Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association
Living nature, Living people

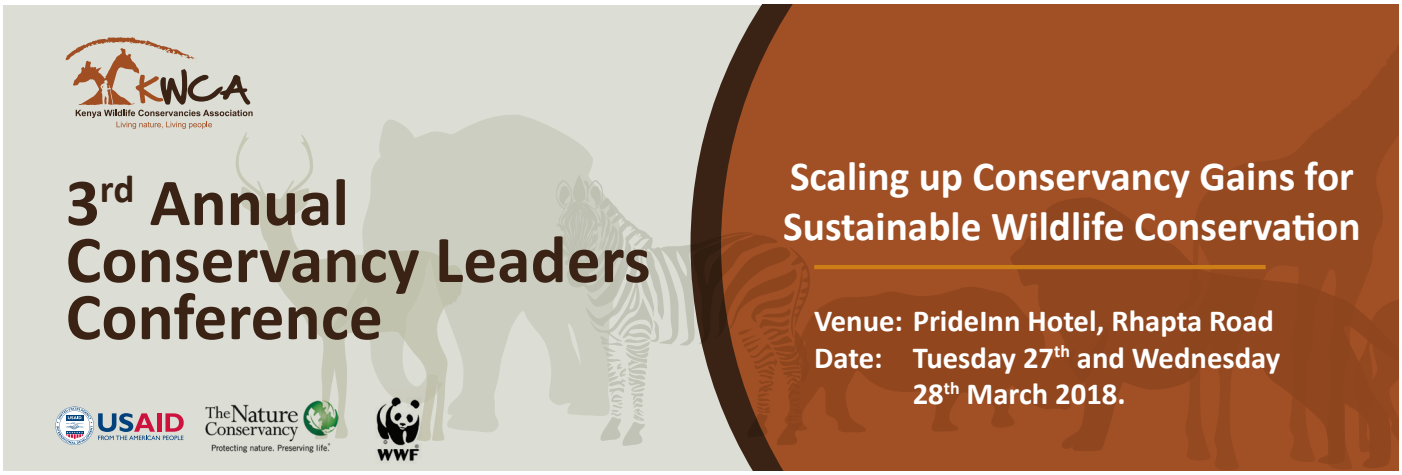



# 3rd Annual National Conservancy Leaders Conference Report

## Scaling Conservancy Gains For Sustainable Wildlife Conservation

27TH MARCH, 2018

# Overview of the Conference




The third annual National Conservancy Leaders Conference was held in Nairobi at the Pride Inn Hotel, Westlands on 27th March 2018 under the theme"Scaling up Conservancy Gains for Sustainable Wildlife Conservation."

The conference supported by USAID under the Community Conservancy Policy Support and Implementation Program (CCSP) and jointly implemented with The Nature Conservancy, provided an opportunity for conservancy to share experiences and lessons from the growing conservancy network and discuss opportunities and challenges regarding the growth of conservancies in Kenya. The leaders also had an opportunity to be acquainted to government plans, policies and laws relating to environment conservation on community lands in which they engaged with policy makers to deliberate on issues pertaining community wildlife conservation. One hundred and thirty three (133) participants comprising of representatives from the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, Kenya Wildlife Service, development partners such as USAID, TNC, WWF and KWCA registered members from both community and private conservancies participated in the conference.

The conference comprised of several presentations from KWCA and legal and conservation experts, plenary sessions and group discussions on various issues affecting conservancies such as contractual agreementsand entering into business partnerships with investors and policies affecting conservancies such as the Draft National Wildlife and Conservation Strategy. The conference also presented an opportunity for members to advocate, through a petition to the Senate, for the financial/budgetary support to wildlife conservancies for sustainable conservation and community development.

**The conference objectives**

1. Create a platform to enable the leaders network, share and learn lessons on respective conservancies experiences;
2. Provide leaders with opportunity to participate and learn on policies, strategies and laws supporting and affecting conservancies;
3. Learn on best practices strategies to enable conservancies negotiate for mutually beneficial contracts with third parties
4. Inform KWCA on its areas of support on development of conservancies and regional associations for effective representation

# Conference Programme

3rd Annual National Conservancy Leaders Conference
Tuesday 27th March, 2018
Venue: Pride Inn Hotel, Westlands

| Time | Agenda item | Presenter / Facilitator |
|---|---|---|
| 0800 – 0830 | Registration | FariaTarus<br>Joyce Mbataru |
| 0830- 0900 | Introductions and Welcome Remarks | Dickson Kaelo<br>KWCA CEO |
| 0900-0945 | Opening Remarks<br>• KWCA Board Chairperson-Tom Lalampa<br>• WWF-Kenya, Policy Research and Innovation Programme Manager-Nancy Githaiga<br>• TNC Kenya Programme Director-Munira Bashir<br>• USAID Environment Office, Kenya and East Africa Chief Officer-Juniper Neill<br>• KWS Acting Director General-Julius Kimani | |
| 0945-1030 | Official Opening<br>• Principal Secretary, State Department of Wildlife- Dr. Margaret Mwakima | |
| **1030-1100** | **Group Photo and Coffee/Tea Break** | |
| 1100-1230 | Highlights of the Draft National Wildlife Conservation and Management Policy | KWCA Policy Coordinator |
| 1230-1300 | Highlights of the Draft National Wildlife Conservation and Management Strategy | KWCA Policy Coordinator |
| 1300-1330 | Strategies for entering into beneficial contracts with third parties; weaknesses and best practices | Tom Ogola |
| **1330-1430** | **Lunch** | |
| 1430-1530 | Regional roundtables: Sustainable conservancies and representative regional associations, Training needs and capacity assessment | Maliasili Initiatives |
| 1530-1630 | Group Presentations | Dickson Kaelo |
| **1630-1700** | **Coffee/Tea Break** | |

# Welcoming Remarks

Dickson Kaelo, the CEO of KWCA, welcomed the participants to the meeting and expressed optimism and hope in Kenya's conservancy movement " our membership has grown in the last three years since our first meeting held in Maanzoni in 2015, this is a testament that conservancies are seei ng the potential of KWCA as a genuine voice for people living with wildlife, he said. And as a result we are now recognized by government and other conservation stakeholders as an equal partner in Conservation."

He reminded the landowners that they had a huge influence in the conservation and management of the country's heritage and most importantly they were part of the decision making "you play a key role in promoting wildlife conservation as a form of land use in community and private lands at the local levels hence your voice is very critical at the national level. I therefore lurge you to network, share your experiences and learn from each other to get ideas on how to best improve your conservancies." He said.

