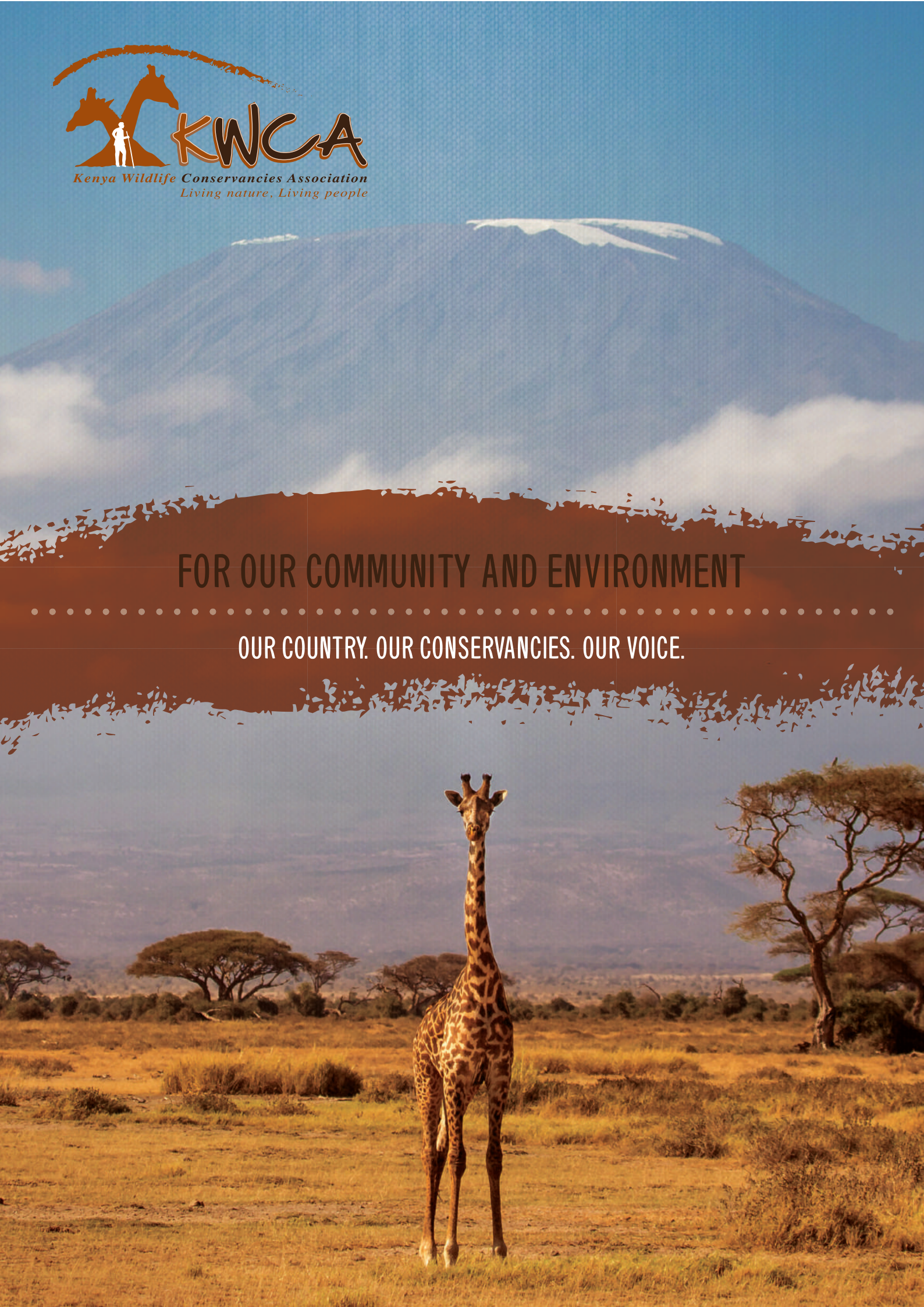
KWCA

Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association

Living nature, Living people

FOR OUR COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT

OUR COUNTRY. OUR CONSERVANCIES. OUR VOICE.



“A wildlife conservancy is in a broad sense an avenue to address the main challenges affecting a community…Wildlife conservation can generate money, protect the environment and generate peace.”

