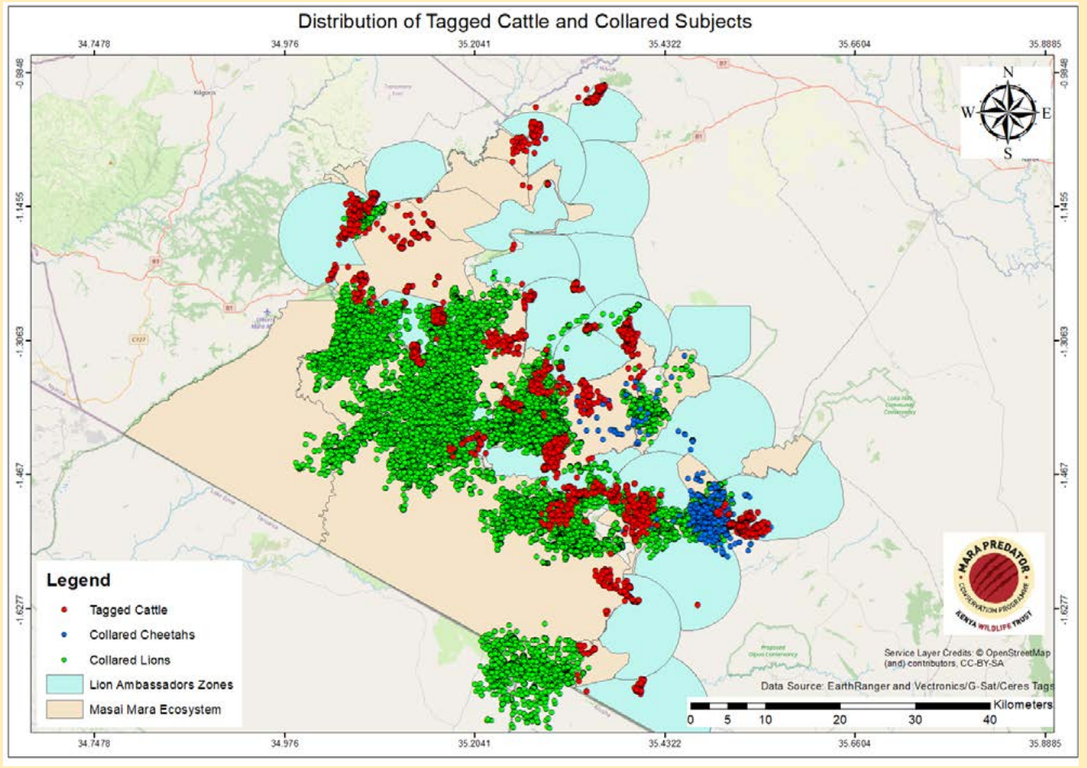


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Livestock Tagging

Starting from the third quarter of 2024, we have **deployed GPS ear tags within the Greater Mara Ecosystem (GME)**. The map illustrates the spatial distribution of these tagged cattle, along with collared lions and cheetahs. The data reveals **overlapping interactions** between these species day and night, highlighting how they share space.

By tagging cattle in conjunction with collaring lions and cheetahs, we can better **understand and mitigate human- wildlife conflicts**, particularly those involving livestock, by **analyzing factors** such as the **proximity of tagged cattle to predators**.



59
Tagged cattle.

Overlapping interaction and space utilization.

Focus on **Predator-Livestock** proximity dynamics.

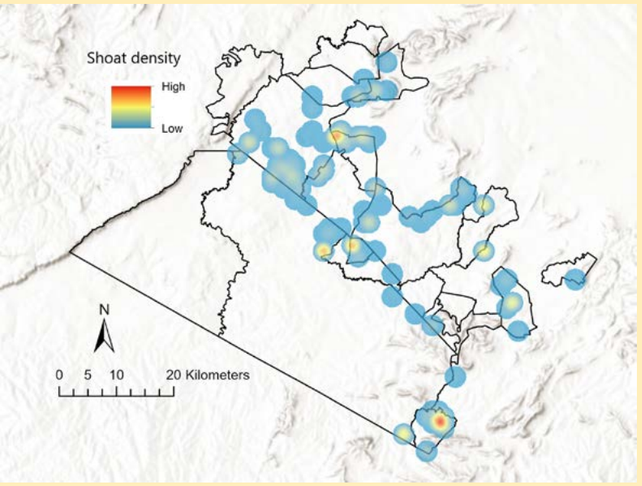


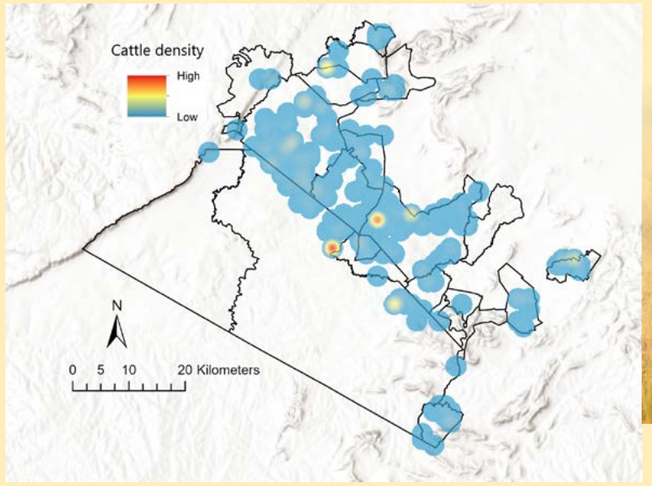
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What factors are affecting lions and cheetahs?

Livestock activity

Throughout the year, we meticulously capture livestock numbers. The livestock maps visually represent the proportional densities of cattle and shoats (combined sheep and goats), respectively.



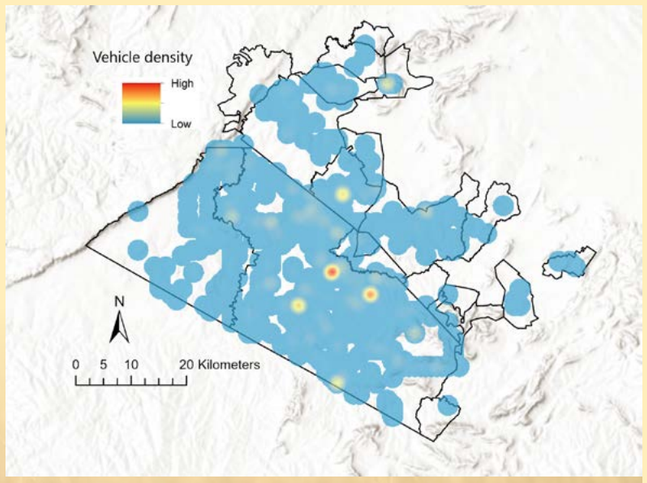


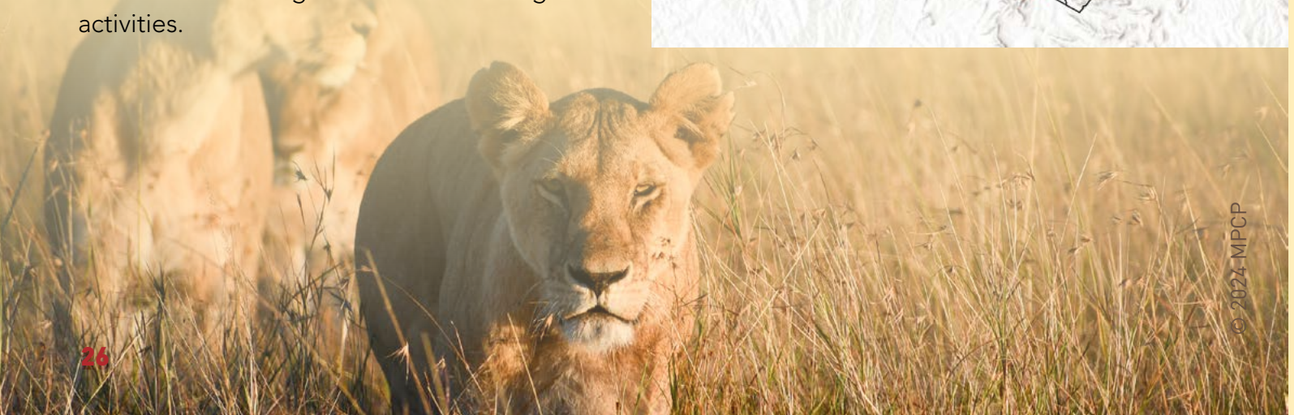
Livestock numbers and their impact on wildlife exhibit significant variations across different management units and throughout the seasons. We will submit a scientific paper in 2025 that examines the effect of livestock on lions in the Mara conservancies.

Tourism

Tourism, especially mass tourism, can have detrimental effects on predators. For example, we have provided evidence for a direct negative correlation between high vehicle abundance and the number of cheetah cubs a mother can raise to independence *(Broekhuis, 2018)*.

We have also analysed the effects of tourist camps on lions, and the results suggest a negative effect on lion density and distribution *(Mogensen et al., under review)*. This map shows the density of the tourist vehicles we encountered during our 2024 monitoring activities.

