

KENYA WILDLIFE CONSERVANCIES ASSOCIATION (KWCA)

KWCA is a national landowner-led membership organization representing community and private conservancies in Kenya, We work with conservancy landowners and Regional Wildlife Associations to create an enabling environment for conservancies to deliver environmental and livelihood benefits

Vision:

A Kenya in which people and wildlife co-exist in mutual benefit

Mission:

To work with landowners and communities to sustainably conserve and manage wildlife and their habitat outside formal protected areas for the benefit of the people of Kenya

In Kenya, landowners hold the power to determine whether wildlife flourish or perish.

Kenya's wildlife and diverse habitat are among the country's most valuable assets. Wildlife tourism is the cornerstone of the economy.

The treasured species such as elephant, lion, rhino ad migratory herd mammals combined with iconic landscapes, water bodies and cultures to attract tourist and generate income and employment

Kenya's future prosperity as described in National development Plans hinges on a healthy wildlife population and a growing tourism industry.

A strong Park and Reserve system has provided a great opportunity for Kenya but more often wildlife use areas beyond our parks and reserves

Private and Community lands used by wildlife are threatened by human settlement, poaching, farming and construction of infrastructure. KWCA is reacting to this challenge by mobilizing landowners to sustainably manage their land and protect wildlife



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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 24 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: Bottom-Up Conservation Approach

KWCA strategic Goals

1. Advocate for an enabling policy, law and incentives for wildlife conservation by communities in Kenya
2. Using the wildlife conservancies approach to keep the rangelands open for wildlife, livestock and other compatible land uses
3. Promote effective wildlife management through improved governance and institutional capacity among conservancy stakeholders
4. To ensure effective communication and networking among and between conservancies and relevant stakeholders
5. To enhance technical and financial sustainability of KWCA, regional associations and wildlife conservancies

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 12 regional associations;

1. North Coast Conservation
2. Lamu Conservation Trust
3. Taita Taveta Wildlife Association
4. Tsavo Trust
5. Amboseli Ecosystem Trust
6. Southern Rangeland Landowners Association
7. Athi Kapiti Wildlife Conservancies Association
8. Western Wildlife Conservancies Association
9. Northern Rangelands Trust
10. Laikipia Wildlife Forum
11. Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association
12. Rift Lakes Conservancies Assiociation