Governor Hussein Dado, Tana River County

Governor Dado, supported by the Tsavo Trust, is developing Malkahalaku Conservancy, expected to be the largest conservancy in Kenya



The Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA) is a national membership organization that serves the interests and represents the collective desires of Kenyan communities and private landowners living with wildlife.

We believe that with the right laws, incentives, support, information and experience, conservancies have the potential to transform local livelihoods and conservation efforts for Kenya. Our role is to help make this happen.

THINKING OUTSIDE THE PARKS

For our economy and our environment

¾ **of Kenya's wildlife** is found outside of national parks

Kenya earns on average **$1 billion in tourism** dollars each year

Yet the people who live with wildlife on their land, and incur huge costs from doing so, derive **minimal** economic benefits from this industry.

People, wildlife and livestock have coexisted for thousands of years in Kenya's rangelands. But today coexistence isn't as easy. Communities have insecure rights to their land and natural resources and thus have little reason to sustainably manage or conserve them. Land is being lost and fragmented as owners are fencing, cultivating and clearing it, and this is resulting in degraded land and habitat loss, which negatively affects people, wildlife, tourism and the economy. While this is becoming a common trend across Kenyan landscapes, it doesn't have to be. *Conservancies can help change this…*

WHAT IS A CONSERVANCY?

A conservancy is private or community land registered and managed for purposes of sustainable wildlife conservation and compatible land uses for better livelihoods. The term encompasses a broad range of land uses, activities and habitats being managed with wildlife conservation as an explicit objective.

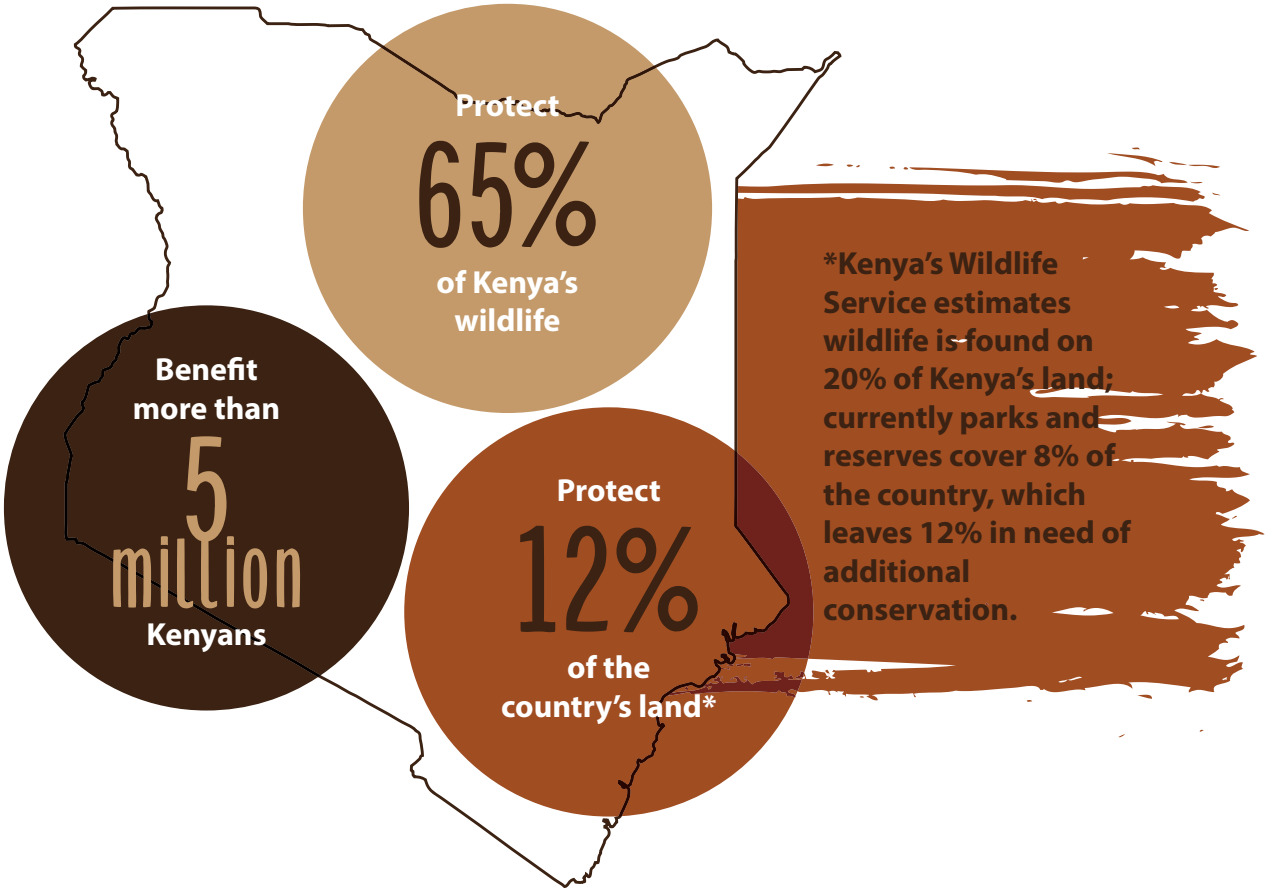
Conservancies are a recognized land use under Kenya's Wildlife Act, making them an attractive land use option for communities and landowners as they offer improved land and resource rights and access to real incentives.