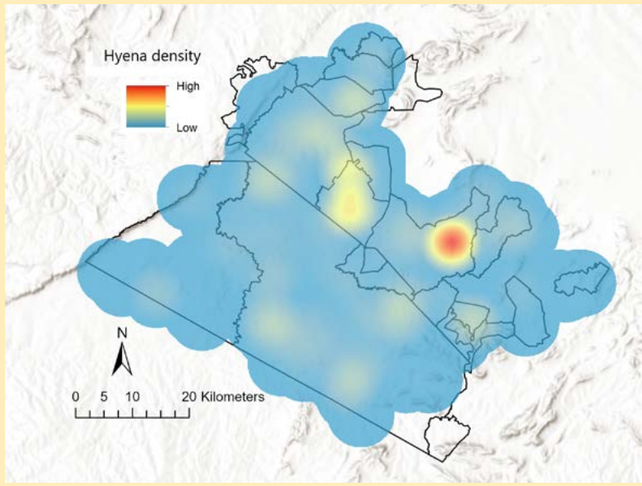



© 2024 MPCP

Other predators

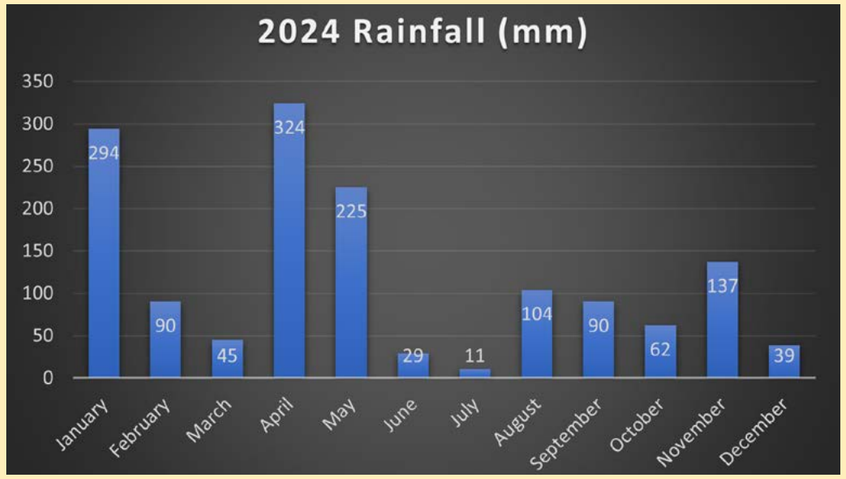
Hyenas are critical for ecosystem functioning. However, their effect on lions and cheetahs in the Mara is largely undocumented, and this is something we aim to study in the near future.


© 2024 Felixie Kipngetich

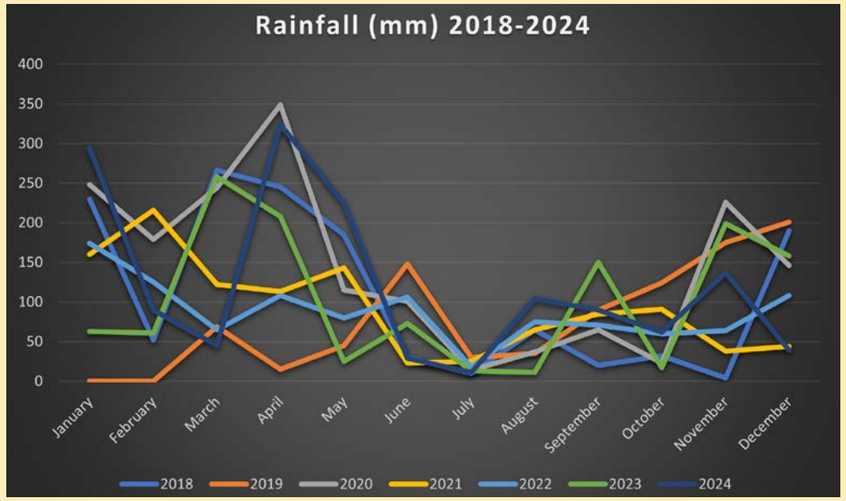


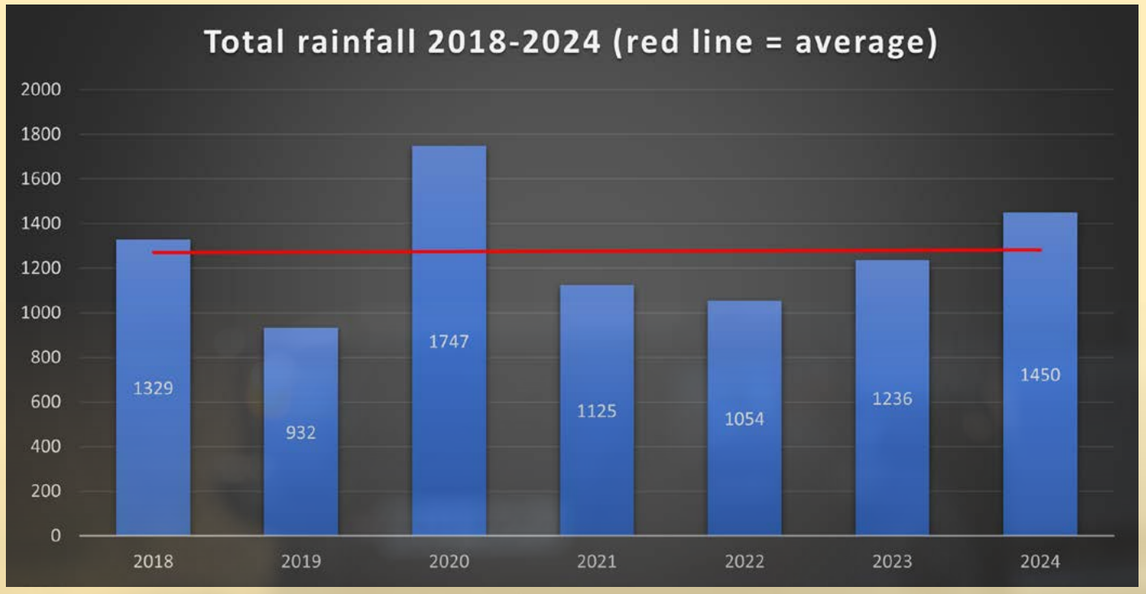
Rainfall

A total of 1450 mm of rain was recorded from the Predator Hub's weather station



The year 2024 experienced a higher precipitation than rainfall averaged over the last seven years






© Felixie Kipng'etich

Behavioral response of cheetahs to domestic animals and how local communities perceive different carnivores

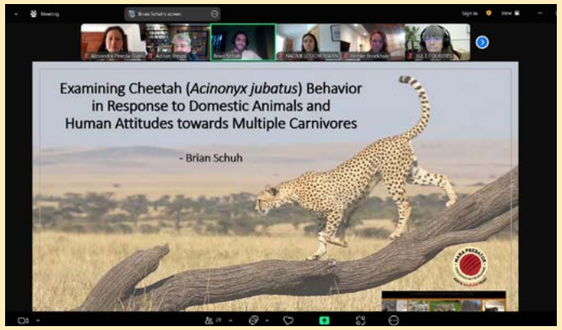
This year, we celebrated Brian Schuh's Ph.D. graduation from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a milestone that highlights his academic excellence and our collaboration with world-class research institutions.

Over the past few years, KWT, through our flagship program, MPCP, has partnered with Brian on innovative research designed to inform management strategies that promote stable, healthy populations of cheetahs and other carnivores while enhancing the livelihoods of Greater Mara communities. Driven by his passion for cheetah conservation and the challenge of promoting coexistence on shared landscapes, Brian focused his dissertation on two projects that bridge wildlife behavior and community engagement.

In his first project, Brian examined **cheetah behavioral responses to domestic animals** – cattle, sheep, goats, and domestic dogs – common in and around the Maasai Mara conservancies. His research seeks to determine whether these domestic animals influence cheetah movements, potentially displacing them or triggering livestock predation. The findings will enable MPCP to develop recommendations for **grazing livestock in close proximity to cheetahs**, **broader livestock management** within conservancies, and the **role of domestic dogs in protecting livestock**. These recommendations will help mitigate adverse effects on cheetah behavior and reduce livestock predation, ultimately aiming to promote coexistence between cheetahs and the local community.

In his second project, conducted in partnership with MPCP's Lion Ambassadors, Brian led a comprehensive **community survey to explore local perceptions of six carnivore species: cheetahs, lions, leopards, African wild dogs, spotted hyenas, and striped hyenas**. The survey results will refine our outreach efforts by pinpointing areas of heightened conflict with each species and clarifying potential species misidentifications, ultimately guiding a more efficient allocation of resources to reduce livestock predation.

These evidence-based projects reflect the core values of KWT and pave the way for ongoing **collaborative research**. Brian will develop management reports and scientific publications based on his findings in the coming months, which we look forward to sharing via social media and future reports.




© 2024 Brian Schuh

Dr. Brian Schuh poses for a photo with the MPCP team at the Predator Hub (top)

Brian defending his PHd virtually from the Hub (left)



Naitiemu Nyanjom guiding learners on creating artworks
© Felixie Kip

COMMUNITY UPDATES

The Mara Predator conservation Programme (MPCP) believes that working closely with local communities will help in **reducing human–predator conflicts**, **promote awareness creation**, and also assist the implementation of **conservation education** in schools. During the year, MPCP continued its community engagements aimed at achieving its three core objectives with the goal of helping community members and landowners understand and appreciate the role of predators in the ecosystem

50
herders trained on proper herding practices topics

5
Recycled Predator Proof Bomas constructed

40
lion lights deployed in conflict hotspot Bomas

350
*new wildlife club members recruited, and **483** members renewed.*

Human–Wildlife Conflict Mitigation

Formation of Human Predator Conflict Mitigation Zonal Committees

In 2024, our Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) established **10 Human-Predator Conflict Response Zonal Committees** across key lion ambassador zones: ***Oloonkolin, Meguarra, Ripoi, Isinya, Pardamt, Isintin, Nkoilale, Ereyiet Oltome,*** and ***Oloolaimutia***.

