



About KWCA

Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) is a landowner-led national membership organization representing community and private conservancies in Kenya. KWCA works with conservancy landowners and regional associations to create an enabling environment for conservancies to deliver environmental and livelihood benefits. KWCA was registered in April 2013 following one year of consultation with over 600 conservancy representatives in regional meetings across the country and a national consultative meeting.

Our mission is to be the forum where landowners have a unified voice, share experiences and actively participate in protecting and benefiting from wildlife. KWCA works towards a future where wildlife and communities benefit from a network of functional conservancies that complement state protected areas.

Our Members

KWCA members include 140 community and private conservancies in 20 Counties covering over 15 million acres and support millions of people. We work through 12 regional associations and partner with KWS and civil society to reverse worrying trends in wildlife declines, habitat loss and the poaching menace. We are joined by civil society organizations, relevant state organizations and other supporters in the long but enriching journey to make a difference.

Our wildlife Heritage

In the last decades, Kenya has lost more than half of its wildlife. Experts warn that wildlife extinction outside formal protected areas is now a reality. Unless action is taken, poaching, loss of space and changing climate will ensure few wildlife occur only in parks and reserves. With only 8% of the land under formal protection, and private and community lands being fenced, cultivated and settled, our wildlife heritage will be lost forever.

Wildlife based tourism earns Kenya billions of foreign exchange and is a source of income and jobs. Without a healthy wildlife population, tourism is bound to collapse and our communities will sink deeper into poverty. Kenyans must take action!!!

Our people

Landowners and communities hosting wildlife on their land derive little or no benefits from wildlife tourism. The burgeoning cost of hosting the wildlife is a burden and wildlife often seen as a nuisance to be fenced off, killed or merely tolerated. Threat to life, property loss and the high cost of living with wildlife weighs heavily on people living adjacent protected areas. Those that voluntarily adopt wildlife conservation receive little government support and solely absorb conservation costs. Although tourism generates huge income, low indicators of human well-being characterize communities residing in wildlife areas.

Conservancies in Kenya

Conservancies represent Kenya's best chance to diversify and expand her tourism industry. A secure wildlife population coupled with the diverse landscape and cultural heritage in conservancies represent a yet to be exploited opportunity. Since their inception in the mid-1990s, Conservancies demonstrate that the lives of communities, their land and wildlife can be enhanced. Conservancies secure space for wildlife, create diverse tourism destinations and provide development needs of the rural communities.

Where conservancies are established, security is restored, poaching is minimized, land is better managed, social cohesion is enhanced and opportunities for livelihood diversification are created. Further, conservancies serve other multiple local, national and international benefits beyond tourism which include; enhancing local governance, improving land management, livestock development, marketing channels, and opportunities to provide support to community projects that improve living standards.

Conservancies in Kenya have grown from a few isolated projects in the 1990s to key sustainable tourism destinations today. Conservancies cover approximately 4.1% of land outside state protected areas in Kenya. Although the reasons for establishment vary and their structures are diverse, conservancies represent voluntary decisions by landowners to take action.

KWCA Priorities

- To create an enabling environment for landowners participation in wildlife governance in Kenya
- To work with like-minded partners to create a network of functional conservancies across key biodiversity areas
- To provide a unified voice and facilitate harmonized standards of best practices among private and community conservancies
- To provide a platform for sharing information, ideas and experiences
- To lobby for incentives for persons practicing wildlife conservation as a land use option

Operational Approach

KWCA is managed by a 12 member board nominated through an election process from 8 conservation regions of Kenya. The board works with an advisory team of Kenya's leading conservation organization and partners with KWS. The operations of the organization are managed by a secretariat based in Nairobi. KWCA deliver its programs through regional associations in all the 8 conservation areas in Kenya.

Income sources to Conservancies

Key sources of income from ecotourism includes;

- Conservation fees levied to visiting tourist
- Bed night fees on guests staying in community or private Eco-lodges
- Concession fees for establishment private investors eco-lodges
- Fees on hiking, riding, nature walks, bird shooting activities
- Entry fees to cultural villages, homestays and cultural activities such as traditional dances and participation in community events
- Airstrip fees
- Income from sale of community produced goods and services

Table 1. Number of conservancies in Kenya

Conservation Area	Conservancies	Regional Association
Coast	9	North Coast Conservation Lamu Conservation Trust
Central Rift	26	Central Lakes Wildlife Conservancies Association Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association
Eastern	7	Northern Rangelands Trust Laikipia Wildlife Forum
Mountain	20	
Northern	4	
Southern	32	Amboseli Ecosystem Trust Southern Rangelands Association of Landowners AthiKapiti Wildlife Conservancies Association
Tsavo	25	TaitaTaveta Wildlife Conservancies Association Tsavo Trust
Western	17	Proposed Western Wildlife Conservancies Association
Total	140	

Membership Categories

1. **Member** – Private and Community Conservancies
2. **Affiliate Member** - Wildlife conservation NGO's, private sector, investors, donor agencies and institutions that interface with wildlife conservation

Join Us and help make a difference

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