Legal definition of a conservancy under the Wildlife Act 2013: *'An area of land set aside by an individual Land-owner, body corporate, group of owners or a Community for the purposes of wildlife conservation'.*

There are three different types of conservancies in Kenya:

Private Conservancy	Group Conservancy	Community Conservancy
A Conservancy set up on private land by a private individual or corporate body for the purpose of wildlife conservation	A single Conservancy created by the pooling of land by contiguous private land-owners for the purpose of wildlife conservation	A Conservancy set up by a community on community land

In Kenya, conservancies have the potential to:



SO MUCH MORE THAN WILDLIFE...

Conservancies in Kenya offer a valuable way to tackle a number of critical issues through a common approach and framework, including poverty, wildlife loss, resource conflicts, environmental degradation and weak local governance. While wildlife conservation is a key objective, conservancies are about so much more than just wildlife.

ECONOMIC	ECOLOGICAL	SOCIAL
• Diversifying sources of income to individuals and communities	• Healthy land for both wildlife and livestock	• Development of representative, decision-making institutions
• Creating local employment opportunities	• Sustainably managed natural resources for today and tomorrow (e.g. forests, grasslands, water, etc.)	• Strengthening rights and access to land
• Enabling tourism development	• Protects wildlife from poaching, poisoning and other threats	• Supporting traditions and cultures, particularly for pastoral communities
• Creating enterprise opportunities and opportunities for corporate social responsibility projects	• Reduces conflicts between people and wildlife	• Improving security, especially where inter-clan or inter-tribal conflicts are prevalent
• Providing links to actors interested in rural development	• Restores degraded land and enhances land productivity	• Creates an institution to engage with investors and others
• Ensuring local benefits from wildlife and natural resource management	• Protects endangered species	
• Improving local infrastructure (e.g. roads, bridges, schools, health centres, etc.)		

Can people live in conservancies?

Settlement zones should be identifed in the management plan.

Is livestock allowed in conservancies?