These committees were formed through community-driven Barazas *(traditional gatherings held under the shade of a tree, where locals come together to discuss pressing issues)*. Each committee was carefully selected by first identifying 50 community representatives per zone, who then participated in Barazas to choose 10 individuals responsible for conflict resolution.

Guided by the MPCP community team, the process emphasized the importance of these committees in facilitating peaceful coexistence between people and predators. Their role is multifaceted: they assist lion ambassadors in tracking and verifying conflict incidents, promote predator ownership among locals, and educate communities on conservation to reduce tensions. By monitoring social dynamics and potential triggers, they develop early warning systems to prevent conflicts from escalating.



Newly selected community members joining the human-predator conflict response zonal committtees pose for a photo



MPCP community outreach officer engaging with community members at Ripoi conservancy

Beyond mediation, the committees serve as bridges for dialogue, facilitating discussions between conflicting groups to address grievances and find common ground. They utilize traditional conflict resolution methods and innovative approaches like restorative justice to ensure fair outcomes. Once agreements are reached, they monitor compliance, ensuring lasting resolutions.

Additionally, they mobilize communities in peacebuilding efforts, cultivating a culture of tolerance, while collaborating with government agencies, conservancies, and other stakeholders to strengthen coexistence initiatives.

Through this grassroots approach, the committees **not only mitigate human-predator conflicts but also empower communities** to become active custodians of nature.

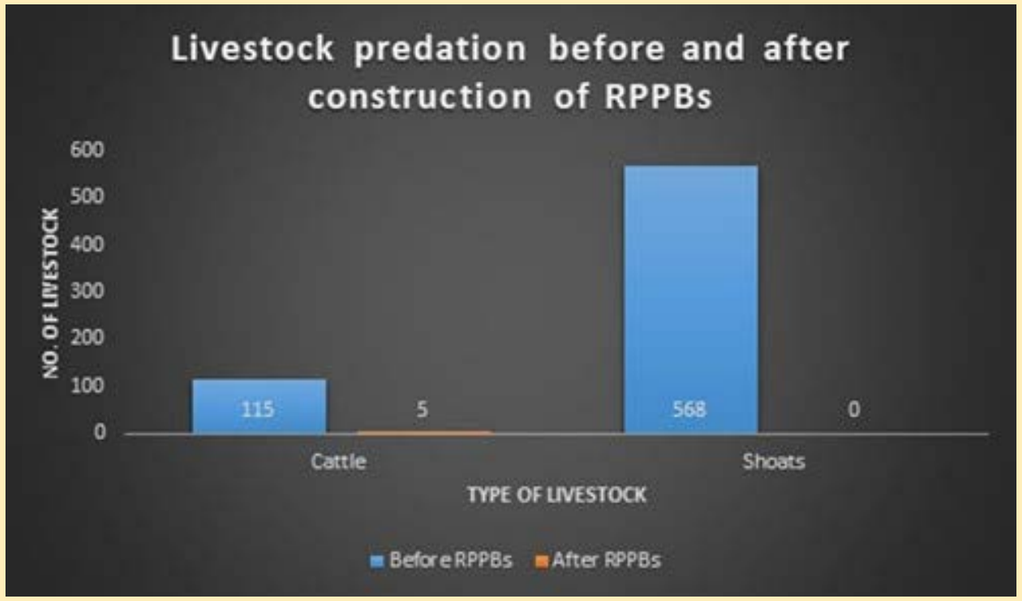
10
Human Predator Conflict mitigation zonal Committees formed

Recycled Plastic Pole Bomas

Nighttime predator attacks on livestock within traditional enclosures in the Mara region have resulted in significant losses due to stampedes and breaches. A 2021 Lion Ambassadors survey revealed weak enclosures made from deteriorating materials.

To address this, MPCP implemented an eco-friendly solution, **reinforcing livestock bomas** with recycled plastic poles and triple-twisted chainlink. This sustainable approach strengthens enclosures and protects the environment by eliminating the need for cutting down trees, minimizing waste, and contributing to the fight against climate change.

Previous successfully constructed enclosures (as evidenced by data in the Figure below) have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing nighttime attacks and promoting positive community attitudes toward predators.



Through the Lion Ambassadors Programme, MPCP identified 5 bomas in Olkimitare, a region characterized by hilly terrain and dense vegetation that gives good cover to nocturnal predators.

The five identified bomas were constructed to **safeguard over 600 cattle** and significantly reduce livestock losses for communities close to conservation areas. This will play a vital role in shifting community perceptions and ensuring coexistence between humans and predators.





Area chief issuing lion lights to affected families © Governors'

Human Predator Conflict Resolution Meeting & the Installation of Predator Deterrent Lights

Working with the Indigenous community and key stakeholders in safeguarding the livelihood of people and reducing human–predator conflicts is key in areas bordering the Maasai Mara National Reserve (MMNR) and the neighboring conservancies. Olare-Orok village, located between MMNR and Mara North Conservancy, is a one of the conflict hotspot areas.



Conflict resolution Baraza at Olare Orok village

In August, MPCP organised a community Baraza to sensitize the community on how they can protect their livestock and report conflict to MPCP lion ambassadors when it happens. **40 lion lights** were issued and installed to affected Bomas to prevent future night attacks.

Herders Training

Herders play a crucial role in protecting livestock from depredation by predators. MPCP works closely with herders in Mara to execute training on proper herding of livestock inside and outside protected areas. This not only protects livestock from depredation and helps to reduce the retaliatory killing of predators.

During this reporting period, 50 herders from Ngila village received a comprehensive **training on proper herding practices** from the MPCP community team. The training focused on proper herding techniques and the **Wildlife Act of 2013.**



Herders from Igila village engaging with the MPCP area lion ambassador

Conservation Education

As part of its long-term commitment to promoting **coexistence** between people and predators, the Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) engages with **primary** and **secondary** schools across the Mara ecosystem. Through wildlife clubs, the program promotes **conservation awareness**, inspiring the next generation of environmental stewards.

To ensure structured and impactful engagement, MPCP develops annual work plans for these clubs, guiding the **implementation of conservation-focused** activities. Here are the activities undertaken during this reporting period

511
wildlife club members taken for game drives in the Maasai Mara National Reserve

250
new wildlife club members from the Oloisukut region joined our Conservation Clubs

© 2024 Felixie Kipng'etich

Wildlife clubs' Patron's training

MPCP expanded conservation education outreach to Oloisukut Conservancy in 2024. Five primary schools were engaged, and **250 children** were recruited as wildlife club members. To help these clubs run, MPCP recruited and trained two teachers from each school as wildlife club patrons.

Topics covered during the training were the integration of conservation education into the school curriculum, micro-projects in school, ecosystems, and biodiversity.

Annual game drive

Annual game drives are meant to give school-going children an opportunity to visit neighboring conservancies and Maasai Mara National Reserve for game viewing once a year. MPCP found this activity to be the most enjoyable and a good **outdoor learning experience** for wildlife club members.

During the 2024 wildebeest migration season, 511 new wildlife club members from 10 schools were privileged to visit Maasai Mara National Reserve to witness this iconic phenomenon that happens only in the Kenya and Tanzania border.

Asilia 'Twende Porini'

In partnership with Asilia Africa, 16 children from four wildlife club schools were beneficiaries of the 2024 **Asilia Twende Porini**, which took place in April at Rekero camp located inside Maasai Mara National Reserve. This unique approach is Asilia's initiative of taking local primary school children for a four-day tour while staying at one of their camps.

The 16 wildlife club members received education on the importance of conserving the environment through indoor talks (from various non-profit organisations) & outdoor activities such as game drives and fun games. This lifetime experience will create lasting memories for children and their parents involved to appreciate the importance of conserving their heritage.

Term–based class tutorials

To better equip learners with conservation knowledge, MPCP organised and executed 10 classes for its wildlife club members in ten schools.

These class tutorials are aimed at imparting conservation education knowledge to school-going children through practical approaches. The main topic covered during this teaching was the **interconnection of species in an ecosystem**.



Wildlife club members from Molibany School learning about the environment.

Recruitment of wildlife club members

In quarter 1 of 2024, MPCP supported the recruitment of 350 new wildlife club members and renewed membership for 483 other existing wildlife club members from twenty schools in Mara region. This initiative aims to strengthen partnerships between MPCP, Wildlife clubs of Kenya, and the schools, as well as increase the effectiveness of conservation education.









Top & bottom left: Wildlife club members and mentors during Twende Porini at Rekero

Top right: Patron training
Bottom Right: Annual game drive

Wildlife Clubs' Open Day

This year's Wildlife Clubs' Open Day was held at Margaret Kenyatta Olkurotto Primary School, bringing together young conservationists, community members, and key partners in a celebration of wildlife and environmental stewardship. The event, supported by KWT highlighted the critical role of youth and local communities in conservation efforts across the Mara region.

The colorful gathering was attended by wildlife club members from 13 primary and secondary schools, alongside community leaders, donors, and representatives from key partner organizations. Among the distinguished guests were Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Kicheche Community Trust, Governors' Camp Collection, The Maa Trust, March to the Top (M2T), Mara Elephant Project, Olare Motorogi Conservancy, Isaaten Conservancy, Nature Kenya (EANHS), WWF-Kenya, and Asilia Africa.

