



2024 Annual Report

A message from our CEO

Dickson Kaelo
Chief Executive Officer



2024 has been a year of deep reflection and renewed purpose for me and KWCA. I was honoured to be selected for the Henry Arnhold Fellowship by the Mulago Foundation, a transformative experience that allowed me to step back and truly think about our work: **restoring biodiversity beyond state-protected areas.**

During the fellowship, I had time to reflect on what makes our work in Kenya so special. In recent years, we’ve seen more and more partners from around the world visit Kenya to learn from our community-led conservation efforts. Our model is unique and it works. Seeing the growing interest has made me appreciate just how far the conservancy network has come, and how much potential we have to scale our approach across the continent.

In 2024, we finalised our 2030 Strategic Plan our bold roadmap to build effective and resilient conservancies aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. At the centre of this plan is a clear goal: to mobilize the financial resources conservancies need to strengthen their governance, improve management, and become investment-ready. Sustainability means being able to attract long-term support, especially from the private sector.

To help drive this forward, we’ve established the Kenya Conservancies Fund, a dedicated grant facility to offer financial and technical assistance to conservancies. It’s a major step in building capacity on the ground and ensuring that conservancies have the tools they need to thrive.

Through our MOU with the Council of Governors, signed this year, we are hoping to advance our policy work by working closely with county governments to implement the Community Land Act of 2016. Supporting communities to register their land is critical it’s the key that unlocks their ability to benefit from natural resource management. We’re also collaborating with counties to explore financing mechanisms that will support biodiversity conservation and community development on community and private lands.

We are grateful to all our partners, members, and friends of KWCA for walking this journey with us. We are excited about the road ahead.



Copyright © 2024 KWCA Kenya. All rights reserved.
Writing, editing and design team:
Joyce Mbatu & Michael Lusaba
Cover Photo: © Ole Bernt Froshaug

Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association
Magadi Tenting Centre
Seminary Road, off Magadi Road
P.O. Box 1038-00517, Nairobi, Kenya

www.kwcaKenya.com
info@kwcaKenya.com
+254 708 418 522



KWCA in 2024 Our Key Achievements

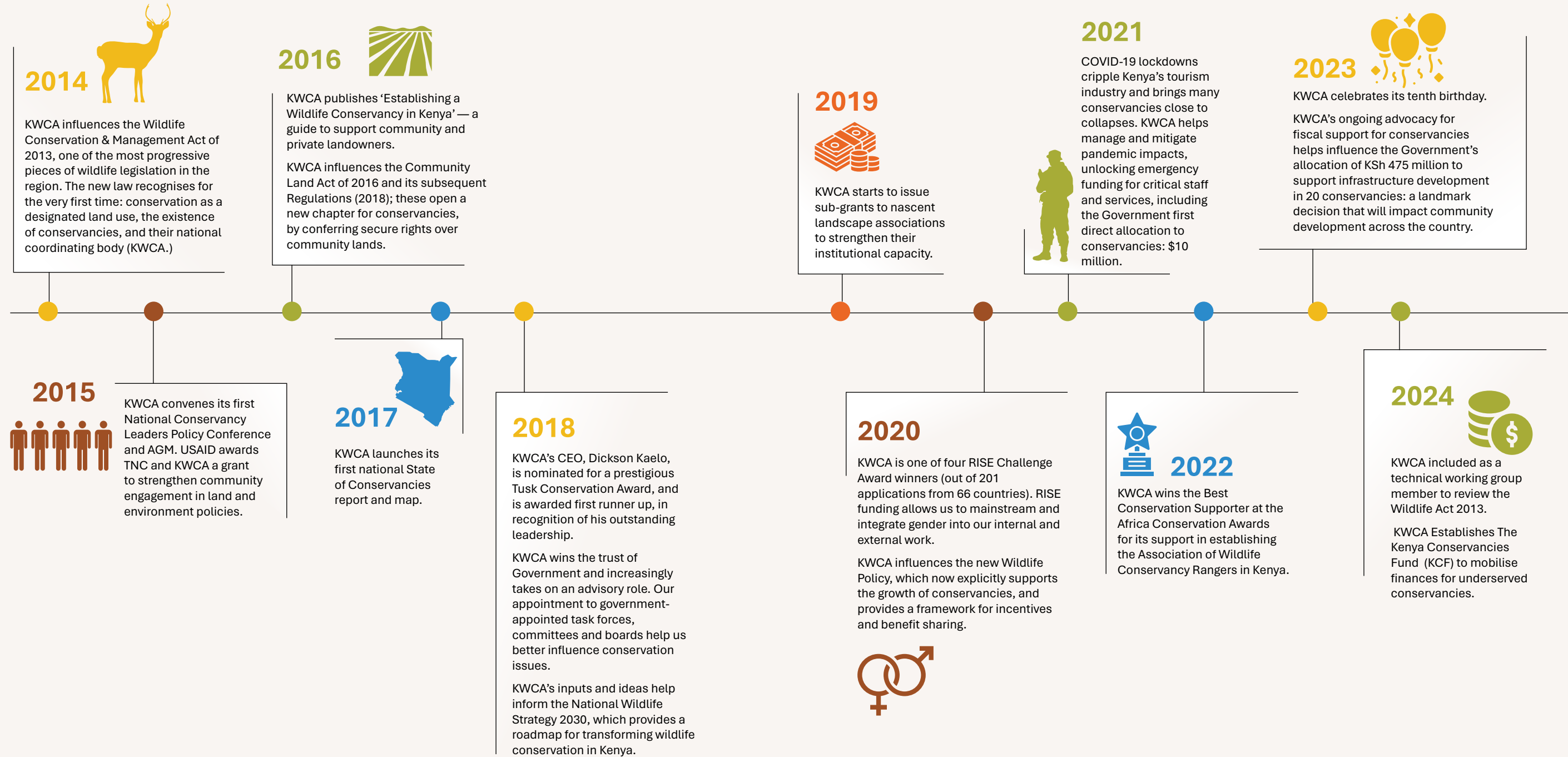
215 Conservancy members	\$ 2.9+ million grants received
10.3 + M Hectares of Land	4 New funding partners
	9 Projects implemented

Celebrating KWCA

Our 11 years of Impact

KWCA was formally registered in 2013 as the platform to represent the interests and desires of communities and private landowners engaged in wildlife conservation and management outside the state protected areas. The association was tasked with the role of creating an enabling policy and legislative environment for conservancies and bridge the gap between policy and practice; engage the communities more fully and help expand the conservancy model across the country.