Dickson noted that while there was a lot to celebrate on the progress made by conservancies, there were growing challenges hindering the growth of conservancies such as the recent drought in some part of the country, flooding, human wildlife conflict and absence of incentives to encourage conservation. He called on the government and other conservation partners to support KWCA, its regional associations and the work of conservancies for the economic and environmental development of the country.

Dickson Kaelo

Chief Executive Officer



# Five years and counting as partners in wildlife conservation



**Figure 1** Conservancy Leaders celebrate advancements in conservation, made by KWCA member conservancies and the KWCA Board and Secretariat since its inception five (5) years ago.

The conservancy leaders conference provided an opportunity for partners and supporters of KWCA from WWF, USAID, TNC and the KWS, as well as members of the KWCA Board and Secretariat to celebrate and deliberate on the five-year partnership journey since KWCAs inception in 2013.

The KWCA Board Chair Tom Lalampa was the first to speak and led participants in an exultant and celebratory song 'Jambo Bwana' in recognition of the advancements that KWCA had made since its inception five (5) years ago.

He emphasized that KWCA had raised awareness on the integral role of communities in conservancies who have extended their land as dispersal areas and were effectively hosting the wildlife. The association is now recognized as a legitimate and authentic voice for landowners in Kenya, and it has relentlessly forged strong partnerships with the Kenyan Government through the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife under the State Department of Wildlife, the Kenya Wildlife Service and the communities in caring for wildlife. KWCA continues to streamline and improve its governance structure to a more organized conservancy network and focuses on partnerships that bring conservancy leaders and communities together to conserve the environment and wildlife and improve livelihoods in communities. The partnerships are




based under three pillars; i.e. Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS)- the government lead agency involved in the conservation and management of wildlife; Kenya Wildlife Conservancies Association (KWCA), the national association of conservancies involved in the conservation and management of wildlife in community and private lands; the Conservation Alliance of Kenya (CAK) representatives of conservation NGOs involved in supporting national parks and reserves and conservancies.

To perform more effectively with its partners, KWCA has contracted a lawyer to review contractual agreements entered between investors and communitiesfor the mutual benefits of both parties. The purpose is to ensure that that conservancies are able to manage their human resources more professionally and sustainably. Tom pointed out that community members in







conservancies were the'eyes and ears' on the ground for KWS and whowere complementary oftheir conservation work. The powerful partnership, five years on, behooves the government to put in place the right policies and laws as incentives for communities to augment their efforts to protect wildlife and the environment. Other partners of KWCA also expressed their satisfaction regarding the relationship they had developed with KWCA over the past five (5) years.

Mrs. Munira Bashir the Kenya Programme Director of The Nature Conservancy (TNC), was pleased to point out that KWCA was now considered a best practice association in the African continent and beyond, because of its diverse conservancy model.

She noted that while it was Kenyans who had visited Namibia, Botswana and Tanzania to learn from them on the concept of conservancies a few years back the representatives of these countries and others were now visiting KWCA to learn from its successfulmodel of creating a strong conservancy network.

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in close partnership with KWCA is implementing the Community Conservancy Policy Support and Implementation Program (CCSP) a USAID grant that supports policy and legislative initiatives and works closely with KWS to develop the Wildlife Regulations to guide the implementation of the Wildlife Act 2013. She said of the 18 regulations (5)five had already been gazetted, with 13 remaining. Through this partnership with KWCA and other stakeholders the project has boosted participatory, community based advocacy at the national and regional levels.

Mrs. Munira Bashr (TNC) and Ben Wandago (USAID) supporters of the CCSP progamme giving their opening remarks

She added that TNC had entered into an MoU with KWS in facilitating the development of appropriate legal and institutional reform for conservancies in the country and had held discussions with the Ministry of Wildlife and Tourism to develop a Wildlife Endowment Fund/Trust Fund through a participatory process as envisioned in the Wildlife Act 2013 to ensure sustainability of conservancies .

> "it is through the strong partnership of conservation stakeholders such as TNC, KWCA, KWS, WWF, the Kenyan government through the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife and other conservation stakeholders that the voice of the community has been effectively amplified across all levels of conservation and in a participatory manner."

Mrs. Bashir added that the biggest challenge facing wildlife conservation was not poaching but space for wildlife outside protected areas. "Conservancies have served the country well in increasing dispersal areas for wildlife and this must be appreciated, of critical importance now is to create incentives for communities to find value in setting aside land for wildlife conservation." She said.

Mr. Ben Wandago of USAID a friend and supporter of KWCA applauded the work of KWCA



KWCA Board Treasurer Anne Kahihia with Lydia Kisoyan Assistant Director Community Enterprise, KWS and KWCA board member Peter Hetz chatting during tea break

and underscored the importance of public participatory processes in Community wildlife conservation which was on track due to collaboration between partners in wildlife conservation. He said that it was through the strong partnership of conservation stakeholders such as TNC, KWCA, KWS, WWF the Kenyan government through the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife and other conservation stakeholders that the voice of the community had been effectively amplified across all levels of conservation and in a participatory manner. Additionally, this partnership is reflective of the good standing of KWCA in conservation circles, as well as the political goodwill that supports its work as an association.

Joy Juma of Maliasili also expressed her appreciation to KWCA for its partnership with Maliasili especially in streamlining its governance structures and other organizational processes and systems to augment its exemplary service to conservancies, and in working better with its partners.

Present at the conference was Ms. Lydia Kisoyan, the Assistant Director, Community Enterprise who was representing the Director General of KWS, Mr. Julius Kimani, she expressed her deep gratitude for the partnership between KWS and KWCA and its conservancy leaders who had remained focused and motivated to ensure conservancies continued to develop. She noted conservation stakeholders faced constraints of poaching, invasive species e.g. (Mathenge in Baringo County, Opuntia in Samburu), erratic rainfall and other climatic changes; as well as unprecedented population increase that lead to unsustainable land use plans despite their conservation efforts.

The Partnership with KWS has enabled KWCA to input into the KWS Paramilitary Training Academy curriculum to ensure the needs of conservancy rangers is included into the curriculum to improve efficiency and effectiveness in conservancies She added that partnership with KWS and a conservancy such as Ruko had seen an increase of six (6) female giraffes after a successful translocation from Lake Nakuru National Reserve, a great indicator of how partnerships in conservation can bear fruit.