The event began with a tree-planting exercise, where guests, donors, and students planted over twenty indigenous trees within the school compound, a symbolic gesture strengthening the importance of reforestation and environmental sustainability.

Following the tree planting, attendees were invited to an exhibition room where wildlife club members and their patrons showcased environmental education materials. The students led interactive sessions, explaining the conservation-themed displays adorning the classroom walls, promoting a more in-depth understanding of ecological preservation among participants.







Top: Dominic Sakat presenting

Bottom: MPCP's Community Liaison Officer, James Kasaine plant a tree with the WWF-Kenya team

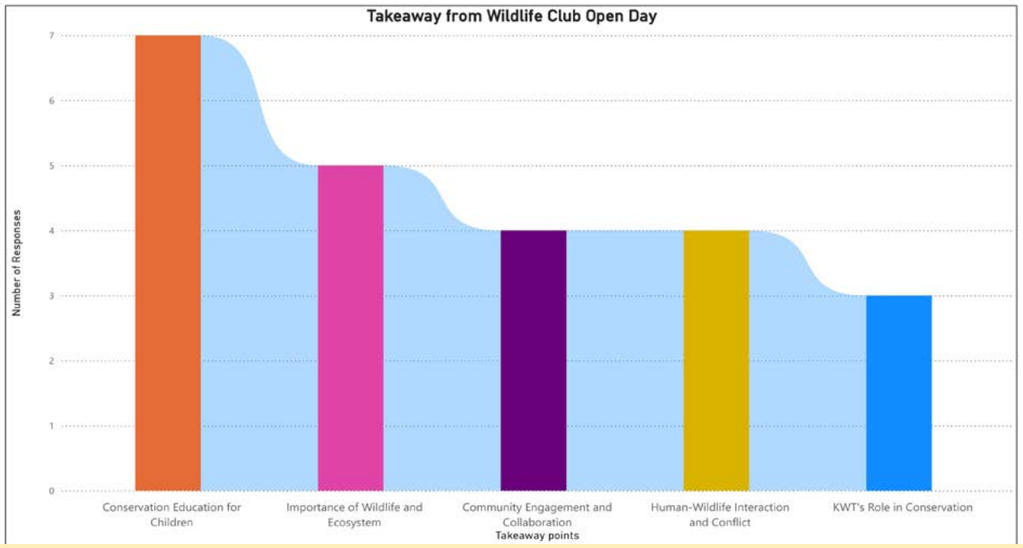
Interacting with wildlife in the Mara has transformed me, Through the Wildlife Clubs training, I've gained valuable skills. It's wonderful to see the growth of our learners, thanks to KWT.

– George Rop, Irbaan Primary School patron

Inspiring the Next Generation of Conservationists

A highlight of the day was a performance by Buffalo Dancers, a group of ten talented young Maasai Morans, who engaged the audience with a traditional dance. Their routine conveyed messages about wildlife conservation, the dangers of wildlife poisoning, and the benefits that communities derive from protecting biodiversity.

Wildlife club members further took the stage, presenting creative performances in the Maa language to ensure the conservation message resonated with the local community. Through poems, songs, and dramas, they addressed themes such as the importance of trees, the beauty of Earth's ecosystems, and the challenges of human-wildlife conflict.





Wildlife club members perform a skit on human-wildlife conflict © Felixie Kip

How do we commune with and conserve nature through art?

In order to look at conservation through art with a long-term impact, we must teach children to observe and appreciate nature's unique features and to reuse available materials to create art. The conservation art boot camp was a collaborative effort between **Kenya Wildlife Trust's Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP), Kicheche Community Trust, Oloisukut Conservancy, Elong'o CBO** and was facilitated by Artist **Naitiemu Nyanjom** aimed at raising awareness about wildlife conservation through artistic expression.

The art boot camp involved **53** kids from 8 local schools, from **Grade 2 to Grade 8** (5-16 year olds), over a 3-day workshop. The learners were grouped according to their age sets with 8 groups of 6-7 team members each to encourage them to have peer-to-peer conversations and connections across the 8 schools represented. The groups included ***Simba, Giraffe, Rhinoceros, Hyena, Buffalo, Cheetah, Hippo, and Baboon***.

Naitiemu led the team in taking **nature walks** with the learners every day. She encouraged them, in their groups, to collect objects/ nature items that caught their attention as we walked, including dried leaves, stones, sticks, soil, and seeds. During the walk, they had the opportunity to have more conversations with MPCP interns Felix, Benjamin, and Jemimah, who shared more information about the animals each group represented.



5-16

*age set of the bootcamp attendees from **Grade 2-8***

53

*learners attended the bootcamp from **8** schools*

The boot camp culminated in an exhibition of the kids' artworks, which was open to the public. The children got to **present and share their experiences, processes,** and **thoughts** with the invited community guests. This provided an opportunity for the broader community to **engage with the artwork** and **learn more about conservation in a visually compelling way** through their children's eyes.



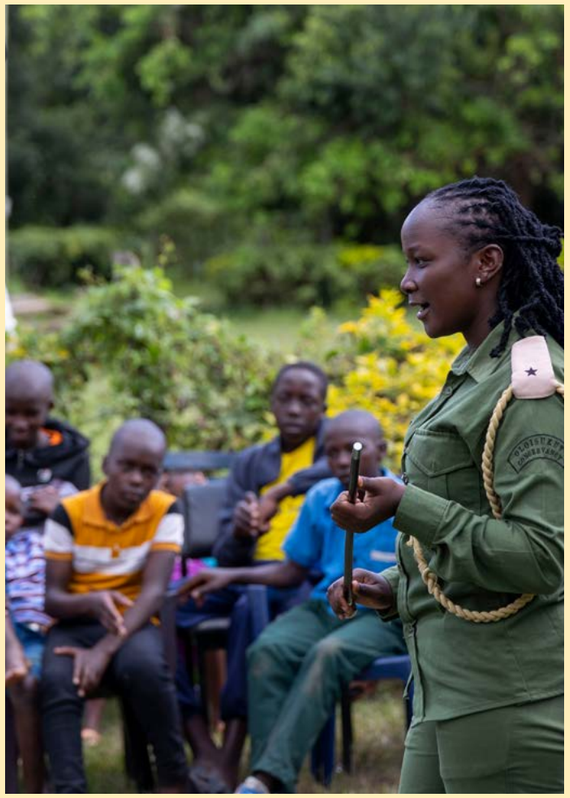
A bootcamp participant showcasing her group's artwork

The Conservation Art Bootcamp was a resounding success, achieving its objectives of raising awareness, building skills, promoting collaboration, and empowering the kids and community at large. By harnessing the power of art, the boot camp demonstrated the potential for creativity to drive meaningful action in the realm of conservation. As the kids continue to **leverage their artistic talents in service of the environment**, the impact of the boot camp will ripple far beyond its duration, contributing to a more sustainable and harmonious relationship between humanity and the natural world.



ART BOOTCAMP IN PICTURES



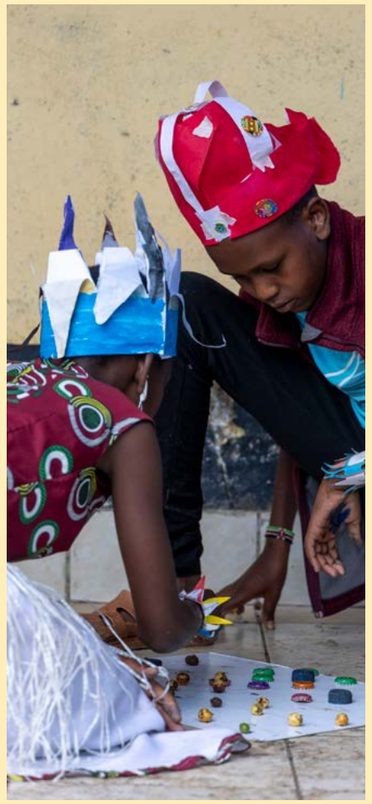


Photos © 2024 Felixie Kipng'etich





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Turning the Pages of Change



5 GENDER EQUALITY

The Impact of the Wildlife Club Book Series

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, the Wildlife Club Book series has adapted and grown, ensuring that children continue to have access to relevant and accurate scientific information.

The series started with "***Ole Peenko and Other Stories,***" where the spotlight was on male protagonists. In the following editions, there was an imbalance—two covers focused solely on Ole Peenko, and one included a female character, but the emphasis still leaned toward the boy.

Then, with the 2024 release of "***Naserian Loves the Lake and Other Stories,***" the series took a significant step forward. For the first time, the cover features Naserian, a young Maasai girl, standing alone as the central figure, shifting the focus entirely to a female protagonist.

This shift in the cover design reflects a larger commitment to United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 5: **Gender Equality**. By placing Naserian front and center, the series moves away from shared or secondary roles for female characters, instead giving her the spotlight and emphasizing the importance of female representation in leadership.

It challenges the traditional narrative of gender roles, sending a message that both boys and girls deserve equal opportunities to lead, to learn, and to inspire change.

> ***The series is a reminder of how powerful books can be in inspiring change, especially when it comes to environmental education. With every story, we hope to encourage kids to take responsibility for the planet, using their knowledge, creativity, and teamwork to make a difference. We're excited to keep growing the series, reaching more young readers, and working together to create a brighter, greener future for everyone.***
>
> Felixie, Dominic, and Gloria K–KWT team.