Overtime, KWCA has proven that strong collaborations and partnerships, meaningful community engagement, working alongside key decision makers, and strategic national and landscape convenings have the power to make real and lasting change for wildlife communities. It has been a decade plus of strong partnerships, learning and growing in size and scope.



Our 2030 Strategic Vision

In 2024, we unveiled our third strategic plan since our establishment in 2013 and adopted the theme “Resilience” to ensure conservancies become effective, self-sustaining and with strong capacity to withstand shocks. The strategy builds on a successful decade of achievements shifting its focus from strengthening its internal capacity, to being a catalyst, to being a ‘driver’ to accelerate the growth of conservancies to become effective and resilient.



The Strategy has been developed with the Kunming Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) vision in mind to put a halt to human induced extinction through well connected and equitably governed protected and conserved areas that respect the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Our Vision

Connected landscapes conserving wildlife and benefiting people



Our Mission

Accelerate the growth of equitably governed and effectively managed conservancies to positively impact local communities and wildlife.



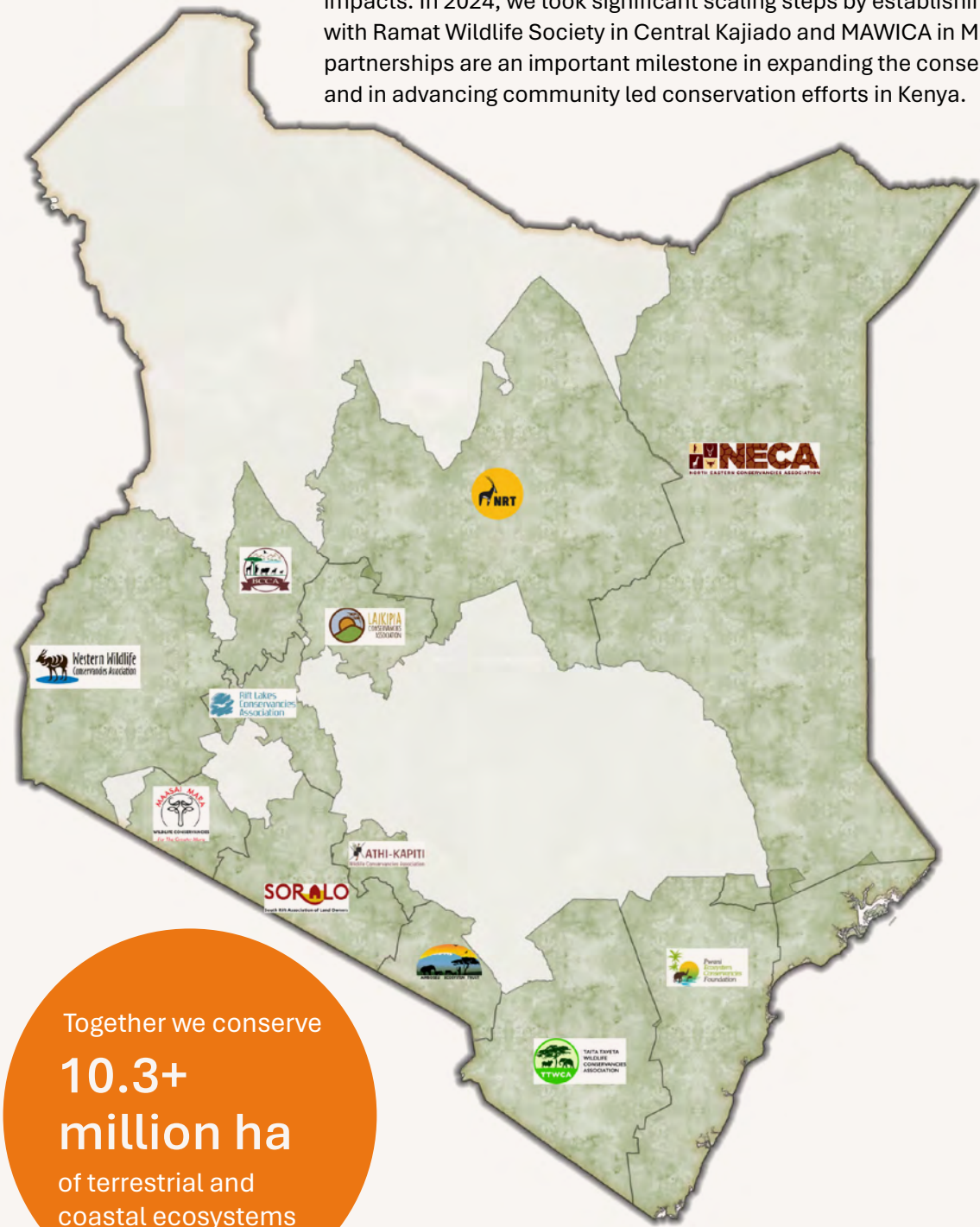
Over the next seven years, we will have a deeper focus on five overarching goals which are;

- to strengthen capacity of effective landscape conservancy associations,
- Advance policies that incentivise conservancies growth,
- Strengthen conservancies to deliver sustainable benefits to communities,
- Mobilise financing to conservancies, and
- strengthen KWCA as a leading vibrant conservancy network.

Where we work

We work with 12 landscape conservancy associations in 12 key landscapes and across Kenya representing over 200 conservancies.

We collaborate with like-minded partners including conservancy support organizations to scale up the conservancy model, share lessons and scale up impacts. In 2024, we took significant scaling steps by establishing partnerships with Ramat Wildlife Society in Central Kajiado and MAWICA in Marsabit. These partnerships are an important milestone in expanding the conservancy network and in advancing community led conservation efforts in Kenya.