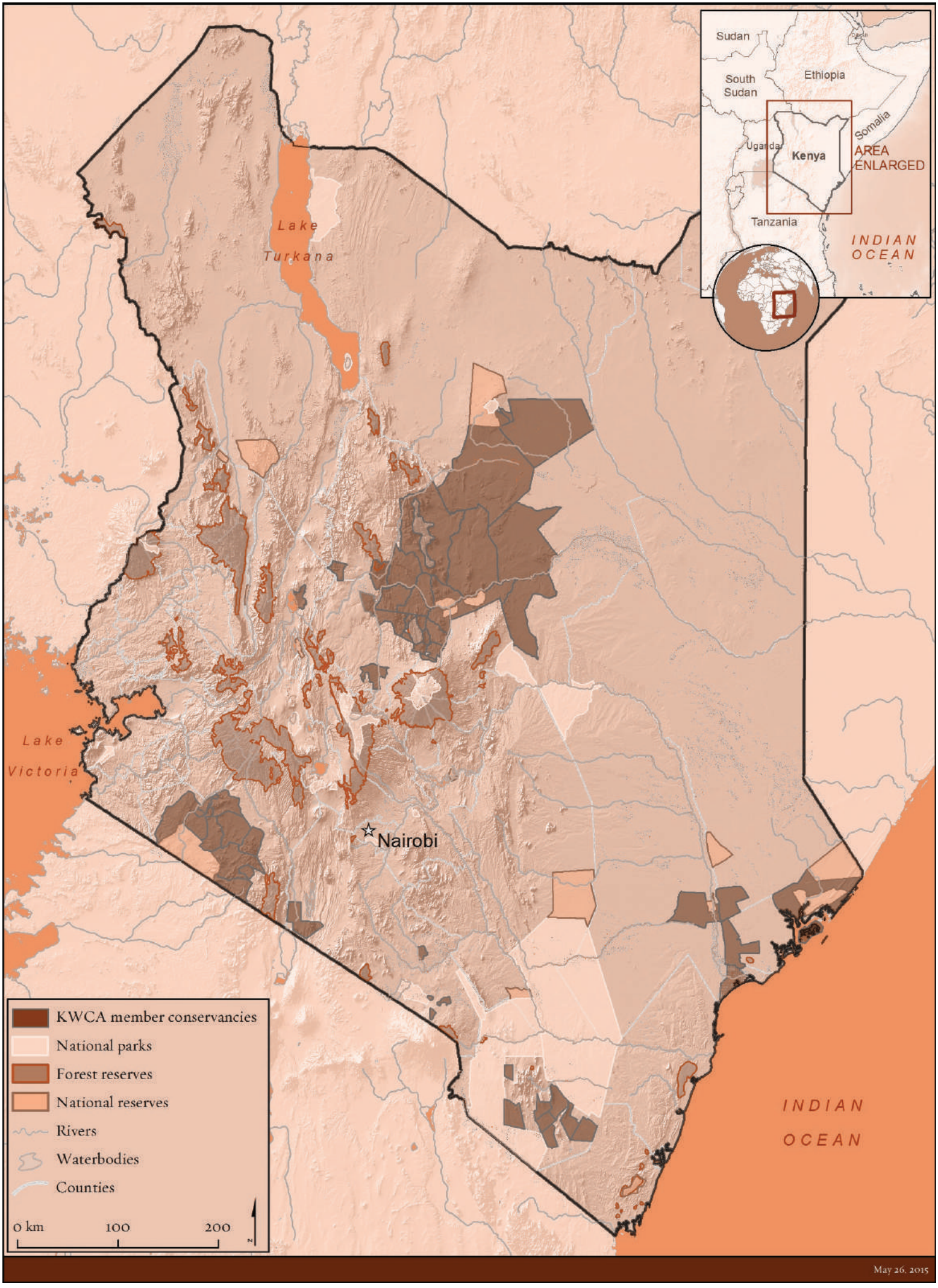
Livestock grazing should be managed through a grazing plan and some seasonal restrictions may apply.

Is farming allowed in conservancies?

Farming zones may be identified in a management plan, if necessary, with appropriate measures to minimise conflict.