Naserian Loves the Lake

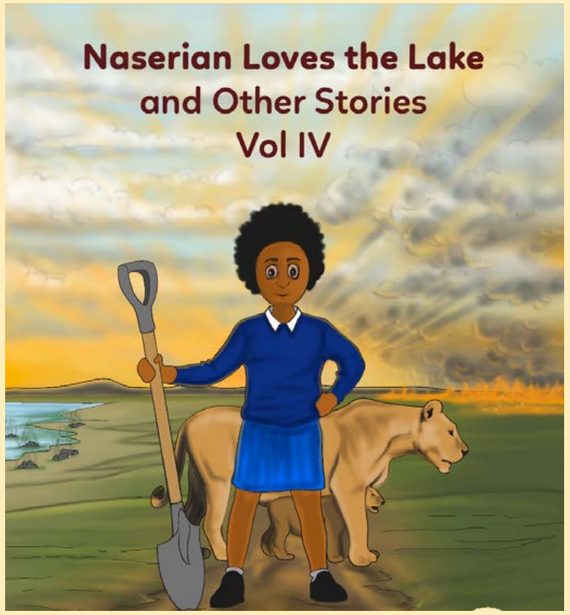
This edition not only highlights gender equality but also continues to address environmental issues, encouraging young readers to actively engage with and contribute to building a more sustainable and inclusive world.

Readers are introduced to The Legend of the Lake, where Naserian, alongside her friend Nasieku, takes a stand against pollution in their beloved Lake Nuru. They work together with their community to restore the lake's former beauty, demonstrating the power of teamwork and collective responsibility. This story is a call to action for young readers to conserve water, protect natural resources, and make meaningful environmental changes in their communities.

In **The Lost Paradise of the Savannah**, the story takes an emotional look at the delicate balance between humans and wildlife. Through the experiences of Tana, the lioness leader, readers learn about the devastating consequences of human actions on the environment, particularly regarding human-wildlife conflict. The fire that threatens Tana's pride serves as a powerful metaphor for the destruction caused by human negligence and serves to teach the importance of preserving natural habitats for future generations.

Teachers have highlighted how the stories offer both educational value and opportunities for broader discussions.

Teacher Naomi from Margaret Kenyatta Primary School praised the series for its ability to *"bring out new knowledge"* and shift the focus from the familiar Maasai Mara ecosystem to other critical environments, such as Lake Nuru. She commended the book for encouraging community participation in solving environmental problems, saying, *"It involves everyone in the community, including those who had previously harmed the environment, to work together for its restoration."*



Students from various schools have shared their thoughts, expressing how the stories have shaped their understanding of environmental issues.

The Legend of the Lake inspired Grade 8 student Mary Sheila to say, *"We should take good care of water bodies."* Similarly, Grade 9 student Seleina Kipeen reflected on The Lost Paradise of the Savannah, stating, *"We should conserve trees because they give us fresh air."*

These lessons resonate deeply, encouraging young learners to take personal responsibility for the environment.

400

*copies to **20 schools** gender ratio boys to girls (210:190)*

100

*copies to **3 community libraries**: Olkurroto, Maasai Discovery & Enturroto*

UFUGAJI HIFADHI

The KWT livelihoods programme is centered on equitable and financially inclusive digital ecosystems to alleviate the impacts of climate change and socio-economic challenges on rural indigenous communities residing in wildlife areas.

Our primary goal is to boost income derived from livestock while enhancing resilient livestock health and husbandry practices that promote environmental sustainability. It aims to combat the prevalent issues of high livestock mortality and morbidity.

Livestock mass vaccination

In March-April 2024, we conducted a comprehensive livestock vaccination campaign throughout the Mara ecosystem across 20 clusters. This initiative primarily targeted **Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia (CBBP)** in cattle and **Bluetongue** in sheep, diseases that are very significant and prevalent during periods of heavy rainfall.

The vaccination exercise was carried out in *Lemek, Emorijoi, Ilchambai, Emarti, Oloisukut, Aitong, Edoinyo Erinka, Olkurto, Enooronkon, Olesere, Mararianda, Olare Orok, Mpuaai, Talek, Sekenani, Nkoilale, Olkarkar, Meguarra, Oloolaimutia, and Nkineji.*

Vaccination is crucial for preventing devastating livestock diseases and protecting animal health and livelihoods. Reduced mortality through vaccination strengthens food security, boosts household incomes, and directly contributes to sustainable livelihoods and poverty reduction.

ACHIEVEMENTS

108,594 cattle vaccinated against **CBBP**

61,901 sheep vaccinated against **Bluetongue**

161 animals offered **clinical services**

KWT's Ufugaji Hifadhi program achieved these results thanks to support from MMWCA, who trained conservation agents in data collection and disease surveillance. Grateful acknowledgment also goes to the Narok County Government's Department of Livestock and Fisheries for their **veterinary support** and **30,000 Bluvax doses**.



Veteranarians and community members on a vaccination exercise
© Felixie Kip'

Animal health training

Misuse of veterinary medicines by local livestock owners poses significant risks to human, animal, and environmental health. To mitigate these risks, five stakeholder training workshops involving 404 farmers drawn from 10 community clusters within the Masai Mara ecosystem were implemented. Targeting livestock owners on proper drug usage, appropriate dosage, and withdrawal periods and facilitating linkages between farmers and qualified veterinary service providers to ensure access to expert guidance and supervision on proper medication, drug administration, and prudent animal health management.

When animals are treated with care and given proper living conditions, their productivity is enhanced to the level of their potential; **Better growth, higher reproduction rates, and improved disease resistance**. This promotes sustainable practices that benefit the environment and livelihoods of farmers and contribute to poverty reduction by enhancing food security, improving household income, and supporting sustainable livelihoods.



Dr. Ezra saitoti educating farmers on proper use of livestock drugs

404 farmers drawn from **10** community clusters trained within the Masai Mara Ecosystem

Animal health training

Recognizing the widespread challenge of financial mismanagement, KWT organized a targeted financial literacy training for 25 participants from two groups of our 80 identified registered groups (20 women and 5 men), with a focus on empowering women and youth. This hands-on course addressed critical financial skills, aiming to break cycles of poor financial habits and enable participants to build sustainable income streams for improved livelihoods.





CPA Barrack educating participants on the importance of budgeting.

The training filled a crucial gap in community financial knowledge, where many lacked the skills for effective wealth building and debt avoidance. The training impact was significant. A remarkable 92% of participants passed a basic financial literacy test, clearly demonstrating the training's effectiveness in imparting practical knowledge. This high success rate underscores the training ability to translate complex financial concepts into easily understandable and applicable skills.

Furthermore, overwhelmingly positive feedback highlighted the relevance and clarity of the training content, with participants emphasizing its practical application to their daily lives. The training not only equipped individuals with essential financial skills but also fostered a sense of empowerment, enabling them to take control of their financial futures and build a foundation for long-term economic stability.

Pasture management

Over the past year, 14 pasture management training sessions were held, surpassing the target of 10 training sessions across four conservancies: Lemek, Mara North, Olare Motorogi, and Nashulai. A total of 369 individuals participated, representing a diverse group including community leaders, farmers, and members of grazing committees. This broad participation was crucial for effective knowledge sharing within the communities.





Olare motorogi conservancy manager taking grazing committee members on importance of rotational grazing management for landscape health.

The training significantly boosted participants' understanding of advanced pasture management, climate adaptation, and soil/water health by 70%, empowering them to a**dopt sustainable land use practices** and enabling communities to **better adapt to the challenges of climate change.** A strong WhatsApp network was established, connecting farmers, veterinarians, and other stakeholders for ongoing support. All participants committed to creating personalized pasture management plans and recognized the dual importance of grass for livestock and tourism.

According to a survey conducted to assess how effectively the training has enhanced participants' knowledge in applying the learned techniques in their day-to-day work, the majority (96.55%) of respondents reported noticing improvements after pasture management training, while only a small minority (3.45%) did not. This suggests that the training was effective in helping participants improve their pasture management practices.

369 individuals
trained in pasture management with **96.55%** noticing improvements after.



Vaccinated cows leave a crush at one of the clusters
© Felixie Kip

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.**

500
Acres of land rehabilitated

10,000
Tree seedlings planted
Acacia xanthophlea and Croton megalorcapus

Conservation Leadership Programme

Empowering Youth for a Sustainable Future

The Conservation Leadership Program remains committed to **nurturing the next generation of conservation leaders** by empowering youth in pursuit of quality education for ecological conservation.

Looking at the year 2024, it has been an incredibly successful one for the program, marked by inspiring achievements, new milestones, and the continued growth of our beneficiaries. From leadership workshops to academic excellence, practical conservation initiatives, experiences, and meaningful partnerships, our program continues to profoundly impact the lives of Kenyan youth committed to conservation.

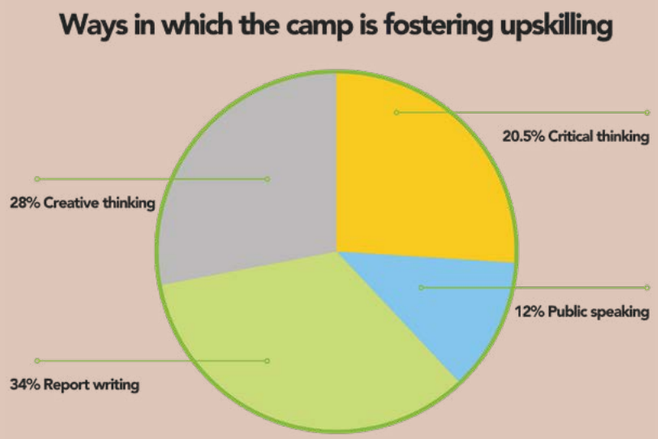
Mentorship and Leadership Workshop

In May, we once again hosted a successful Mentorship and Leadership Workshop, designed to enhance our beneficiaries' leadership **capabilities**, **academic focus**, and **practical conservation efforts**. The workshop, which continues to be a cornerstone of our program, providing:

Leadership and Mentorship Development

The workshop aimed to upskill participants in leadership, advocacy, and community engagement. It provided mentorship from established conservation leaders who shared their experiences and advice with our youth.