“The Partnership with KWS has enabled KWCA to input into the KWS Paramilitary Training Academy curriculum to ensure the needs of conservancy rangers is included into the curriculum to improve efficiency and effectiveness in conservancies”

# Official opening



Dr. Omondi speaking on behalf of the Cabinet Secretary Hon. Najib Balala and Margaret Mwakima, Principle Secretary, Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, State Department for Wildlife

The Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, State Department of Wildlife, has also been very supportive of KWCA through the conservancies journey. Dr. Patrick Omondi, from the State Department of Wildlife, represented and passed the apologies of the Cabinet Secretary, Hon. Najib Balala, and Principal Secretary Hon. Dr. Margaret Mwakima, who due to their other engagements could not make it to the conference.

Dr. Omondi pointed out the integral role KWS played in the formation of KWCA and commended the various stakeholders involved in its formation for supporting the institution to be where it was. “This show of solidarity has helped counter an array of criticisms that wildlife is valued more than human beings in conservation efforts, and helped in the understanding that community’s efforts in conservation efforts is equally important, he said and because of this successful partnership, the Ministry will draw on recommendations from this conference to augment in the national conservation agenda.”

Dr. Omondi challenged KWCA to extend its activities and projects to the to the remaining 19 counties that do not have conservancies especially since parks and reserves is limited in space. In read the PS speech, it was confirmed that conservancies would enable Kenya to attain its AICHI Target commitment that requires parties to conserve 17% of its terrestrial landscape by 2020. He thanked KWCA for its effort in spearheading the community’s agenda in the drafting of the National Wildlife and Conservation Strategy to ensure they are involved in the conservation and sustainable management of wildlife in Kenya.

Dr. Omondi ascertained that the partnership between the Ministry of Tourism and Wildlife, KWS, KWCA and CAK was crucial in advancing Kenya's conservation effort. He added that the Ministry had finalized the Draft National Wildlife Conservation and Management Policy and about 14 Regulations were awaiting gazettement to enable implementation of the Wildlife Act 2013. The policy reforms will immensely contribute to shaping conservation discourse and in streamlining conservation management in Kenya.

He added that the partnership between the three institutions and communities was recently demonstrated through the CITES process held in Johannesburg, in 2016, where Kenya was ably represented by the KWCA CEO, Dickson Kaelo, and other government delegates and members of CAK, where together petitioned for the listing of endangered species. As a result, KWCA was nominated as the official representative of communities in the CITES Rural Communities Working Group. This is the intercessional working group designed to inform CITES on how its decisions affect rural communities particularly those that live alongside endangered species regulated under the CITES process.

Moreover, Dr. Omondi noted that the impacts of climate change especially drought, floods, and human wildlife conflicts, were a major threat to wildlife conservation efforts. He said that the Ministry was planning to address this challenge and would be working to review the Wildlife Act 2013 to address some of the glaring gaps identified during the past implementation period. He urged KWCA to actively participate in the upcoming *Human Wildlife Conflict Management Workshop* that will be organized by the Ministry.

He informed the meeting that Cabinet Secretary; Hon. Najib Balala had appointed a Taskforce to evaluate options for wildlife utilization as provided under Section 72 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Act, 2016, an initiative that KWCA needed to actively participate in to address communities plights in conservation. Communities often harbor the costs of living with wildlife and significantly contribute to government efforts to create jobs and grow the economy hence their voice will be crucial in the deliberations of the taskforce.

> "This show of solidarity has helped counter an array of criticisms that wildlife is valued more than human beings in conservation efforts, and helped in the understanding that community's efforts in conservation efforts is equally important. Because of this partnership, the Ministry will draw on recommendations from this conference to augment in the national conservation agenda."

# Financial Sustainability of Conservancies



Senator Hon. Abshiro Halake speaking on financial sustainability of conservancies

Conservancies in Kenya are complementary of state protected areas (national parks and national reserves) and provide a range of biodiversity in Kenya's key wildlife areas whose contribution to the national economy mainly through wildlife tourism, live supporting ecosystem services and development of local livelihoods and infrastructure. Therefore a multi-pronged approach is needed to ensure the long-term conservation of biodiversity and habitats for future growth and economic development of the country and the counties within which the conservancies occur.

Currently, wildlife conservancies rely on about 80% of their financing from temporary and un-predictable donors and about 11% from commercial activities such as wildlife-based tourism, livestock sales and payment for ecosystem services to support the management costs of wildlife which require significant investment in institution building, infrastructure, operations, and program support. Their heavy reliance on unpredictable and short-term donor funds makes conservancies especially community conservancies vulnerable and unsustainable. KWCA recognizes the great impediments of financial sustainability, institutional stability and functional continuity faced by conservancies.

In discussing conservancy financing, nominated Senator Hon. AbshiroHalake,resoundingly applauded KWCA's work in conservation through conservancies, and assured KWCA of continued political partnership and goodwill to support its mandate. She underscored the need for the national government to financially support conservancies as it is through them that the country's environmental, wildlife and community needs meet are met.

In this regard, the senator has joined KWCA in solidarity to table a petition in May, 2018 when the Kenyan parliament reopens, to seek government financial support to conservancies. She said the move will serve as a strong signal to the donor community regarding Kenya's seriousness in wildlife conservation and livelihood enhancement, and they follow their resolve in financing conservation efforts. She requested the members to support the petition through signatures reminding them that it would be beneficial to the communities and the country.

Senator Abshiro noted the skewed gender parity in the conference against women representation and challenged KWCA to actively and strategically push for an increase in women's leadership in conservation bodies.

# Contractual Agreements and Obligations for Community Conservancies




Lawyer Tom Ogola giving his presentation on contractual agreements obligations for community conservancies

KWCA in partnership with TNC has contracted Lawyer Tom Ogola to undertake an assessment of contracts between community conservancies and investors KWS following a request by the members to have KWCA address the challenges of contractual agreements and obligations. In his presentation Mr. Ogola, gave an analogy of contracts as a form of handshake meaning a partnership. Unfortunately he noted that most contracts did not symbolize a professional partnership because often unscrupulous investors were able to benefit inordinately from investments that were based on poorly drawn business contracts with conservancy owners. This he said resulted in long-term financial strains and other losses for conservancies and their communities.

KWCA and TNC with support from USAID is working together towards ensuring that future contractual development between conservancies and investors are legally sound and benefit both parties. The process entails examining sample contracts from conservancies, and comparing them to best practice contract templates in order to guide KWCA on future contract development.