Together we conserve
10.3+ million ha
of terrestrial and coastal ecosystems

Influencing Policy

At the National Level

Review and implementation of the Wildlife Act 2013

- **We leveraged our position** as a technical working group member for the review of the Wildlife Act 2013 to advocate for alignment of the Act with the Wildlife Policy 2020, provide clarity on the definition of conservancies and rangers; promote fiscal and non-fiscal incentives to make conservation a viable and sustainable investment option and non-restrictive regulations to ease the establishment and operations of conservancies.
- **We held 5 landscape level consultative forums** with representatives from our member conservancies to collect the views of the communities to inform the Wildlife Act review process.
- **We collaborated with Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)** in a joint workshop to develop guidelines for establishing a conservancies registry to streamline and simplify the registration process and enhance the legal recognition

of conservancies in Kenya. Currently only 40 conservancies out of 211 conservancy members are registered with KWS. This collaborative effort underscores our commitment to strengthening the institutional framework for conservancies. The guidelines will be completed in 2025.



Cabinet Secretary Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife (MoTW) Ms. Rebecca Miano and Principal Secretary Silvia Museiya with Landscape Conservancy Associations CEOs during a familiarization meeting on conservancies.

Implementation of the Community Land Act 2016

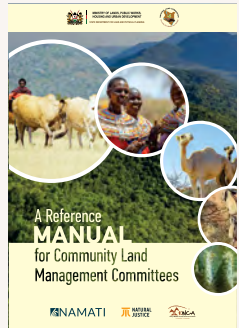
Community Land Use Plans: in 2024, we supported 3 community lands- Kamuthe, Teri B and Shompole to develop their land use plans to comply with the Community Land Act 2016. Through the support we held awareness sessions to the Community Land Management Committees (CLMCs), public participation of communities and county government engagement. The land use plans include zonation plans and maps for the various land uses of interest to the villages. These encompasses grazing, settlement, conservation, cultivation and infrastructure development with conservation playing a pivotal role.

The establishment of Kamuthe, Terri B and Shompole conservancies played a vital role in the registration of the community land showcasing community's commitment to conservation and sustainable development efforts. The conservancy model has enabled grassroots communities to mobilise and coordinate communities through an effective governance structure.



Members of Kamuthe community conservancy during a community land use planning meeting.

Manual for Community Land Management Committees: We were excited to partner with the State Department for Lands and Physical Planning, the National Land Commission, Namati and Natural Justice to develop a manual to guide Community Land Management Committees (CLMCs) through every stage of the land registration process—pre-registration, during registration, and post-registration. The manual will enable CLMCs to understand how to collaborate with communities to meet the legal requirements of the Community Land Act 2016 and ensure the rights of all its members are safeguarded.



At the County level

Cementing our partnership with the Council of Governors (COG)



The CEO Council of Governors, Mary Mwiti and KWCA CEO Dickson Kaelo during the MOU signing ceremony at COG offices. KWCA and COG will work on strengthening counties engagement in wildlife conservation and climate change mitigation efforts through policy advocacy and conservation planning.

- In November, we partnered with the Drylands Learning & Capacity Building Initiative (DLCI) the secretariat for the Pastoralists Parliamentary Group (PPG) to support and participate in the 2024 Pastoralist Leadership Summit (PLS) held Wajir. The Summit brought together 450 delegates, including all 14 Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASALs) County Governors. We participated in the Natural Resource and Community Land Rights session and underscored the role of conservancies in promoting socio-economic development, sustainable land use, biodiversity conservation, and community livelihoods in pastoral communities. We emphasised the need for County Governments to support the full implementation of the Community Land Act 2016 and the integration of conservancies into county development frameworks.

Development of County Conservancies Fund Bills

We provided technical assistance for the development of County Conservancies Fund Bills for Baringo, Kajiado, and Narok counties to foster the growth and sustainability of conservancies. These Bills will establish a legal framework allowing county governments to provide financial support to conservancies, ensuring sustainable conservation efforts at the grassroots level. In 2023, KWCA

facilitated a learning exchange visit for County Executive Committee members from the 3 counties to Samburu County to draw lessons from the inaugural Samburu County Conservancies Fund. We intend to work with other Counties to create a replicable model for other counties to follow setting a strong precedent for direct county support to conservancies.

By the numbers

Served in 3 national policy technical working groups- Wildlife Act Review, National Land Policy review, Climate Change regulations and the Community Land Act guidebook leading to a recognition of conservancies, conservation as a land use and community benefit sharing ratios

15 policy consultative meetings held to propose recommendations for the review and implementation of the Wildlife Act 2013 (including linking conservancy registration to KWS), Climate Change (Carbon Markets) Regulations and implementation of the Community Land Act 2016.

450 participants sensitized on the Community Land Act 2016, Wildlife Act 2013 review, Climate Change Regulations

6 Policy documents and memorandas developed and submitted to National and County Governments .

- Climate Change (Carbon Markets) Regulations, 2023 & Regulatory Impact Statement
- Review of Sessional Paper No.3 of 2009 (National Land Policy)
- Draft Public Finance Management (Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund) Regulations, 2024
- Amboseli National Park Transfer to Kajiado County Government
- Public Participation Bill, 2024
- Baringo County Community Conservancies Bill, 2024

5 Policy Partnerships established (CAMAk, Office of the Special Envoy for Climate Change, State Department of Lands and Physical Planning, Council of Governors, International Land Coalition)

3 Community Land Use plans developed

Annual National Conservancies Policy Conference and AGM

In April, we successfully hosted our Annual National Conservancies Policy Conference and AGM bringing together 237 members and conservancy stakeholders from across the country. The gathering provided a platform to deliberate on national issues affecting conservancies, share experiences, reflect on our collective progress, and chart priorities for the year ahead.

We highlighted key achievements in our policy advocacy efforts and project activities, including

progress in wildlife conservation and management, carbon markets, sustainable financing for conservancies, and conservancy investment readiness. Members implementing carbon projects shared their insights, challenges, and lessons learned deepening our shared understanding of what it takes to succeed in this space. Now in its 11th year, the conference continues to grow in size, relevance, and impact affirming its importance as a cornerstone event for Kenya’s conservancy network.