The participants gave their reviews as seen on the graph below, sighting ways in which the camp has fostered the individual uptake of soft skills.

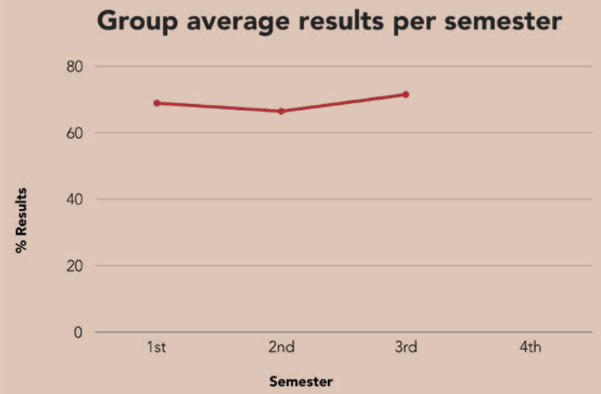


Academic Focus

A critical component of the workshop was dedicated to improving study habits. Participants engaged in hands-on exercises to develop more effective study routines and time-management skills, which have had a significant impact on their academic performance as seen below.

Based on these results, we anticipate even greater improvement in their final semester.


© 2024 Felixie Kipng'etich



Group average results per semester (N=18)

WE HAVE SUPPORTED SIX BENEFICIARIES FROM CORE WILDLIFE REGIONS THROUGH KWT'S CLP SCHOLARSHIP.

MENTORSHIP PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS CONDUCTED BY KWT ARE CULTIVATING A GENERATION OF DEDICATED CONSERVATION LEADERS WHO WILL CHAMPION SUSTAINABLE PRACTICES IN PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

MARIETTA KERU, MANAGER, GREAT PLAINS FOUNDATION

Practical Conservation through Green Project Development

One of the standout initiatives was the beneficiary-led green project. The project focusing on land rehabilitation and buffalo restoration efforts within the school, particularly through advocacy and reforestation, has made a significant impact over two years.

It has not only allowed students to apply theoretical knowledge from their wildlife and environmental courses to real-world action, enhancing both their academic understanding and practical skills.



James Lalampaa–Samburu
CLP Beneficiary

" I HAVE SEEN FROM WORKING ON THE GREEN PROJECTS JUST HOW BENEFICIAL EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING IS.

I CAME TO REALIZE MY STRENGTHS AND SHARPEN MY SKILLS THROUGH IT, NOT TO MENTION THE CONFIDENCE BOOST IT PROVIDED."

Impact on Leadership

The leadership workshop also led to the election of four beneficiaries in October into the **Student Leadership Council**, a significant milestone for both their personal growth and the broader community.

This further demonstrates the integration of leadership development into our conservation efforts.



In frame are: *Jonah Lelanga (in sneakers) from Samburu as treasurer, Christopher Saruni (on the far left, in blue blazer) from Amboseli as gender representative, James Lalampa (next to Christopher) from Samburu as wildlife management representative and Isaiah Parmuya (in white blazer) from Amboseli as resident representative are collaborating with other members of the student council and WRTI faculty working to impact their school community positively.*

Achievements in Conservation and Academic Excellence

Our beneficiaries continue to excel in their academic and conservation efforts, demonstrating the effectiveness of a holistic, hands-on approach to learning.

Rehabilitation and Buffalo Restoration

The green project centered on the rehabilitation of land for buffalo restoration remains a pivotal achievement. The project has been a model of practical conservation in action.

Not only has it **contributed to ecological restoration** within the school, but it has also allowed students to directly apply the principles learned in their wildlife and environmental courses to tangible conservation outcomes.





CLP beneficiaries making a presentation of their green project to our partners from I&M Foundation, James Gatere & Naomi Cheres.

I AM TRULY IMPRESSED BY THE DEDICATION OF THE STUDENTS INVOLVED IN THIS GREEN PROJECT. THEY ARE ALWAYS EAGER TO LEND A HELPING HAND WHENEVER THERE ARE SCHOOL EVENTS RELATED TO PLANTING TREES OR ANY CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES. I KNOW I CAN ALWAYS RELY ON THEM, AND THE SCHOOL IS FULLY SUPPORTIVE OF THEIR REQUESTS, WHETHER IT'S FOR MORE TREE SEEDLINGS OR ADDITIONAL LAND TO TRANSFER THEM.

WHAT'S EVEN MORE INSPIRING IS HOW THEY ARE MOTIVATING THEIR COURSEMATES TO GET INVOLVED. THIS INITIATIVE IS ESPECIALLY COMMENDABLE FOR STUDENTS STUDYING CONSERVATION COURSES – IT'S A WONDERFUL WAY TO BRING THEIR STUDIES TO LIFE.

EVA MALEL – WILDLIFE RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE (WRTI) SCHOOL REGISTRAR & LECTURER



Eva Malel receives a gift from one of the CLP beneficiaries. © Felixie Kip

National Achievement in Biodiversity Conservation

We are immensely proud of Christopher Saruni, a beneficiary who recently competed in a national competition on **Indigenous Knowledge for Biodiversity Conservation** in the Amboseli Biosphere.

His dedication to preserving the indigenous knowledge and practices that promote biodiversity conservation has earned him a prestigious award in November from UNESCO. Chris's achievement is a testament to the power of blending traditional wisdom with modern conservation strategies.







Christopher Saruni

A Journey of Inspiration

In December, we celebrated the graduation of Felix Kereto, who earned his Diploma in Wildlife Management from the Wildlife Research Training Institute. Felix's journey began when he first joined the wildlife clubs in Masai Mara under our flagship program, Mara Predator Conservation Programme, where his passion for conservation was ignited. Over the years, Felix has demonstrated incredible **dedication**, **hard work**, and **perseverance**. His graduation is a proud moment for our program, as it reflects the impact of our scholarship initiative on nurturing long-term conservation leaders.

We continue to cheer on Felix and remain inspired by his progress as he embarks on his professional journey in the field of wildlife management. We believe his success story will continue to inspire future generations of conservationists.



Felix Kereto–Maasai Mara
Diploma in Wildlife Management –WRTI

"I CAN'T BELIEVE I'M WORKING AT ASILIA. THE SAME PEOPLE WHO BELIEVED IN ME AND SPONSORED MY EDUCATION THROUGH ONE OF THEIR VISITORS HAVE NOW GIVEN ME A CHANCE TO WORK THERE WHEN I GRADUATED. IT'S ONLY UPWARDS AND ONWARDS FROM HERE. I'M FOREVER GRATEFUL TO KWT."



Scholarship Award and New Beneficiaries

In April, we were pleased to expand our program by awarding scholarships to three new beneficiaries who joined our growing family of conservation leaders. These new additions bring fresh energy, perspectives, and commitment to the program, and we look forward to supporting them on their academic and conservation journeys.





Gloria Kosgey, KWT's Project Assistant, awarding scholarship acceptance letters (left) New CLP beneficiaries at the Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) (right)

Meet and Greet

In November, we also hosted a Donor–Beneficiary Meet and Greet, an event designed to foster closer relationships between our donors and beneficiaries. This event provided an invaluable opportunity for one-on-one interactions, allowing donors to hear directly from beneficiaries about their **experiences**, **progress**, and **future aspirations**. It was also a chance for beneficiaries to express their gratitude, share their challenges, and build stronger partnerships.



The event highlighted the importance of collaboration in achieving the program's long-term goals and helped further strengthen the sense of community.

As we move into the next year, we are excited to continue supporting our beneficiaries in their academic, leadership, and conservation journeys. We remain deeply grateful to **Great Plains Foundation**, **I&M Foundation**, and individual donors and partners, whose unwavering support makes these achievements possible. Together, we are shaping the next generation of conservation leaders who will drive positive change in the world.

We look forward to partnerships and sharing more successes in 2025.

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.