Since wildlife conservation is a business, contracts are important business documents and are integral to conservancies accessing resources from potential investors, hence the need to ensure they are adequately drawn from a legal and business perspective. He said that contracts are very important documents that represent an agreement between conservancy owners and potential investors regarding their resources

For the assessment of contracts, Mr. Ogola mentioned that he perused through land leases, tourism facility contracts, management agreements, conservation easements, concessions, and carbon rights agreements. He stated that parties did not consider certain stages when developing business contracts i.e. negotiation,

contracting, mid-review contracting, and the contract termination.

**Community engagement in contractual processes**

Mr. Ogola highlighted common mistakes in contract development including: lack of clarity about which type of contract one is signing; how to maintain a balance regarding the power to give the different parties, and how much information to divulge. Additionally, negotiation is not based on proper market surveys so conservancy owners often underestimate the value of their resources and operate at a loss throughout the contract period. Thereis also the danger of leaving all the control of initiating and drafting the contract in the hands of the potential investors, at the expense of the conservancy owners, especially if the investor is not transparent.

> “When investors have exclusive rights there is no transparency on revenue generated so the community is entirely dependent on the goodwill and honesty to disclose by an investor.

Contracts developed often provide weak financial bargaining power and benefits to the land owners and provide exclusive rights to the investors. Often there is no mid-term review or official audit to allow for the correction of these anomalies. Since contracts are a ‘live’ working document that are long-term in nature, they require care and diligence in their preparation. It is therefore important to avoid unilateral provisions that give no participation of community structures and exclusive rights to the investor. In fact, Mid-term reviews are useful to enable corrections and a win-win situation for investor and community members.

One must also be able to monitor implementation of terms and reality on the ground once a contract is drawn, and dispute resolution mechanisms have to be discussed and agreed upon by both parties at the outset. The community also needs to ensure equitable benefits to all in the community, especially the vulnerable groups once the contract is implemented. This requires that good community governance and benefit sharing structures are put in place before any contract is signed by the conservancy leaders with any investor.

Mr. Ogola mentioned that contract development is successful only when there is sensitization of community leaders, conservancy management, members of the conservancy on the importance of proper contract development, as well as information sharing on the applicable legal and policy frameworks regarding conservation. There is need for the all the stakeholders in the conservancy to be engaged in the drafting. He cited the Kenya Constitution 2010, Contract Law, and the Community Land Act, 2016 as best examples of laws and policies that advocate for public participation.

This therefore requires capacity building of community members in conservancies so that they can develop strategic contracts that are beneficial to all parties involved. Through trainings, conservancy leaders can understand contract negotiation skills, project planning and management, financial management, management planning and zoning, conflict and dispute resolution, and even corporate governance.

**Transparency and Accountability**

When investors have exclusive rights there is no transparency on revenue generated so the community is entirely dependent on the goodwill and honesty to disclose by an investor. Some contracts ask for periodic reports but provide no details on what should be attached e.g. audited accounts or ETR receipts, so the community is at the mercy of the investors. There is need for regular communication between the parties, so disputes do not fester, and end with ugly and premature termination of the contract. In terms of corporate financial statements, they need to be public and inclusive in discussions.

Moreover, conservancy members should seek professional services regarding business to prevent loopholes in contracts, which will ultimately become detrimental to the community conservancies concerned. This service is not an ‘unnecessary’ cost, but a ‘value addition’, and must be provided for in the negotiations.

Fortunately, conservancies can leverage on the relationship they have with KWCA, which can harness the requisite skills and training

> “Conservancy members should seek professional services regarding business to prevent loopholes in contracts, which may ultimately become detrimental to the conservancy community concerned. This service is not an ‘unnecessary’ cost, but a ‘value addition’, and must be provided for in the negotiations.

to ensure they are able to prepare robust and sound contracts for their betterment. KWCA can for example assist conservancies in their procurement of title deeds; identification of market sights to attract investors; conduct due diligence on potential investors; and help conservancies follow due process in contract development.

Because contract development is a layered negotiation process, parties need to separate the business negotiations from the contract preparation and finalization. This ensures that there is accountability and legitimacy in the final contract draft.

**Key takeaways on contractual agreement strategies from Tom’s presentation**

- Avoid unilateral provisions that give no participation for community structures and exclusive rights to the investor
- Have measures in place to monitor implementation of the terms such as mid-term reviews to ensure the contracts are living documents governed by law and ascribe to the changing times.
- Ensure equitable benefits to all in the community, especially the vulnerable groups once the contract is implemented. This requires good community governance and benefit sharing structures put in place before any contract is signed by the conservancy leaders with any investor.
- There is need for sensitization of community leaders, conservancy management, members of the conservancy on the importance of proper contract development, as well as information sharing on the applicable legal and policy frameworks regarding conservation, for example: the Kenya Constitution, 2010, Contract Law, and the Community Land Act, 2016.
- Seek professional advice regarding business and to prevent loopholes in contracts, which will ultimately become detrimental to the conservancy community concerned. Professional advice helps in ‘value addition’, and that the cost of such services must be provided for in the negotiations.
- KWCA to assist conservancies in their procurement of title deeds; identification of market sights to attract investors; conduction of due diligence on potential investors; and in helping conservancies follow due process in contract development

# Plenary Session



John Parit from Kimana Sanctuary in Amboseli contributing to the plenary discussion on lease agreements.

### Contracts

- USAID is working on an ecosystem valuation scheme and will support conservancies determine the value of their ecosystems before they make offers of their resources to potential investors.
- TNC will support in-depth training on contract development for KWCA members in the future.
- Best practice contracts already in existence can serve as templates for KWCA members' contract development.
- KWCA may be able to review investor contracts for robustness before they are signed.
- Contracts must enable a win-win situation for communities and investors and be developed in a transparent manner that allows for accountability for example through audited accounts and mid-term reviews.
- Embezzlement or fraud is actionable under laws of Kenya so a conservancy leader can be voted out as well as imprisoned in such cases.
- The Community Land Act 2016 and other laws do not have a retroactive effect, but the Act presents an opportunity for review for minimum issues to be included in future contracts to ensure there is an element of mutuality. In terms of protection, the Act does not render null and void all the agreements made before it was passed, but there is an element for review to comply with that basic standard.
- Valuation of conservancy ecosystems will enable better contract development

### Lease Agreements and Title Deeds

- A lease agreement is registered against a title deed to give greater protection for both parties. The lease is assessed for stamp duty, which is paid, then the lease is lodged for registration using 500KSHS only, after-which it is registered.