Membership

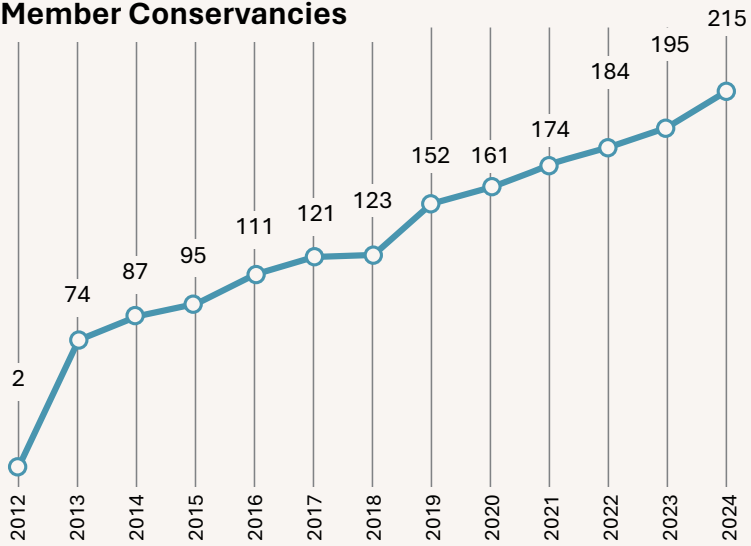
We amended our Constitution during the AGM and endorsed the nomination of a youth representative from the newly formed National Conservancies youth forum to be part of the KWCA National Conservancies Council (NCC). The youth representative will advocate for policies and strategies that benefit the youth in wildlife conservation, ensure the concerns, views and ideas of youth are incorporated by the NCC and work with KWCA to promote youth engagement in conservancies.



13 new members admitted in 2024 increasing the membership from 198 to 211



Member Conservancies



KWCA New members 2024

Conservancy	Conservancy Type	County
Bora Bora Wildlife Park	Private	Kwale
Kisapuk Conservancy	Group	Kajiado
Lorian Swamp Wildlife Conservancy	Community	Wajir
The Ark Limited	Private	Nyeri
Loita Hills Community Wildlife Conservancy	Group	Narok
Mangar Community Conservancy	Community	Baringo
Tuyiarus Community Conservancy	Community	Baringo
Utonga Nature Conservancy	Private	Siaya
Shakababo Community Conservancy	Community	Tana River
Kiplombe Community Conservancy	Community	Baringo
Olgulului Ranch Conservancy	Private	Kajiado
Gurufu Community Conservancy	Community	Garissa
Lorbetera Conservancy	Group	Kajiado
Noosikitok Conservancy	Group	Kajiado
Parsilet Conservancy	Group	Kajiado
Enasiot Ranch	Private	Laikipia
Mpala Research Centre	Private	Laikipia
Ologesailie Land Owners Association	Group	Kajiado

Partnering with Landscape Conservancy Associations

In February 2024, CEOs and Chairpersons from the 12 landscape conservancy associations through the national CEOs forum met to deliberate on challenges and opportunities impacting conservancies from their respective landscapes, discuss national policy priorities and strengthen fundraising and engagement with government and donors.



- In 2024, we supported 3 landscape associations at early growth stage (TTWCA, BCCA and AET) to develop fundraising and sustainability plans to enable them secure substantial funding, develop long-term partnerships, ensure donor diversity, increase resource mobilization, and achieve direct cost recovery for technical programmes. As a result, the associations have increased their donor funding base and partners.
- With financial support from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), we supported 3 landscape conservancies association at startup phase WWCA, AKWCA and PECFO to operationalise their offices. The associations were supported in the acquisition of office equipment and recruitment of coordinators and finance officers to support operations. The associations developed internal policies (Finance, procurement and human resources policies), went through board trainings, reviewed their constitutions, held their members AGMs, developed their strategic plans and raised visibility of their organisations.



Launch of WWCA offices in Kakamega

Conservation Strategy for Southern Kenya

- Together and working in partnership with Sustain Africa, Africa Conservation centre (ACC), Borderlands Initiatives and the Narok- Kajiado Economic Bloc (NAKAEB) the Conservation Strategy for Southern Kenya was developed and published. The strategy outlines objectives and financing mechanisms to ensure that Southern Kenya’s conservation areas remain viable, self-sustaining, and community driven. We are working with all these partners to carry out joint fundraising, advocate for favourable county conservation policies that supports financing for community-led conservation initiatives.
- Throughout 2024, we coordinated landscape conservancy associations from Southern Kenya; Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association (MMWCA), South Rift Association of Landowners (SORALO), Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET) and Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA) to share information, knowledge and understanding of the southern Kenya landscape, identify and engage strategic partners and foster best practices and innovative solutions for the landscape.



By the numbers

3 grants to landscape associations to support operational and institutional capacity costs

25 participants from 10 landscape associations trained on results-based monitoring and reporting

2 landscape associations onboarded on ArcGIS for enhanced spatial data sharing.

Strengthening Capacity of Conservancies

Women and Youth Inclusion

Our **Resilience, Inclusive and Sustainable Environments (RISE)** gender project implemented in partnership with Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association (TTWCA) and Amboseli Ecosystem Trust (AET) in Kasigau and Kitirua conservancies respectively, has significantly increased awareness of gender issues and gender-based violence (GBV) through male engagement forums and women’s economic empowerment activities through Village Saving loans (VSLAs), contributing to a reduction on GBV in the two conservancies.

In 2024, through the RISE Project;

- We hosted 34 conservancy women leaders, including rangers, managers and gender leads from the landscape associations for the 7th National Conservancies Women forum under the theme: Influencing Safeguards in Conservancies. The forum, which brings together and amplifies the voices of women in conservancies, focused on the progress made thus far in promoting women inclusion, the challenges and barriers that hinder women’s meaningful participation. In a collective statement presented at the Annual General Meeting, the women called on conservancies to review their constitutions to be gender responsive, develop safeguarding policies, form women’s forums, support sustainable women enterprise projects and make use of the gender guidelines to boost women’s inclusion in conservancies.