Protect the Pride

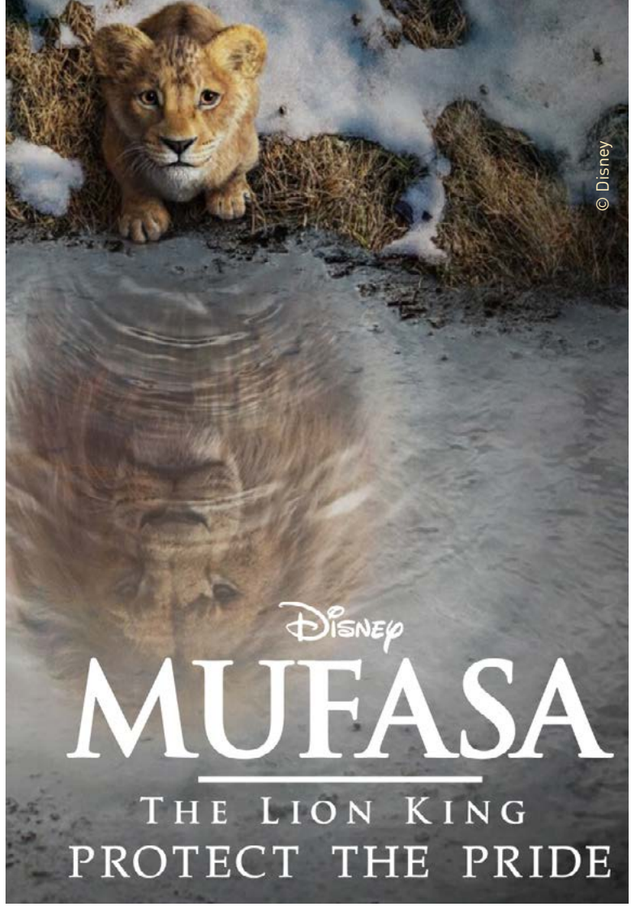
Lion Recovery Fund (LRF)

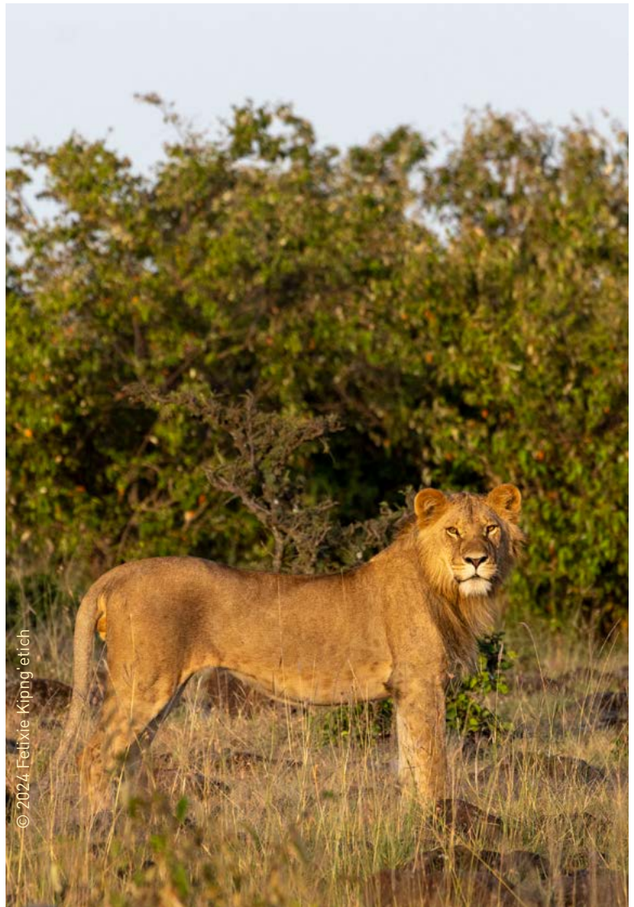
We are proud to celebrate a milestone in lion conservation, inspired by Disney's '***Mufasa: The Lion King***,' directed by Barry Jenkins and released in December 2024. This film, which explores the origins of '***Mufasa***,' has reignited global interest in lion conservation, reflecting on the legacy of Disney's original '***The Lion King***'.

Thanks to the **Disney Conservation Fund**, established with proceeds from The Lion King, and **Wildlife Conservation Network (WCN)** through the **Lion Recovery Fund (LRF)**, KWT's Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) has received funding for predator research and community outreach in the Greater Mara. Our efforts align with the ***Declaration to Recover Lions***, a framework established at the 2019 Lion Footprint Forum, where leading conservation experts, including KWT's Strategic Advisor, Dr. Irene Amoke, were in attendance. The declaration is guided by three pillars: ***Stop the Loss, Reduce the Cost, and Unlock the Value***.

LRF has amplified our impact, enabling us to improve lion monitoring, strengthen partnerships with other stakeholders, and engage communities in conservation through our Lion Ambassadors. As 'Mufasa' takes audiences on a visual narrative, we are reminded of the power of storytelling to inspire action. Disney and WCN's "***Protect the Pride***" campaign encourages global audiences to support lion conservation and the communities that share their landscapes.

As you watch 'Mufasa: The Lion King,' you're not only enjoying a cinematic masterpiece but also contributing to the protection of lions in the wild.





Travel Efficiency

AirKenya Express

This year, we announced a new partnership with AirKenya Express, East Africa's premier safari airline. Airkenya Express now donates annual round-trip flight tickets to the Mara, an ecosystem where our predator conservation efforts are focused.

This support will improve the efficiency of our Mara Predator Conservation Programme and the operations of Tony Lapham Predator Hub. Through this facilitation, Airkenya is helping to conserve apex predators that are the foundation of the tourism industry in East Africa. The streamlined access ensures that our teams can respond more effectively to the dynamic challenges of predator conservation and ecosystem management.



'Conservation Range' at Nairobi Design & the Ecowarrior Awards

Kericho Gold

The Kericho Gold **Conservation Range** continues to support KWT by contributing a percentage of its proceeds, and it highlights our shared commitment to protecting Kenya's biodiversity and promoting sustainable practices.

In 2024, Kericho Gold further strengthened its collaboration with KWT through two events: the **Ecowarrior Awards Gala** and **Nairobi Design Week**. Earlier in the year, Kericho Gold partnered with KWT at the 2024 edition of Nairobi Design Week, where attendees sampled and purchased black, decaf, and green tea varieties.



© 2024 Ecotourism Kenya

Principal Secretary, Ministry of Tourism & Wildlife - State Department for Tourism, and Ms. June Chepkemei, CEO, Kenya Tourism Board, stressed the importance of **collective action in driving sustainable tourism and wildlife conservation**.

We extend our congratulations to all the winners for their contributions to sustainable tourism and best practices. A special acknowledgment goes to some of our partners, Asilia Africa and Governors' Camp Collection, whose dedication to conservation continues to inspire and drive positive change.



© 2024 Ecotourism Kenya

Beyond enjoying the premium teas, visitors had the opportunity to learn more about KWT's work in predator conservation, which is partially funded by proceeds from the Range.

At the 2024 Ecowarrior Awards Gala Ceremony, held on October 17th at Emara Ole-Sereni in Nairobi, we were honored to share gift hampers containing the teas with attendees. The event celebrated individuals and organizations championing sustainable tourism and conservation initiatives aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Guests, including Hon. John Ololtuaa,





Collaring of Kayioni at Ripoi Conservancy © Matthew Williams'

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Transboundary Multi-species functional connectivity

The transboundary conservation workshop held in Mt. Meru Hotel in Arusha on 7th & 8th of August brought together over 100 experts, government representatives, and conservation practitioners from Kenya and Tanzania, including Michael Kaelo representing KWT, to discuss strategies for sustaining wildlife movement across shared landscapes. The meeting focused on the **Southern Kenya Northern Tanzania (SOKNOT) conservation area**, aimed to enhance connectivity planning, species monitoring, and corridor governance between Southern Kenya and Northern Tanzania.



Workshop participants pose for a photo © WWF

Key discussions covered species-specific corridor needs, structural and functional connectivity metrics, and collaborative management approaches. Seven focal species, including elephants, lions, and wildebeests, were identified for targeted conservation efforts. The workshop emphasized data-sharing, legal frameworks, and community engagement as critical next steps to ensure effective and sustainable transboundary conservation by 2030.

National Wildlife Census Launch 2024

The Kenya Wildlife Trust was honored to participate in the launch of the 2024 wildlife census in Narok in June, attended by the Cabinet Secretary for Tourism and Wildlife, the Narok County Governor, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) and Wildlife Research and Training Institute (WRTI) Directors, and other dignitaries.

This census follows the 2021 count and is conducted every three years to align with the ecological cycles of births and mortality. It supports evidence-based decision-making, as outlined in Pillar 3 of the **National Wildlife Strategy 2030**, and aids in managing and enhancing tourism. The census is mandated by the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act of 2013. Methods include aerial and ground surveys, with WRTI teams participating in MPCP's annual intensive monitoring of lions and cheetahs in the latter half of the year.

Data from this monitoring will be integrated into the national census results. During the recently concluded Intensive Predator Monitoring, we were pleased to have had personnel from WRTI and WWF participate.



KWS aerial survey planes at Narok Airstrip © Kasaine Sankan

Cowtribe Launch in Kenya

The launch of Cowtribe Kenya on 31st July 2024 in Kisumu County marked a significant step in leveraging technology to improve livestock healthcare. Organized by Cowtribe in collaboration with key stakeholders, the event brought together government representatives, veterinary service providers, and farmers to discuss innovative vaccine delivery solutions.

With the support of partners like Zipline, Cowtribe aims to enhance vaccination accessibility through drone deliveries and digital platforms such as Zoolia Go. Key discussions emphasized the role of technology, partnerships, and awareness in strengthening animal health services. However, logistical challenges, particularly flight path restrictions in the Mara Ecosystem, were noted, requiring further collaboration for viable solutions. KWT was represented by Michael Kaelo and James Parmuat and reaffirmed its commitment to working with Cowtribe and similar organizations to **enhance livestock health** and **improve livelihoods** across its areas of operation.

Carnivore Conference 2024

In October, the Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS) hosted its **14th Carnivore Conference** at its headquarters in Nairobi. The conference brought together a diverse group of stakeholders dedicated to the conservation of Kenya's carnivores. The two-day conference, held under the theme "***Carnivore Conservation in Changing Landscapes***," focused on addressing the challenges facing carnivores amidst rapidly changing environmental conditions.