BRINGING PEACE, INCOME, AND A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT TO TWO KENYAN COMMUNITIES

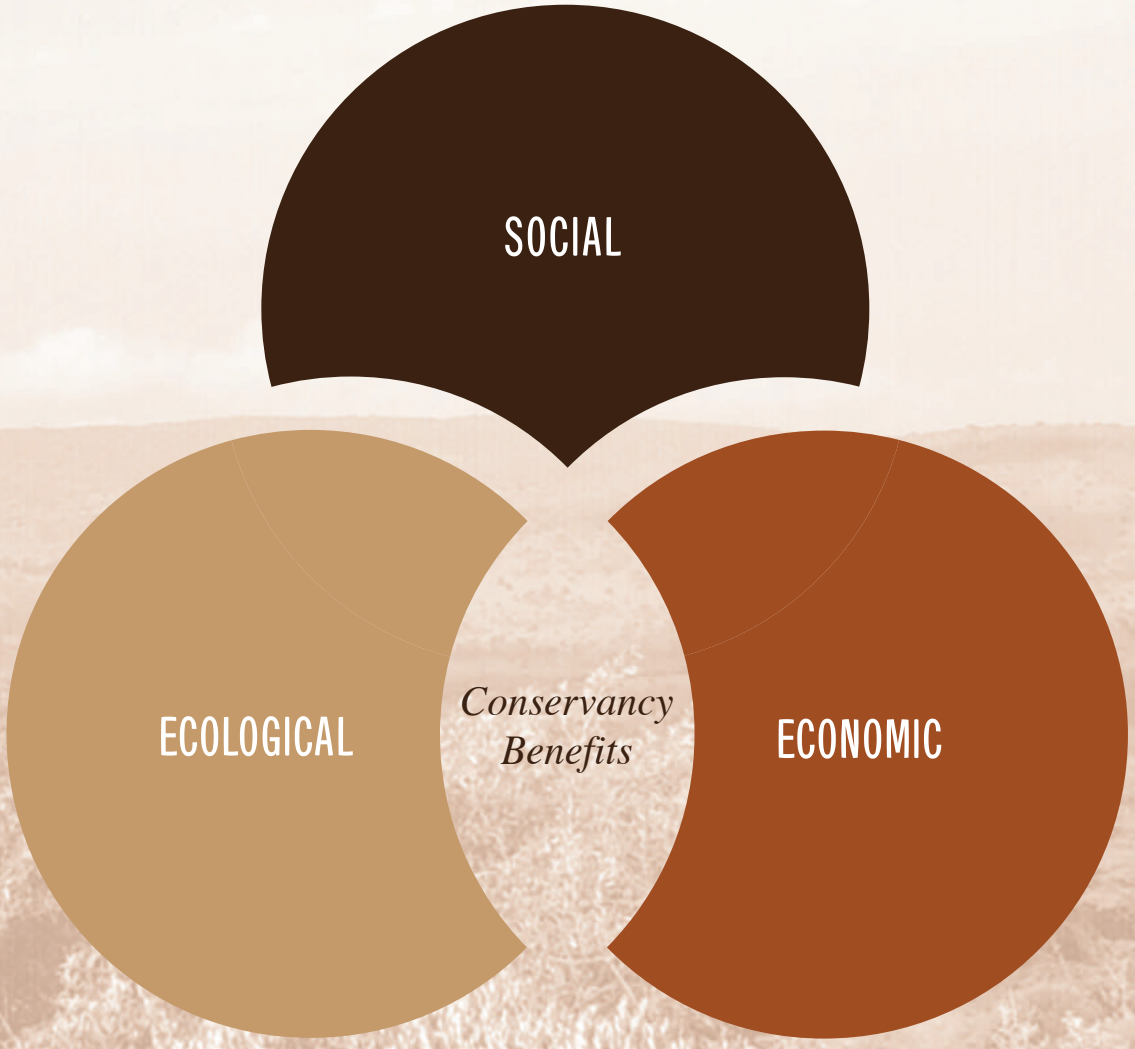
Ruko Conservancy sits along the eastern shore of Lake Baringo and, until recently, was the only conservancy in the county. After years of inter-ethnic conflicts between the Njemps and Pokot, as well as serious environmental degradation, the two communities came together to develop a grazing management plan and to also develop the area for tourism. Fourteen trained rangers from the two communities now play a big role in wildlife monitoring and in easing tensions between the two communities. The population of the endangered Rosthchild's Giraffe is on its way to recovery, cattle theft has been nearly eliminated and Ruko Conservancy is serving as a model for conflict resolution. Now, the communities have greater opportunity to diversify their livelihoods, access better pastures and build their fishing enterprises.


Sudan
South Sudan
Ethiopia
Somalia
Uganda
Kenya
Tanzania
AREA ENLARGED
INDIAN OCEAN
Lake Turkana
Lake Victoria
Nairobi
INDIAN OCEAN
KWCA member conservancies
National parks
Forest reserves
National reserves
Rivers
Waterbodies
Counties
0 km
100
200
N
May 26, 2015

In the 1960s Kuro village, where I was brought up, was a battlefield. In one incident, four police officers were over-powered by cattle rustlers, four people were killed, hundreds of cattle stolen and families forced to relocate to Sereolipi. Today, I am happy to be residing with my family in the same area where I grew up. There is now peace here in Sera Conservancy, and we are in the process of starting a Rhino Sanctuary.

Jackson Lemerketo
Sera Conservancy Warden

In 2014, approximately 3,000 families in Mara conservancies received a total of 350 million Ksh (roughly USD $3.5 million) from tourism proceeds – sent directly into their accounts. Most of this money was used for food, education, healthcare and to improve livestock health (e.g. purchasing veterinary drugs).