### Group Ranches

- Group ranches that were registered before 2016 can still function but they cannot enter into new agreements until they are registered a fresh as a community conservancy

### Game Ranching vs Game Farming

- In the Wildlife Act 2013, game farming is defined as to breed wildlife (kukuza in Kiswahili) and it covers this in the 6th schedule to include wildlife such as crocodiles, quail, etc. It clearly lists the game allowed for breeding purposes. One however requires a license from KWS to start a game farm. There are also market details to consider. Game ranching on the other hand involves active breeding of a specific species that the government has licensed.

### Compensation

- The government has found it too expensive to financially compensate each individual for death or damage caused by wildlife and it is considering other options. An insurance scheme has now been initiated to compensate individuals adversely affected by drought. Compensation is also clearly addressed in the Wildlife Act, 2013, and it is something that is processed through the County Wildlife Conservation and Compensation Committees once they receive money from the Treasury. Many claims have been paid and others are still being paid out by the KWS. Education centers on compensation are also being revived in different parts of the country.

### Gender Parity in Conservation

- To increase gender parity, KWCA should determine quotas according to gender when it comes to elections in the conservancies, to ensure more women take up leadership positions.

# Highlights of the Draft National Wildlife Conservation and Management policy, 2017

Gladys Warigia, KWCA Policy Coordinator, ran through the Draft Wildlife Policy and mentioned that it had thefollowing objectives:

1. Harness contribution of wildlife to national economy and enhance benefits;
2. Provide space for wildlife;
3. Conserve wildlife in an effective and equitable manner;
4. Integrate private and community lands into protected area systems;
5. Coordinate a framework for wildlife management; and
6. Ensure a participatory policy implementation through planning, research, knowledge management and capacity building



Gladys informed the members that the policy focused on salient wildlife conservation issues such as: how much wildlife contributes to the economy; wildlife security; human wildlife conflict; wildlife conservation in national parks, reserves and sanctuaries; wildlife conservation in community and private lands; infrastructural architecture in wildlife conservation; financing wildlife conservation, as well as other cross-cutting issues such as climate change, invasive and alien species, diseases, indigenous knowledge & cultural practices, gender, youth & people with disability, and research in wildlife conservation.

The policy also has a monitoring and evaluation component, and also looks at how the Wildlife Act 2013 is to be implemented. The Kenyan government through the State department of Wildlife under the Ministry of Tourism and wildlife has committed to conserve wildlife in community and private lands in the following ways:

1. Integrate wildlife as a land use in national and counties spatial plans
2. Develop county land use maps which & demarcate wildlife habitats and migratory routes
3. Prioritize establishment and protection of wildlife migratory corridors and routes
4. Support landowners and communities set aside wildlife conservation areas and sanctuaries
5. Support development and implementation of approved management plans
6. Joint management plans for threatened species on community land
7. Provide incentives for landowners and communities to invest in wildlife conservation
8. Promote captive breeding and artificial propagation for indigenous and endemic species
9. Encourage wildlife farming of designated species
10. Ensure sharing of benefits from wildlife among national and county governments, land owners & local communities investing in wildlife conservation
11. Support conservation education, public awareness and capacity building
12. Develop public awareness and long-term education programmes on wildlife conservation
13. Develop mechanism to ensure ecosystem valuation

# Group work- Maliasili

A key to the future of conservancies, and to KWCA as the national conservancies' umbrella association, is the different regional organizations and associations that are supporting conservancies on the ground. These organizations comprise a diverse set of locally-based conservancy support groups or regional associations of conservancies that represent their local constituents in key wildlife areas such as the Maasai Mara[1], Amboseli[2], Tsavo[3], and Laikipia-Samburu[4], among others. The regional associations and support organizations are the primary linkage between KWCA at the national level and individual conservancies at the local level, and they fulfill the role of linking conservancies to national policy makers and environmental civil society; in providing conservancies with information and technical support; in promoting standards and best practices amongst conservancies; and in convening conservancies and other local stakeholders to promote and facilitate multi-actor collaborations across regional landscapes and ecosystems.

In recognition of the role that these regional associations and support organizations play, KWCA with support from Maliasili is undertaking a situational assessment that will identify their perceived role and capacity needs. The assessment will also determine ways in which KWCA can support these institutions to deliver on their mandate to their members. The findings of this will inform the KWCA strategic planning process.

[1] Maasai Mara Wildlife Conservancies Association
[2] Amboseli Ecosystem Trust
[3] Taita Taveta Wildlife Conservancies Association, as well as Tsavo Conservation Group.
[4] Laikipia Wildlife Forum and Northern Rangelands Trust

**Exercise**

To kickstart this, Maliasili facilitated a session during the 2018 annual conservancy leaders conference. The conservancy representatives were divided into the 12 regions and were requested to respond to the following questions:

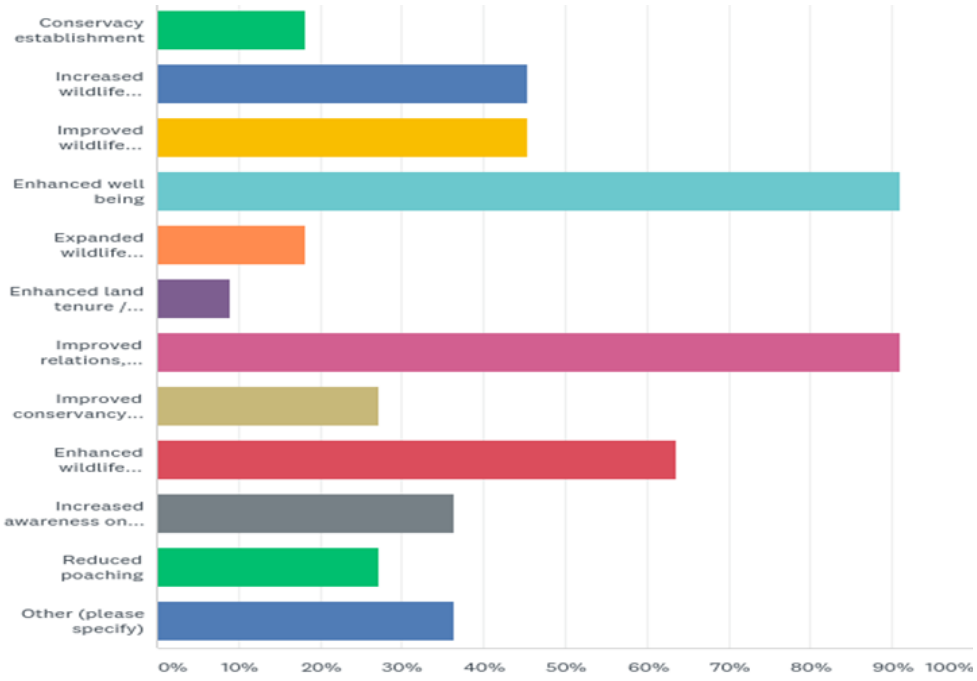
1. Highlight some of the key achievements of conservancies in your region.
2. Highlight some of the main challenges faced by conservancies in your region.
3. What does KWCA do for conservancies in your region?
4. What do you think KWCA should do for conservancies in your region?
5. What should KWCA do more of?
6. What does the regional association do for conservancies in your region?
7. What do you think the regional association should do for conservancies in your region?
8. What should the regional association do more of?