- We conducted 118 community dialogues reaching approximately 1,300 women and 1,200 men to challenge harmful social and cultural norms, attitudes, and practices that perpetuate Gender-Based Violence (GBV).
- We held 5 male engagement forums reaching 45 conservancy male leaders in Amboseli landscape to create safe spaces for reflection on conservancy and individual efforts to end GBV. As a result, the conservancy leaders made commitments to increase women’s participation in conservancy leadership, raise awareness on girls’ education and support women enterprise initiatives for long-term success of the conservancies.
- We joined members of Kasigau Conservancy in celebrating a historic moment where for the first time, four women out of nine directors were elected during the AGM. It was the highest number of female candidates to ever vie for leadership positions in the conservancy. This milestone followed a series of community dialogues in the five villages of Kasigau, where both men and women openly challenged cultural norms and practices that had long limited women’s participation. A review of the conservancy’s constitution, supported by KWCA and TTWCA, helped accelerate this important shift toward inclusive leadership.

By the numbers

93 women from 3 women groups trained on Village Savings Loans Associations (VSLAs) in Taita Taveta landscape to enhance women economic empowerments



Upendo Basket Weavers VSLA group from Kasigau Conservancy, Taita Taveta during their share purchase and loan repayment meeting.

Kes 500,000 issued in asset financing distributed to 5 women groups to rear dairy goats, brick making machine and spinning mule for the basket weaving towards improving their livelihood.

3 safeguarding policies and gender strategies developed for 3 landscape associations to support institutional strengthening in integrating gender principles in conservancy management and programming.

3 landscape associations supported to develop gender strategies and safeguarding policies.

Celebrating Gender Justice Awards

In March during International Women’s Day 2024, we were honoured with the Gender Justice Charter Award by the International Land Coalition (ILC), alongside two other organisations. The award celebrates our work in promoting gender equality and justice in land governance. KWCA has been supporting landscape associations and conservancies to mainstream and integrate gender in their operations and programs by reviewing their constitutions, developing safeguarding policies, and increasing women’s engagement in decision-making and benefit-sharing. KWCA’s gender justice champion Joyce Peshu acknowledged the award, *“Transformative change takes time. Using tools like gender audits and power analysis helps us to understand the context better, accelerating real progress.”*



Youth engagement

- In December, KWCA supported Lumo Community Wildlife Conservancy to develop a youth engagement strategy to provide a framework for strengthening youth leadership in conservancy governance and involvement in nature-based enterprises.

Supporting Female Rangers

In 2024, KWCA in partnership with WWF, held a focus group discussion with 20 female rangers drawn from different conservancies in the 12 landscapes to understand the unique challenges and barriers women face in the ranger workforce and establish interventions for addressing those challenges. The session was part of a broader community rangers survey deployed to conservancy rangers across the country. Key issues raised included poor living and working conditions especially for new mothers, low salaries below the government minimum threshold, absence of grievance redress mechanisms and gender-sensitive policies to safeguard their wellbeing.

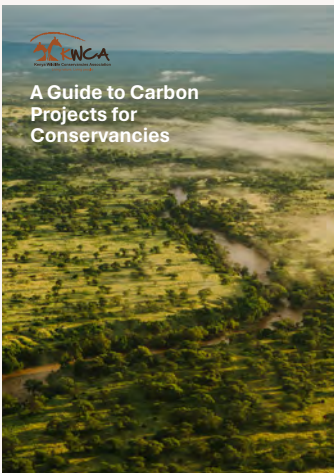
Moving forward, KWCA will use this data to inform the review of the ranger Standard Operating Procedures and advocate for better support, policies, and working conditions for rangers in conservancies.



© IFAM

Climate resilience

- In November, KWCA initiated collaboration with the Carbon Markets Association of Kenya (CAMAK)-a newly established network uniting carbon market stakeholders in Kenya. The partnership aims to advance Kenya’s sector through joint policy advocacy and capacity building initiatives. An initial step of this collaboration was hosting a workshop for landscape conservancies associations representatives and carbon developers to facilitate discussions on carbon market opportunities, best practices and implications of the carbon markets regulations. KWCA’s partnership with CAMAK will strengthen conservancy’s role in carbon markets, create a platform for information exchange between carbon project developers and the conservancy network, and help coordinate feedback for policy development.
- KWCA in Partnership with Sustain Africa developed a guidebook for carbon projects in conservancies to equip its members with the information they need on carbon opportunities and investments. The guide demystifies the complex, fast-evolving carbon sector and its risks, uncertainties and opportunities and aims to support conservancies to engage with the Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) in a way that enables them, should they partner with project developers, to create equitable arrangements that maximise social, ecological and financial benefits to the conservancy/ community.
- To strengthen county governments’ engagement in climate financing, KWCA, in collaboration with Conservation International, Kieti Law, and ILEPA through the UK-PACT Project, held four capacity building sessions for the Council of Governors and the county governments of Taita Taveta, Nyeri, Kajiado, Narok, Baringo and Laikipia on REDD+ and carbon markets. The trainings aimed to equip county officials with knowledge needed to actively participate in climate financing processes and to share their experiences, insights, and recommendations within their counties, focused on enhancing understanding of REDD+, new climate change laws and policies, and key concepts in carbon markets and related regulations.
- We were selected as one of ten national organizations to join the Financing Locally Led Climate Action (FLoCCA) Civil Society Organizations (CSO) Oversight Group. This 67-member group, which also includes 47 county CSO representatives and 10 network organizations, will be crucial in ensuring the FLoCCA program is inclusive, sustainable, and effectively meets the needs of local communities. The platform will amplify marginalized voices in decision-making, advocate for inclusive and sustainable policies, bridge gaps between local communities, policymakers, and scientific research, foster a holistic approach to climate action that promotes resilient landscapes.



By the numbers

4 REDD+ and Carbon Credits meetings held

3 Climate Change strategies developed

26 County Executive Committees Members from 6 County Governments engaged on REDD+ trainings

130 people trained on REDD+ and Carbon Credits

Governance and Management

- In 2024, we partnered with the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) through the Darwin Scaling Up Equitable Governance Project (SEGA) to build the governance capacity of 4 emerging conservancies using the Site-Level Assessment on Governance and Equity (SAGE) tool. The trainings engaged 56 conservancy members from various actor groups comprising conservancy boards, management teams, women, youth, private sector stakeholders, and conservation partners. Through the assessment, conservancies have identified and addressed key governance gaps in areas such as land and resource rights, benefit sharing, inclusive participation, law enforcement, collaboration, and achieving conservation outcomes. As a result, the conservancies have had more meaningful engagement with the youth and women and have secured stronger partner support for action planning and collaboration.