"We found the community conservancies are important for the conservation of elephants…The community lands are also important for connectivity in the greater ecosystem."
(Study by Ihwagi et. al, PLOS One, 2015)

In 2014, with help from the Northern Rangelands Trust, community conservancies earned more than 47 million Ksh (~ USD $460,000) from tourism alone. These same communities are involved in a program that buys their livestock at a premium rate. In 2014, participants in this program earned more than 69 million Ksh (~ USD $ 675,000).

CONSERVANCIES FACE A NUMBER OF KEY CHALLENGES

- Communities and landowners lacked a voice in important decision-making processes.
- Some Kenyans have misconceptions about conservancies and are uncertain about how they work, are managed and how benefits are derived and shared.
- Government support of conservancies is limited, and conservancies are excluded from national development plans and budgets.
- There are unsupportive policies that threaten the prosperity of conservancies and natural resource laws are not well harmonised.
- Management capacity is often quite low (especially for community conservancies), with a lack of adequately skilled personnel and limited investments in capacity development.
- Many conservancies remain dependent on outside funding as there are a lack of programs aimed at ensuring their sustainability.
- Establishing conservancies is costly and time consuming.
- Local politics, inequitable benefit sharing, poor local governance and exclusion of women and youth threaten conservancies' productivity and impact.

WITH A UNIFIED FRONT, ENHANCED CAPACITY AND A STRONGER VOICE, WE CAN DO EVEN MORE.

The Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association is a national membership association that acts as an umbrella for conservancies in Kenya. We bring conservancy members together to share information, contribute their ideas and opinions, and gain a voice in decision-making processes that directly affect them. We are led by conservancies and represent their interests, and we aim to strengthen their voice and abilities.

"Normally these regulations are made in Nairobi and imposed on us. Today, we are glad we are being consulted"
- Daniel Sopia

WHY JOIN KWCA?

- Gain a stronger voice to advocate for better and enabling policies, laws, and regulations that affect conservancies.
- Learn from and network with other conservancies.
- Access information, including fundraising opportunities, technical meetings, trainings and KWCA's conservancy tools and best practice guides.
- Help nominate county and national representatives to various boards, such as the Kenya Wildlife Services board and County Wildlife Conservation and Compensation Committees.
- Gain exposure for your conservancy through KWCA's marketing and communications products.
- Access to knowledge, best practices and networks at regional and global scales.
- Access KWCA's technical and financial support.

As a member of KWCA, you will join other like-minded individuals, organizations and communities who are working together to bring about change in Kenya – for people, wildlife and our country. Together, we are stronger.

What we're doing and achieving…Gaining a seat at the table and using our collective voice.

An enabling wildlife law: KWCA participated in the review of the Wildlife Law. This is recognized as one of the most progressive in Africa because it recognizes conservancies, devolves wildlife conservation and management to landowners, recognizes wildlife as a land use, strengthens public participation in decision making, enhances compensation for both human and property loss attributed to wildlife, and introduces punitive penalties for wildlife crimes.