**Exercise Findings**

The findings from this exercise were as follows:

11 regions responded to the questions with the exception of the Laikipia.

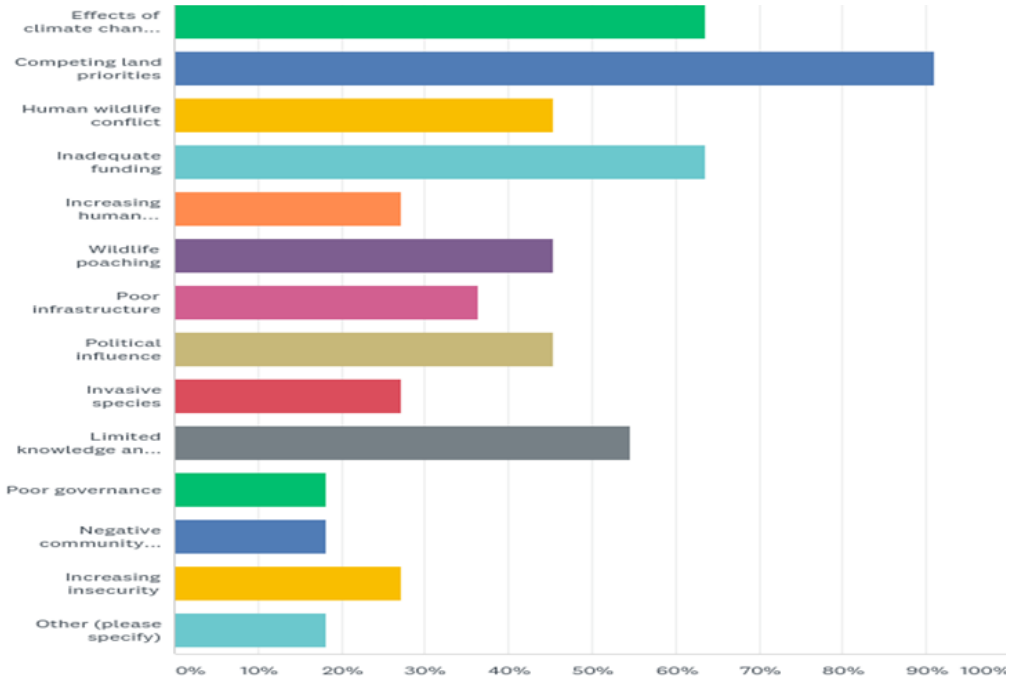
**Highlight some of the key achievements of conservancies in your region.**



From the results above, it is clear the three main achievements within most of regions were:

- Enhanced well-being which was related to improvements in infrastructure, health, education, access to water and increased income at a household level.
- Improved relations, partnerships and collaboration with the government (both national and local), private sector in particular tourism investors and inter conservancy relations.
- Enhanced wildlife management capacity, which was attributed to the significant achievements in terms of conservancy establishment and management. This is also reflected with other key achievements that are directly related to this – increased wildlife numbers and improved wildlife security.

**Highlight some of the main challenges faced by conservancies in your region.**

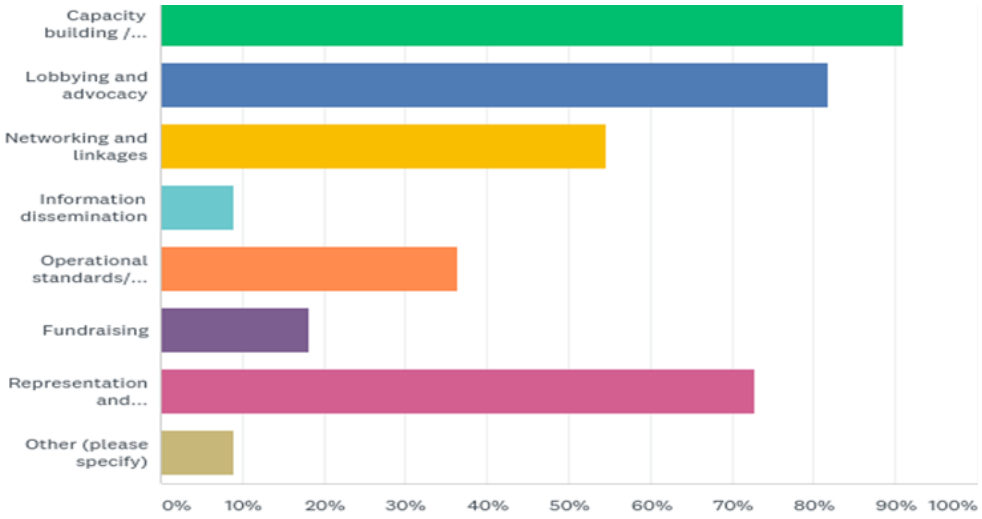



The results above show that the conservancies' main challenges were:

- Competing land priorities – with the key issues highlighted as mega infrastructure projects, land sub division / fragmentation and other factors associated with population growth.
- Both inadequate funding and the effects of climate change were ranked second. The main effects of climate change being drought and its related impact.
- Finally, limited knowledge and capacity was considered a key challenge. The regions often quoted capacity issues related to legal issues (contracts and leases) , conservancy establishment, conservancy management , marketing and security management.

Other significant challenges were human wildlife conflict, wildlife poaching and political interference.