- We engaged Earth ranger to carry out conservancy trainings on Earth Ranger functionalities and applications to support data collection on wildlife, operational monitoring patrol tracking, joint monitoring, and human activities. We also partnered with WWF to carry out Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) for Taita Taveta managers and rangers to monitor biodiversity and rangers patrol efforts.
- We partnered with The Nature Conservancy to pilot a Conservancies Conservation Planning Data Framework in Taita Taveta and Baringo landscapes. The framework will guide the two landscapes to carry out effective conservation planning by enhancing data accessibility, accuracy and availability by all conservancies and partners in the landscape.



Private Sector Engagement

- In 2024, KWCA provided technical support for the development of five investor-partnership documents for conservancies, making significant progress in supporting mutually beneficial investment agreements. These include guiding negotiations between Naibunga upper and Ngare Ndare conservancies, advising Elerai community conservancy on tourism agreement terms, collaborating with Taita Estate, Mgeno, Choke conservancies and Rukinga conservancy with Dark Sky International
- We developed our private sector engagement strategy to help us catalyse linkages between investment ready conservancies and potential investors, and showcase potential conservancy investments opportunities towards their long term sustainability and enhanced social and conservation outcomes.

By the numbers

3 governance trainings carried out for 3 conservancy boards and managers (Dawida Ranch, Lualenyi Ranching Ltd and Kwenia Vulture Sanctuary and Wildlife Conservancy)

3 SAGE assessments carried out in Mwaluganje, Naibunga Upper and Chuine Conservancies to identify governance gaps.

34 conservancies supported in updating their maps, boundary delineation, develop story maps and land use maps to support in planning, boundary and fundraising.

Establishment of the Kenya Conservancies Fund

KWCA has established the Kenya Conservancies Fund (KCF) to provide up front capital (initial grants) and technical assistance to bridge the critical funding gaps and improve the economic resilience of conservancies. A grant of Euro 950,000 is under negotiation with German Government through the IKI climate initiative program. An assessment conducted on conservancies set a target of USD 16million over the next 5 years to grow conservancies capacity to deliver for people and nature

217 conservancy managers, rangers and landscape association representatives from 4 landscapes trained on Earth Ranger functionalities and applications including data collection, wildlife monitoring, human wildlife activities and interaction and patrol tracking.

77 managers and rangers trained on Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) to monitor, biodiversity and patrol efforts in Taita Taveta Landscape

Sharing Knowledge Beyond Borders



Knowledge and lesson sharing on community led conservation in Kenya and Tanzania.

In 2024, we strengthened our cross-border collaboration on community-led conservation with our partners, Honeyguide and the Community Wildlife Management Areas Consortium (CWMAC) in Tanzania. The three organizations are championing a shared understanding of community led conservation from the perspectives of those who practice it.

In December, Honeyguide and CWMAC hosted KWCA for a learning exchange to share experiences from Kenya’s conservancy model and Tanzania’s Wildlife Management Areas (WMAs). While the two approaches are shaped by different policies and land ownership systems, they share similarities and opportunities for cross learning.

During the visit, the two teams documented attributes that facilitate community-led conservation informed by good practices of the WMAs and conservancies established areas of collaboration towards scaling up best practices. Discussions centred around governance and management, sustainability, communication, and practical tools. KWCA and Honeyguide have co-developed useful tools that continue to guide both conservancies and WMAs in improving conservation outcomes for communities.

“The exchange visit was inspiring and a powerful reminder that while our wildlife conservation policies are different, our goals for community led conservation are shared. Honeyguide’s governance and management frameworks and Theory of Change for WMAs provides a great structure for KWCA to learn from to strengthen biodiversity conservation and enhance benefits to communities.”

This collaboration reflects our shared commitment to building strong, people-centred conservation models that can be adapted to grow and thrive across different regions.





In September, we hosted 14 representatives from Nepal, including officials from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife Conservation, members of the USAID/Nepal biodiversity team, buffer zone user committees, and conservation entrepreneurs for a learning exchange visit. The visit aimed to deepen their understanding of Kenya's community-led conservation model. By engaging with conservancies and stakeholders on the ground, the delegation gathered valuable insights to inform Nepal's protected area management plans, ecotourism initiatives, county engagement strategies, and national biodiversity action plans.



We joined Umoja Wildlife Conservancies of Uganda to reflect on their strategic visioning process through their journey since its establishment in 2022. KWCA supported UWA during its inception and is pleased with the progress made thus far. KWCA is keen to work with UWA and other Africa organizations to champion the community led conservation approach in Africa.

Global Convenings

Advancing Biodiversity Commitments through Conservancies: Supporting Implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF)

Convention on Biological diversity (CBD)

In October, our communication manager and gender officer participated in the 16th Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) Conference of the Parties (COP16) in Cali, Colombia. It was the first convening since the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF). We played a key role in national efforts led by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry to develop

Kenya's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and national targets. Conservancies have been recognized as a key strategy to expand conservation areas in Kenya. We are committed to supporting the government in monitoring the national biodiversity indicators within conservancies, including those related to spatial planning, ecosystem restoration, inclusion of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), equitable benefit sharing, and cross-sectoral biodiversity integration.



KWCA Communication Manager with Panellists after discussing Kenya's lessons in the progress towards achieving 30x30 target. KWCA is among national partners tracking target 3 of the KMGBF.



KWCA's Gender Officer speaks at an IUCN panel discussion, sharing key achievements in addressing gender-based violence in conservation and highlighting the impact of the USAID-RISE grant



The Kenyan delegation, led by the Principal Secretary for Environment and Climate Change Dr. Eng. Festus K. Ng'eno during a briefing meeting on Kenya's progress in implementing the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (KMGBF) in Cali, Colombia



KWCA's Communications Manager participates in a panel discussion on **Women-Led Conservation: Protecting the World's Savannahs** convened by TNC Columbia, highlighting Kenya's conservancy model and the vital role of women in advancing regenerative grazing practices.

Additionally, KWCA, in partnership with Sustain Africa and with support from The Nature Conservancy (TNC), published a strategic report titled *"Unlocking the Potential of Conservancies: Guiding and Prioritising Investments into Kenya's Conservancies"*. The report provides a comprehensive analysis of conservancies' current status and economic value, offering guidance on targeted investments to enhance conservancies reach effectiveness to achieve MGBF Target 3 on area-based conservation.