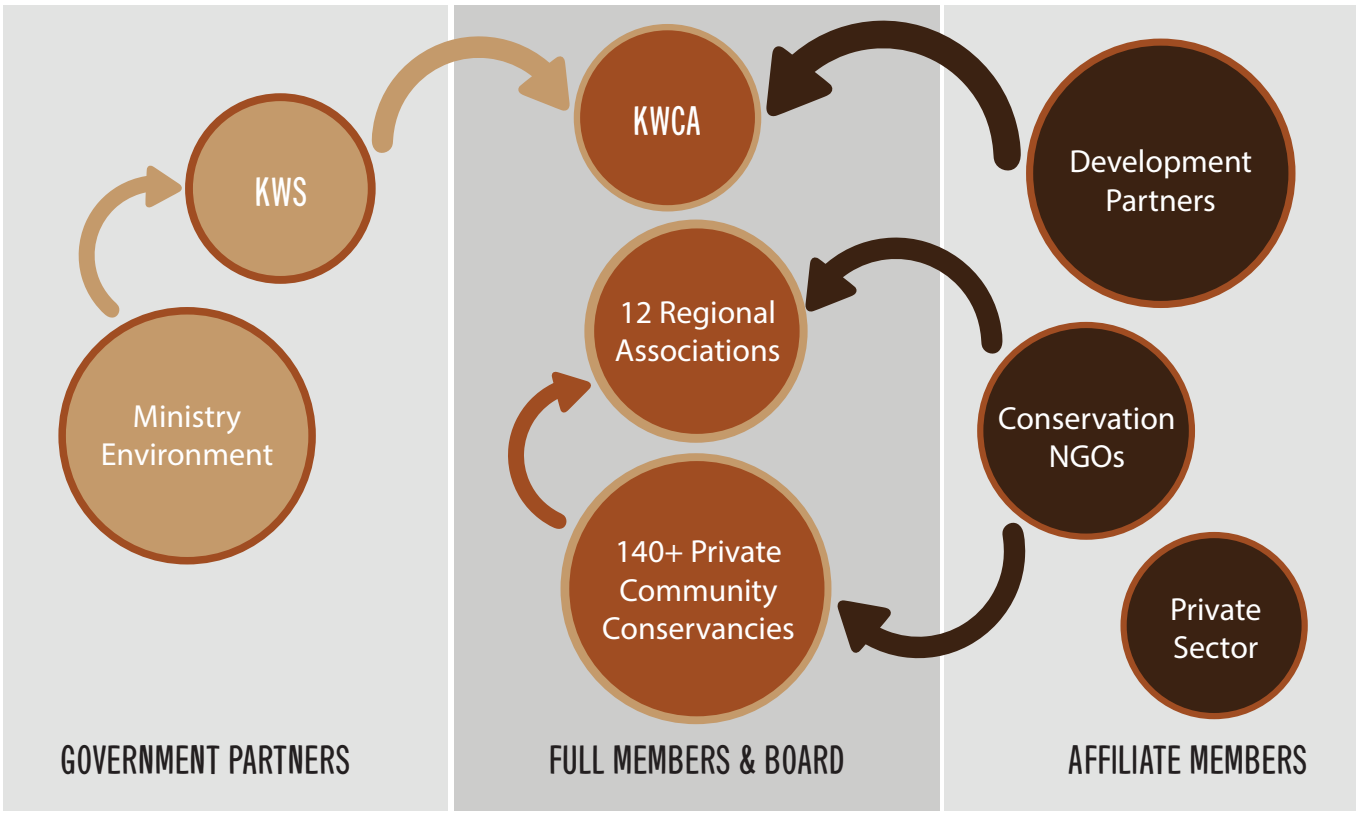
Community and private landowner representatives join the KWS Board: For the first time ever, a community organization is helping nominate members to a board of a government agency. KWCA is coordinating the nomination process of three community representatives to the Kenya Wildlife Services (KWS) board, one of whom will be appointed as vice-chair. Bringing community voices to the table helps to ensure that the people living with wildlife are helping to make decisions that directly affect them.

Conservancy-driven regulations: The Kenya Wildlife Service requested the support of KWCA to convene fourteen regional forums to gain stakeholder input on 19 Wildlife subsidiary regulations guiding conservation. This provided an opportunity for the inclusion of community and landowner interests and concerns in the regulations that give conservancies more rights, more power and more incentives.

Community Land Bill: KWCA's participation in the review of the Community Land Bill 2015 is geared towards ensuring that communities are recognized as legal entities to own and manage land, protect their interests, have strong local institutions and provide measures to minimize land conflicts and tenure insecurity. KWCA's petition informed the National Assembly Committee on Land on above issues.

Through a National Association (KWCA), 12 regional associations and 140 conservancies – we now have a clear structure for engaging with the government and other key stakeholders.

OUR GOVERNANCE AND MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE



The Government has devolved conservation functions that have in turn validated the existence of KWCA…it acts as a bridge, an organization that represents landowners' voices and interests to a willing government.

Ben Kavu, Deputy Director Devolution and Community Service, KWS
Comments during the first KWCA annual conservancy managers' conference
(December 9, 2014)

BECOME A MEMBER

Joining KWCA is easy. Our members pay a small fee to help support our work. Learn more about it at our website and download the application form there: www.kwcakenya.com.

SUPPORT KWCA

We welcome collaborators and supporters who want to help us create vibrant and prosperous conservancies in Kenya. Please contact us at info@kwcakenya.com.





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http://kwcakenya.com/
Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association