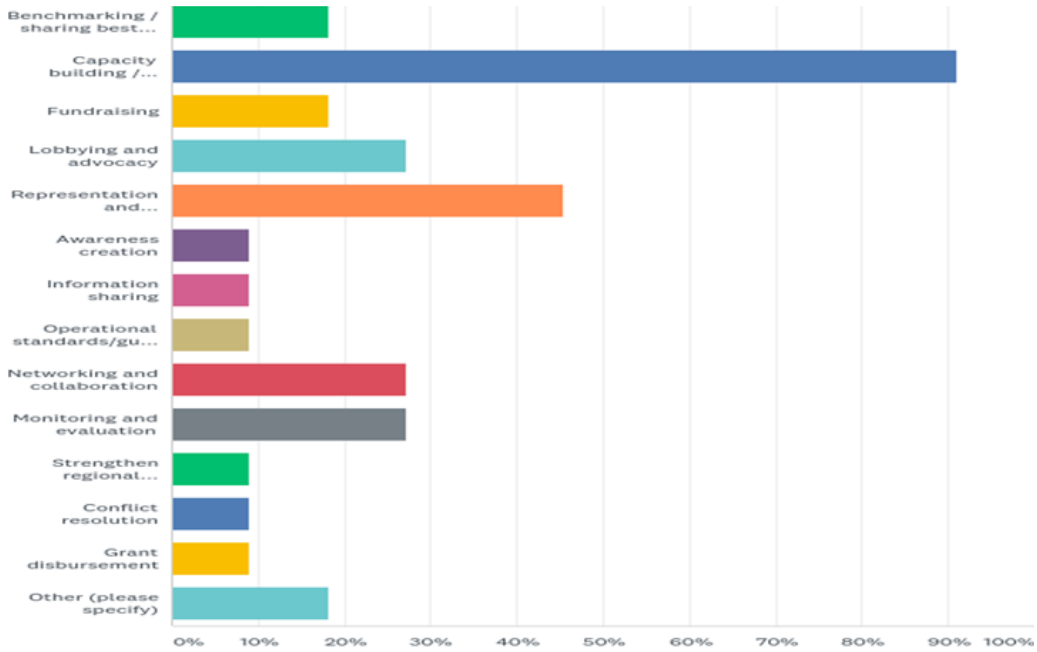
**What does KWCA do for conservancies in your region?**




It is clear that the main support service from KWCA is capacity building, which was highly appreciated across the regions.

The results reflect that conservancies are clear on KWCA's mandate and recognize its role within the conservation movement.

**What do you think KWCA should do for conservancies in your region?**




From the above, conservancies think that KWCA should maintain its current services as well as include networking and linkages as additional support service. There was also a common need for monitoring and evaluation services on conservancy progress.

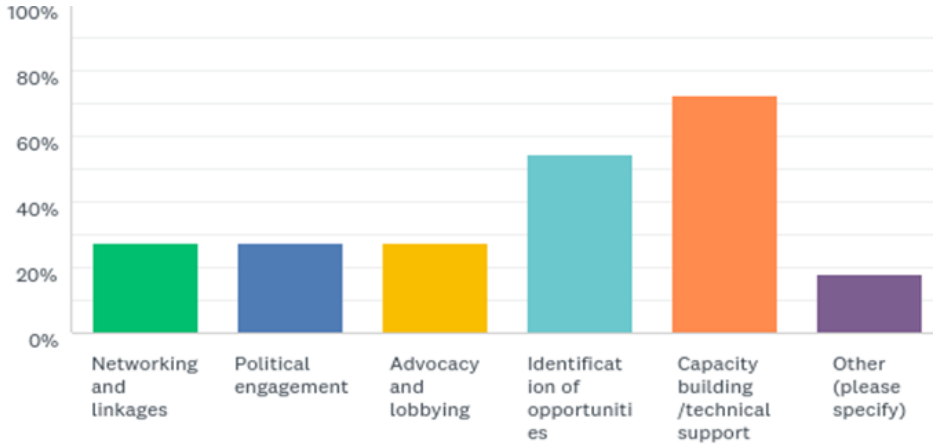
## What should KWCA do more of?

The responses highlighted the need for KWCA to focus on two main things – capacity building and the identification of opportunities.

For capacity building, conservancies would like support services that are related to legal issues ( registration , contracts, leases), security management, auditing, economic empowerment projects, management planning and conservancy establishment.

In relation to the identification of opportunities, conservancies would like to support in investor engagement, conservation areas identification and donor intelligence.

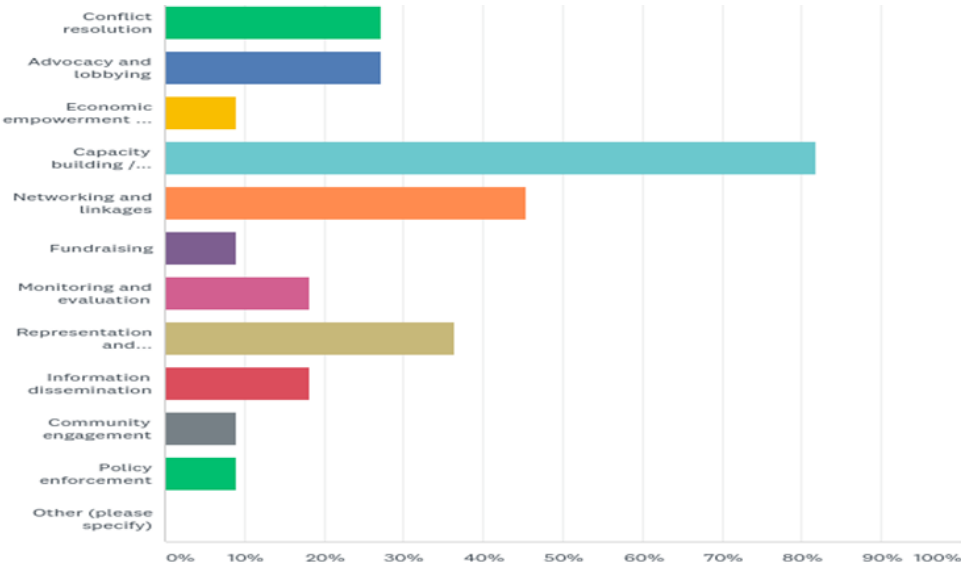
Other key areas of focus are as shown below.



