

# KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCIES ASSOCIATION

## Community and private Conservancies in Kenya



### What is a Conservancy?

**KWCA definition:** Private or community land registered and managed for purposes of sustainable wildlife conservation and compatible land uses for better livelihoods.

Conservancies fall under IUCN category vi, defined as “ natural areas that conserve ecosystems and habitats, together with associated cultural values and traditional natural resource management systems, where low-level non-industrial use of natural resources compatible with nature conservation is seen as one of the main aims of the area.

### Importance of Conservancies

Only 8% of Kenya’s land mass is protected in parks or reserves. Much of Kenya’s wildlife and critical habitat occurs on private or community land, management practices on these areas, particularly around protected areas determine the viability of Kenya’s conservation effort. More recently, poaching, conflict with people, modification or loss of habitat threatens wildlife populations in the country. At risk are 25% of Kenya’s GDP, 10% formal employment and livelihoods of millions of people dependent on goods and services provided by the environment.

### Conservancy’s benefits;

- Securing space and protect wildlife routes
- Complement Parks and Reserves in maintaining ecosystem functions
- Are valuable tourist destinations offering high value low volume diversification opportunities
- Improved pasture management leading to better livestock products
- Enhance security for people, their livestock and wildlife
- Absorb Carbon and build adaptation to climate change
- Create jobs and diversify income opportunities

### Status of Conservancies in Kenya

- 140 Private and Community Conservancies
- Conserving 15 million acres of land
- Located in 19 Counties

Legal recognition of conservancies, harmonization of standards and provision of incentives is vital for conservation of wildlife on private and community land in Kenya.

***“Plans to protect wilderness and wildlife are in fact plans to protect Man”. Stewart Udall***



KWCA is a national membership non-governmental Organization established out of need by key stakeholders in the wildlife sector for national convergence, streamlined coordination and a demand for an independent community-led national conservation constituency.

### KWCA strategic Goals

1. Conservancies are legally recognized and mainstreamed into national development and conservation plans and programs
2. An enabling policy and regulatory environment exists to support growth of the conservancies movement
3. The local capacity of landowners and communities is built for effective management and delivery of social and environmental outcomes
4. Area under conservation is expanded to include key biodiversity hotspots, migratory routes and dispersal areas
5. National coordination, harmonization and sharing of best practices for long term success

### KWCA Regional Associations;

KWCA draws its membership from private and community conservancies, organizations that interface with wildlife conservation are affiliate members. KWCA delivers its programs through 8 regional associations;

1. North Coast Conservation
2. Lamu Conservation Trust
3. Taita Taveta Wildlife Association
4. Amboseli Ecosystem Trust
5. Southern Rangeland Landowners Association
6. Northern Rangelands Trust
7. Laikipia Wildlife Forum
8. Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association