New York Climate Week

In September, our COO and Policy Advocacy manager participated in the New York Climate Week events in partnership with Africa Conservation Leaders Network (ACLN) partners facilitated by Maliasili and with financial support from WWF-US. The platform provided a networking opportunity for KWCA to share its work as a climate leader paving the way for Kenyan conservancies to become effective and resilient. KWCA and the other ACLN partners made a rallying call to funders to invest directly to local conservation NGOs because when communities- the stewards of conservation- are empowered with the requisite tools and make decisions on their natural resources, conservation is not only effective but more sustainable.



Improving Organizational Effectiveness

This year, KWCA prioritised investments in internal systems including organisational capacity assessments, strategic planning, institutional policy enhancements, staff growth and professional development to ensure its operational approach stays ahead of organizational growth. A strong foundation helps KWCA become more efficient in achieving its mission, while creating a work environment that generates optimal results.

Professional development:

Our CEO Dickson Kaelo was selected for the Henry Arnold Fellowship by Mulago Foundation. The fellowship brings together leaders working on promising conservation and climate solutions and supports them to take their impact to the next level. Through the fellowship, Dickson is focusing on boosting collective action for community led conservation in Africa.



Our Policy Advocacy Manager Gladys Warigia, a 2024 Kingship Conservation fellow participated in the one-month long intensive, learning and networking opportunity to apply market-based principles to environmental approaches. Gladys affirms *"the fellowship exposed me to new approaches that helped me map out my thinking on nature financing especially on Carbon credits. It helped me look at conservation from a broader perspective in legal and policy frameworks and how the law can shape benefits to communities."*



Our Programme Officer Jacob Tukai participated in a three-week Conservation Catalyst Leadership Programme run by the Institute of Integrative Conservation at William & Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia, USA. The program brought together fellows from Kenya, Rwanda, the Republic of Congo, Nepal, and the Philippines.



Jacob affirms *"The program was enriching. It helped me reflect on my personality traits and leadership style, and how to lead others more effectively. I also gained valuable skills in pitching and fundraising, communications, public speaking, mindfulness, and entrepreneurial thinking—all grounded in values-centred leadership."*

- **Building a culture that prioritises wellbeing:** In 2024, we made wellness a top priority as part of improving how we work together and support each other. We held our first wellness workshop and organized activities that helped raise awareness on both mental and physical health. We held sessions on wellness, played board games together, watched movies, took paired walks, and offered counselling support. Everyone was also encouraged to go for regular health check-ups. These efforts have made a real difference with more team members taking breaks when needed, using their annual leave, staying active, and making time for mental rest. It's been great to see the positive shift in energy and wellbeing across the team



- **Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA):** This year, we took time to reflect on how far we've come as an organization since our OCA in 2020 to build capacity for change and enhance effectiveness. With input from staff and board, we looked at what's working and the areas we need to improve on aligned to the Institutional Development Plan. Our capacity score revealed that we've made great progress, especially in grants management, but still have work to do in implementing institutional policies, managing risks, and strengthening our monitoring and ICT systems. Based on the lessons learnt, we developed a change management and communication plan to guide implementation and alignment with our strategic goals.
- We migrated to **Microsoft Office 365** to boost efficiency, teamwork and information flow across the organization. With tools like Outlook, Teams, one drive and SharePoint, the team can now

collaborate in real time, access shared documents easily, and stay connected whether in the office or out in the field.

- **We are officially ED Certified!** In 2024, we received our #EDCertified Status through NGO source which will open new funding opportunities for our organization. With our #equivalencydetermination on file in the NGO Source repository, we are looking forward to continuing the amazing work we do on community-led conservation.



- **Institutional Policies:** In 2024, we finalized several key institutional policies and strategies to support our growth and effectiveness. These were; Carbon Credits Engagement Strategy, Whistleblower Policy, Talent Development Strategy, Internship Policy, and a Data Protection Policy aimed at strengthening governance, transparency, and team growth across the organization.
- **New Staff and Interns:** We welcomed Horris Wanyama as our new Conservation Planner and brought on three interns who are contributing to policy advocacy, gender inclusion, and procurement support. These additions have brought fresh energy and capacity to the team, helping us deliver on our goals more effectively.



Horris Wanyama
Conservation Planner



Diana Muturi
Gender Intern



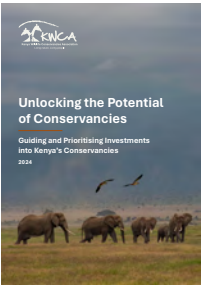
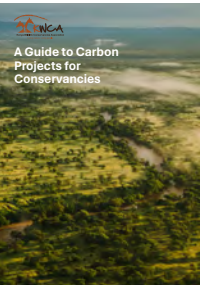
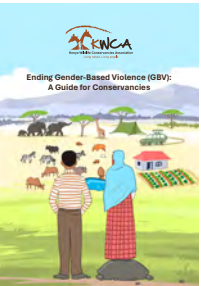
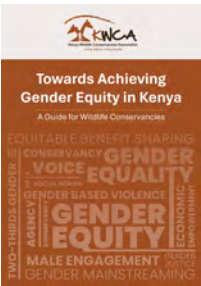
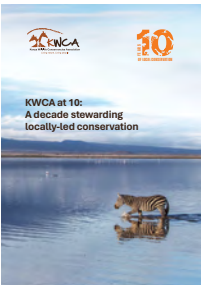
Titiyah Ogeli
Policy Advocacy Intern



Dennis Kirui
Procurement Intern

Communications

5 Publications in 2024: 10-year impact report, gender guidelines, GBV guidelines, Carbon guide, Unlocking the potential of Conservancies.