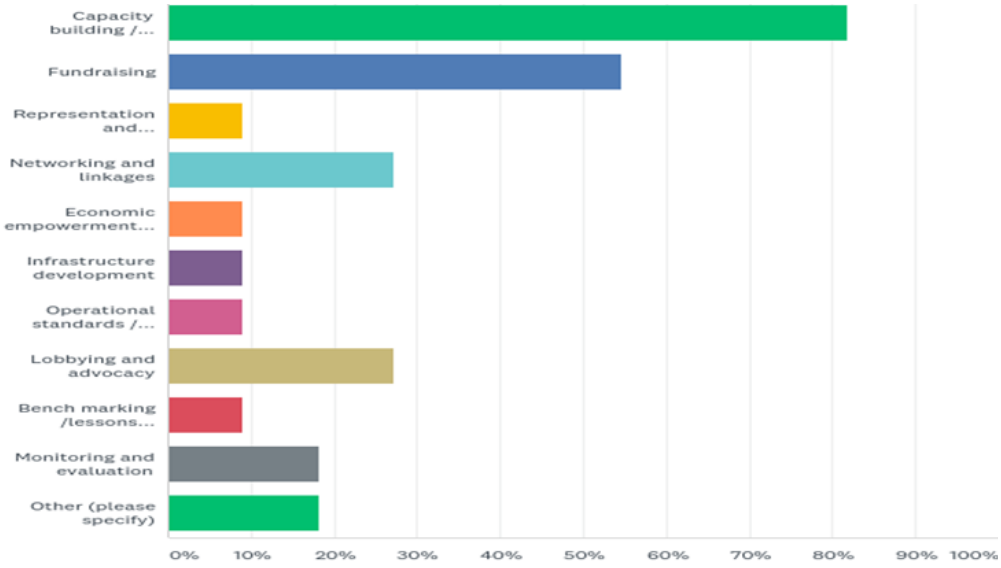

## What does the regional association do for conservancies in your region?

The results from this question, reflects that the main support service received from the regional associations as capacity building. This is followed by representation and coordination at regional level as well as supporting the conservancies in networking and linkages.

Besides, lobbying and advocacy which is also offered by KWCA, the conservancies mentioned conflict resolution as a service that is appreciated.



**What do you think the regional association should do for conservancies in your region?**

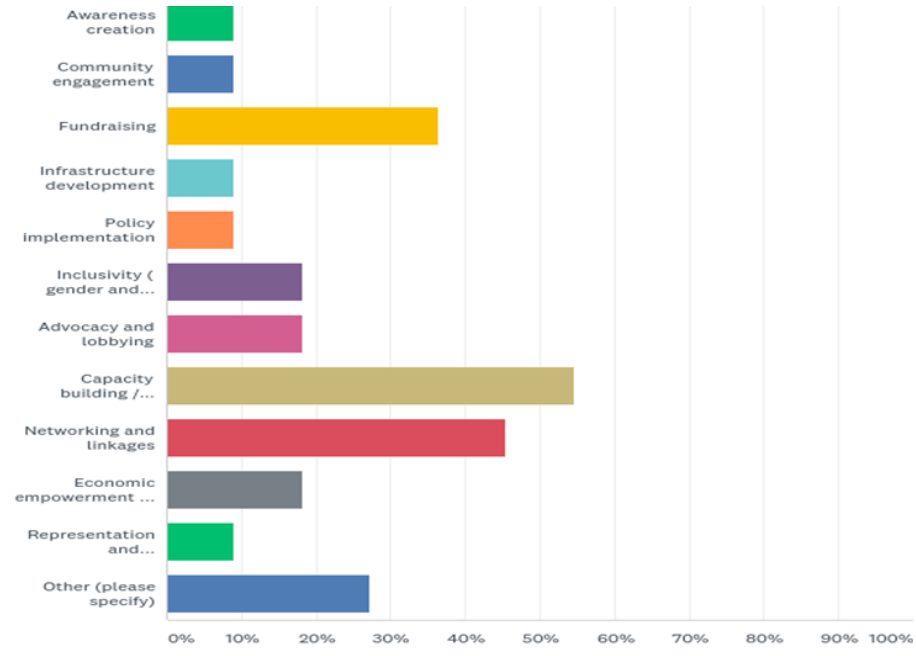



The 3 main services that the conservancies perceive should be provided are: capacity building, fundraising and, lobbying and advocacy.

**What should the regional associations do more of?**

Overall, the conservancies stated that the regional associations should focus on capacity building activities, fundraising and networking and linkages.

Other areas of focus are shown below.



## Conclusion

From the results, it is clear that the most significant support service that is required from both KWCA and the regional associations is capacity building. The type support varies across the regions from legal to management. Another key service is networking and linkages support which can also be tied to fundraising. There is a general need for support in the identification and engagement of various partners within the landscapes that will ultimately lead to goodwill, resources and collaboration.

Lobbying and advocacy, also features often with both KWCA and the regional associations.

Finally, rather unexpectedly, the need for monitoring and evaluation by KWCA and the regional associations was highlighted. This demonstrates a willingness to learn and adapt hence frequent mentions of bench marking across the regions.

In reviewing its strategic direction, it will be prudent for KWCA to determine the kind of support that can be provided at various levels (national and regional) that will promote the scaling up of conservation action.

## Summary of Impacts

The impact of the 2018 annual conservancy leaders conference is perhaps best illustrated by sharing a few comments from the participants.



"The conference has woken up a sleeping giant. Tsavo is a sleeping giant that has just woken up. We have picked great lessons from our brothers in the Mara, Amboseli and Laikipia regions and this conference has come at an opportune time when we are just about to finalise our strategic plan. Once the strategic plan has been launched I believe we shall have more opportunities for tourists visiting Taita conservancies just like the other regions."

**Alphonse Mwadime - Taita Ranch Conservancy, Taita Taveta County**



I have taken two days of my time to come and compare notes and learn from the others on best practices from other regions. The biggest challenge as private conservancies in Naivasha has been species over population and its management. By bringing different players together to deliberate on some of the issues that affect conservancies, is certainly a best step in the right direction because it will give us a platform to discuss solutions for the challenges we face and consequently inform policies that provide incentives for conservation."

**John Ndegwa- Oserengoni Conservancy, Nakuru County**



"As the chairlady of a community conservancy, I am privileged to attend this conference because I get to learn from other chairpersons on the work they do. But I have noted that I have achieved so much in the 2 years I have been a chairlady when compared to my other male colleagues. I advise KWCA to consider including more women in future conferences While the meeting is for chairpersons, of which a majority are men, KWCA should consider involving more women at the board level to come and learn from this informative platform so that they can also benefit from the discussions.

**Habiba Tadicha - Biliqo Bulesa, Marsabit County.**

# Picture Gallery















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Living nature, Living people

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