The Kenya Wildlife Trust (KWT) team members, Michael Kaelo, Niels Mogensen, Brian Schuh, and Kasaine Sankan, participated in the conference, which proved to be a highly productive engagement. Brian Schuh presented part of his Ph.D. findings on cheetah coexistence with livestock in the Mara, while Niels Mogensen shared preliminary results from his Ph.D. work on the impact of tourism facilities on lion densities. Kasaine Sankan presented on the use of technology, specifically EarthRanger, in collaboration with local communities to mitigate human-predator conflict in the Maasai Mara.

> **"Participating in the UltraMARAthon is one of the most exciting ways I get to contribute to the conservation of the incredible wildlife and stunning natural landscapes of the Maasai Mara. Beyond raising essential funds for wildlife and community initiatives, it's a unique opportunity for personal growth and for fostering meaningful conversations among community members who share a passion for conservation.**
>
> **By running with MPCP's team this year, I hope to expand the impact I can make to help protect big cats, the species I am most passionate about and which are so iconic in the Maasai Mara"**
>
> **Dr. Brian Schuh**



Capacity Building and Infrastructure

TEAM UPDATES

This year, our dedicated team has advanced predator conservation efforts and invested in capacity-building initiatives equipping them with skills and tools to drive conservation impact. Through workshops and cross-team knowledge sharing, we strengthened field expertise, individual and research capacities. With its upgraded infrastructure, the Tony Lapham Predator Hub positions KWT at the forefront of predator conservation, scaling proven strategies while pioneering new technologies.

Conservation Tech: KWT at the 2024 EarthRanger Workshop

EarthRanger, a cutting-edge technology conservation platform supporting over 550 sites in 75 countries. In September 2024, Earth Ranger hosted a four-day workshop in Kilifi, bringing together over 100 participants. The event focused on **addressing user challenges, fostering collaboration,** and **sharing experiences** across organizations.

Attendees received training on EarthRanger's products to enhance their skills. Kenya Wildlife Trust (KWT) participated in showcasing its work and leveraging the platform to address challenges related to EarthRanger's daily use in conservation activities with the lion ambassadors. The event also provided KWT with valuable exposure, leading to key partnerships, including one with Smithsonian University, which focused on wildlife disease identification and mitigation.

Conservation Education Curriculum Workshop

In September 2024, MPCP's Community Outreach Officer, Dominic Sakat, joined other stakeholders across the country for a two-day workshop in Nakuru organized by Wildlife Clubs of Kenya. Learnings from the workshop highlighted the importance of **integrating practical, community-based approaches** into conservation education.

MPCP's long-term engagement in the Mara has demonstrated the effectiveness of **equipping children to participate actively in conservation efforts**. The workshop highlighted the need for curriculum flexibility to address regionally specific challenges, reinforcing MPCP's strategy of tailoring its programs to the unique needs of the Greater Mara ecosystem. The collaborative environment also facilitated a shared understanding of the role educators play in shaping future conservation leaders. The exchange of best practices and the identification of common thematic areas will directly inform MPCP's ongoing work with its network of Wildlife Clubs, ensuring continued relevance and impact.

Tony Lapham Predator Hub Infrastructure upgrade

The first phase of our Mara Predator Conservation Programme (MPCP) staff accommodation construction, which commenced in 2023, was completed in May 2024. This new facility represents a major upgrade from the previous housing, featuring more spacious rooms designed to provide a comfortable and homely environment for MPCP staff.

However, expanding power supply to new staff houses at the Tony Lapham Predator Hub led to an unexpected power shortage, posing challenges for our operations. To address this issue, MPCP, with support of the BAND Foundation, acquired and installed a 565W solar panel and charge controller. This addition has maintained the power grid, ensuring a reliable and sustainable energy source for the hub's operations. In addition to the energy upgrades, a modern biodigester was constructed to improve waste management.

R and Geographic Information System (GIS) Training

In September 2024, Kenya Wildlife Trust staff members Kasaine Sankan and Calvin Naurori attended a specialized workshop at the Wildlife Tourism College (WTC) in the Pardamat Conservation Area (PCA), Maasai Mara. This comprehensive training was designed to **enhance participants' skills in conducting geospatial work using R**, introducing fundamental concepts for wildlife population monitoring, and providing practical experience in **analyzing** and **mapping data** from field surveys.

The course combined short lectures with practical activities, teaching distance sampling methods, GIS, and data analysis in R. Participants gained in-depth knowledge in R programming, error troubleshooting, database manipulation, spatial data import, raster and vector analysis, and basic statistical modeling. Participants also learned to create data visualizations and predictive maps. This training was funded by a NASA grant and supported by the Smithsonian Institute, the workshop was led by instructors Jared Stabach, Grant Connette, Qiongyu Huang, and Lacey Hughey, who ensured a comprehensive and impactful learning experience



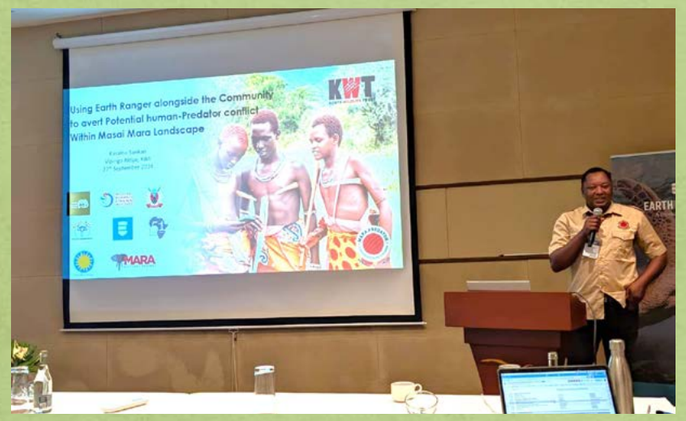
Vaccinators administering rabies vaccine at the CowTribe launch in Kisumu.



Conservationists at the Earth Ranger Workshop at Kilifi.



Niels Mogensen and Brian Schuh with other runners at this year's UltraMARAthon.



Kasaine Sankan doing a presentation at Earth Ranger Workshop.





Participants during a presentation by Wildlife Clubs of Kenya at the Conservation Education curriculum workshop.



Additional solar to boost power supply at the Hub.



Newly installed biodigester at the Tony Lapham Predator Hub.



Cattle tag deployment at Enarau Conservancy.



Participants of the Smithsonia R and GIS workshop at Wildlife Tourism College (WTC) of Maasai Mara.



Kasaine Sankan giving a presentation at the Carnivore Conference in Nairobi.



WWF-Kenya team, led by Dr. Lesilau, Lion Programme Coordinator (third right) with the KWT team during the 2024 Intensive Monitoring Session.

2024 WATCHLIST



Protect the Pride
Disney/Wildlife Conservation Network
30th December 2024

Hear directly from the conservationists and community members living with lions, working together to create solutions that help both lions and people thrive across Africa.



Lion conservation: The collaring of 'Kito'
Felix Rome/Governors' Camp Collection
27th March 2024

Through our 'Collars for Conservation' initiative, we successfully collared Kito, a female member of the Marsh Pride. Thanks to the collaboration and the support of Governors' Camp Collection, Kito's real-time movements is now monitored by the Musiara section warden.



The Last Cheetah
Beyond Africa Films (Daniel Clarkson)
23rd August 2024

In the last century, cheetah population has collapsed by over 90%, and the Masai Mara in Kenya is one of the cheetahs' last remaining strongholds.



Collaring of Kayioni
Matthew Williams Ellis
17th September 2024

We successfully deployed a GPS collar on a male cheetah named Kayioni, with help from the dedicated rangers of Mara Ripoi Conservancy and Kenya Wildlife Service and Sheldrick Trust.

Our work was featured in several productions in 2024, if you're interested in collaborating, please get in touch to discuss your proposal.

SCAN ME

KWT TEAM

KWT - KENYA BOARD

Arnolda Shiundu, Chairperson
Moses Kamau, Vice Chairperson
Allan Earnshaw, Chairperson Emeritus
Andreas Fox
Dickson Kaelo
Winnie Wambugu
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KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST UK

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Helen Cullen, Secretary
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Libby Prins

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Dr. Irene Amoke, Advisor – Fundraising and Partnerships
Dr. Craig Packer, Research Advisor
Helen Gibbons, Strategic Consultant

NAIROBI TEAM

Gloria Achieng, Ag. Executive Director
Felixie Kipng'etich, Communications Officer
Gloria Kosgey, Project Assistant

MPCP TEAM

Michael Kaelo, Programme Manager-Mara
Niels Mogensen, Senior Programme Scientist
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
Luke Toroitich, Data Analyst
Billy Kaitet, Monitoring Assistant
Calvin Naurori, Research Assistant
Joshua Soit, Chef & Hub Caretaker

*Thanks to **Dr. Elizabeth Pantoren** for her work as the Executive Director of KWT, and to **Michael Wamithi** for his leadership as the Chairperson of the board.*

*It was our pleasure to announce **Arnolda Shiundu** as the chairperson of the Board of Trustees and **Moses Kamau** as the vice chairperson in November. We look forward to their continued support in this new capacity.*

© Kasaine Sankan

HOW TO SUPPORT KWT

Online donations

You can make an secure online donation on our website

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 – Click here.

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.

OUR INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERS AND SUPPORTERS IN 2024

STRATEGIC DONOR PARTNERS

STRATEGIC WORKING PARTNERS



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KENYA WILDLIFE TRUST

KenyaWildlifeTrust @kenyawildlifetrust @KenyaWildTrust

info@kenyawildlifetrust.org www.kenyawildlifetrust.org