6 Videos produced capturing gender, climate change and governance projects highlights.

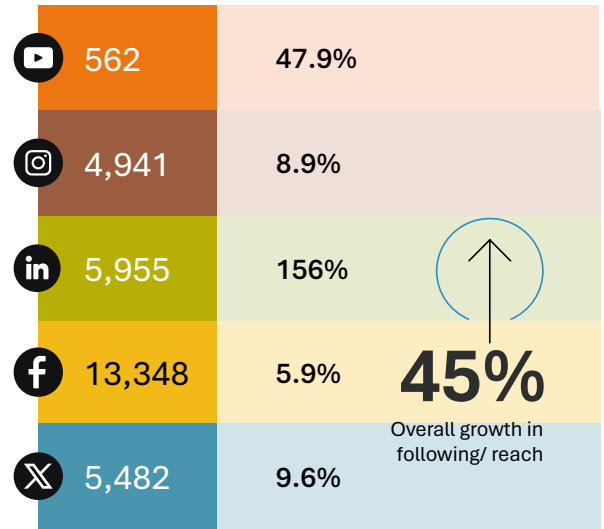
Media Engagement:

Videos on HWC on Citizen TV, newspaper cutouts for Kasigau, Ranger stories for Biopama, (Daily Nation) Sifa FM radio features program



Increased social media following

Social Media Analytics 2024



- In March, during the International Women's Day and November during the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, we highlighted efforts towards raising awareness on ending gender based violence in conservancies we partnered with TTWCA and AET for caravan walks and dialogue with conservancy representatives, county officials and male champions to celebrate progress made thus far and chart a way forward for eliminating gender based violence

Thank You, Donors and Supporters!

Our achievements in 2024 would not have been possible without the generous support of our funding partners. While financial investments are essential to sustaining our work, we equally value the strategic guidance and technical support our partners provide.

These trusted collaborations have strengthened our collective efforts to build strong conservancies across Kenya. We are especially grateful for the multiyear funding partnerships that have allowed us to plan more strategically and deliver long-term, meaningful impact.

Partners

Funding Partners

USAID
The Nature Conservancy
LGT Venture Philanthropy
GEF/UNDP
GIZ
IUCN
WWF
Conservation International
Maliasili
Mulago
UBS
IIED

Implementing Partners

Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife
Kenya Wildlife Service
Wildlife Research and Training Institute
DCLI
Kenya Wildlife Trust
Sustain
Conservation Capital
Council of Governors
Ramat Wildlife Society
NAKAEB
Association of Wildlife Conservancy Rangers of Kenya
Fauna& Flora
CARE
CREAW
ESRI
Earth Ranger

Network Partners

IUCN
Africa Nature Based Tourism Platform
Conservation Alliance of Kenya
International Land Conservation Network
International Land Coalition
International Ranger Federation
Game Rangers Association of Africa

By the numbers

4 new partners; Darwin through IIED, UBS, Mulago and GIZ.

6 new grants secured totalling \$ 1,122,979 with 2 new multi-year grants from Darwin IIED and UBS

9 projects implemented with 11 partners

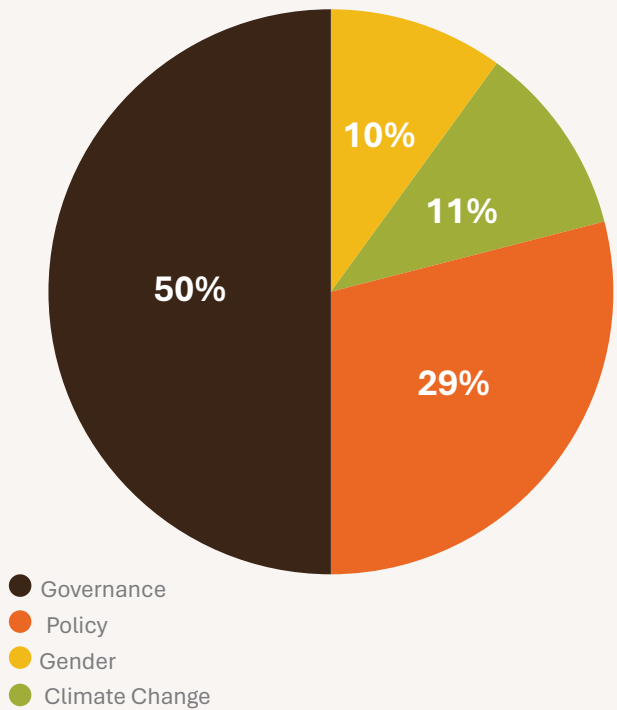
2024 Financials

Securing our future

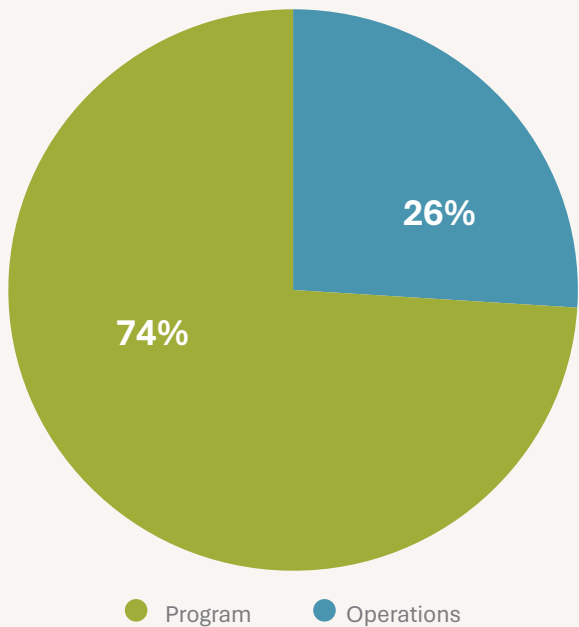
In 2024, we developed a strategy to establish and operationalise a Sustainability Reserve fund- a long-term financing mechanism to sustain its work. We will be raising seed grants and matching funds from our partners to meet our annual funding requirements, support core operations costs during funding gaps and enable us to respond to emerging opportunities and challenges.

Looking ahead, we plan to establish an endowment fund by 2030 drawing from its membership fees, milestone projects, unrestricted funding and other ongoing projects to strengthen KWCA’s financial foundation as part of our commitment to long term sustainability

Expenditure Disaggregation per program



Program VS Operational expenditure





Magadi Tenting centre,
Seminary Road off Magadi Road.
P.O Box 1038-00518 Nairobi Kenya
Mobile: +254 (0) 708 418 522
Email: info@kwcakenya.com
Website: kwcakenya.com